Date: 25 November 2012
Opposition: Swansea City
Competition: League

BBC	Times	Telegraph	Echo
	Guardian	Mirror	Post
	Independent	Mail	Evening Post

Swansea City

THE TIMES

Rodgers winless but content on return to Swansea

Swansea City 0
Liverpool 0
Referee J Moss Attendance 20,621

It was not so much a match drawn as one that neither side was capable of winning.

That failure says everything about the options of the teams on a wet afternoon when both were happy with the point. The friendly tone was surprisingly set by Luis Suarez shaking hands with Ashley Williams, whose dislike for the Liverpool striker once stretched to wanting to "knock him out", and an indifferent reception for Brendan Rodgers as he walked out against the club whom he led to the top flight.

Rodgers exchanged pleasantries with his former Swansea staff but left the Liberty Stadium less satisfied with Jose Enrique's goal being chalked off for a marginal offside decision and at Suarez and Raheem Sterling for making a complete mess of a glorious chance in the closing moments that might have turned a seventh league draw into a victory.

There was plenty of tappy, tappy football, but neither side found a killer pass or intensity, something Rodgers admits he may not be able to address until the summer.

With a little investment in attack in January, however, Rodgers may feel that he can surpass the inconsistent pair of Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur in an open race for fourth place. Only Suarez has more than one goal for Liverpool and only four other players have scored in the league since September 23. "We need to improve up front," Rodgers said. "There was a threat around the box but you need to finish in good areas."

Liverpool have not scored against Swansea in three league meetings and Rodgers drew a parallel with the extensive changes he made at his former club before he could credit it as his side. "It will evolve once my players are in," Rodgers said. "You need a level of turnover. I'm not so sure it will be in January. This year the club wanted to balance books. We will look to do some business in January. If we can get the quality to support what we have, then we can keep moving forward. It is coming together. I can see improvement."

Steven Gerrard's greatest assets used to be his energy and drive, but a poor contribution was limited to an intercepted backheel that allowed Jonathan De Guzman a shot on goal and a threaded pass to find an overlapping Glen Johnson, which led to Suarez striking wide. Others, such as Jordan Henderson and Stewart Downing, just looked like it was all too much of a chore on their first and second league starts, respectively.

Henderson and Enrique bore the brunt of Suarez's anger and strong lectures for sloppy passes. The striker is never shy of a shot, but virtually all were straight at Gerhard Tremmel, although the Uruguay forward did wonderfully well to chip across the area for Enrique to slide the ball in at the far post only for the goal to be ruled out for offside. The Spaniard's arm looked to have strayed in front of the defender. "We were unfortunate as I thought that it was a goal when I saw the replay," Rodgers said.

It was Liverpool's only period of concerted pressure before the interval as Sterling controlled a bouncing ball and struck the bar. They threatened less in the second half but with seven minutes left Suarez and Sterling made a muddle of the best chance after Angel Rangel misjudged a clearance and the ball bounced over him. Sterling failed to commit the last defender, Ben Davies, and pushed Suarez too far wide so that when he cut in, his shot was easily saved . "It was a great opportunity," Rodgers said. "Luis probably played a pass too early and he could have slipped in Raheem for a chance on goal." Johnson headed over from corners twice and Jonjo Shelvey tested Tremmel in the closing moments.

Liverpool extended their unbeaten run to eight league games, the second longest behind Manchester City, the champions . "If we had a fraction more belief we might have won," Rodgers said.

"Sometimes that comes with having young players. We had opportunities around the box to get a shot off quicker. We are chipping away at climbing the league."

teams Swansea City (4-2-3-1): G Tremmel 7 - A Rangel 4, C Flores 6, A Williams 6, B Davies 5 - L Britton 5, J De Guzman 5 (sub: K Agustien, 85min)- P Hernandez 7, Michu 6, W Routledge 6 (sub: L Lita, 67 6) - I Shechter 5 (sub: K Sung Yeung, 46 6). Substitutes not used: D Cornell, N Dyer, G Monk, D Tiendalli. Booked: Flores. Liverpool (4-1-4-1) J M Reina 6 - G Johnson 6, M Skrtel 6, D Agger 6, S Downing 4 (sub: J Cole, 77) - J Allen 5 - R Sterling 5, J Henderson 4 (sub: J Shelvey, 77), S Gerrard 4, J Enrique 6 - L Suarez 6. Substitutes not used: B Jones, N Sahin, S Coates, J Carragher, Suso.

theguardian

We must stop relying on Suarez, demands Rodgers after stalemate

Liverpool were the better team and extended their unbeaten run in the Premier League to eight matches, but Brendan Rodgers knows they should have won on his return to west Wales, and were again undermined by their shortcomings in front of goal. If Luis Suarez does not score for them nobody does, and the Uruguayan had an off day here.

Liverpool had the lion's share of the chances and felt they were unjustly denied a winner just before half-time, when Jose Enrique had the ball in net but was judged offside by what was a debatable decision. They were unlucky, too, when Raheem Sterling' shot shivered the crossbar.

Michael Laudrup thought his charges deserved a point but admitted it may not have looked that way "from the outside". He was happy with the Swans' performance - especially how they dealt with Suarez and Steven Gerrard - as well as the extension of a sequence during which they have lost only one in seven in the league.

Both teams are starting to get it together under new management. Laudrup had a hard act to follow when Rodgers decamped to Liverpool in the summer and there were murmurs of discontent from the dressing room at the end of September, after three successive defeats in the league. Disgruntled tongues have been stilled, however, with some improved results of late - notably the 3-1 win at Liverpool in the Capital One Cup and last week's 2-1 victory at Newcastle.

For Rodgers, too, all has not been sweetness and light since he left his west Wales comfort zone to succeed Kenny Dalglish at Anfield. A 3-0 defeat at West Brom on opening day and five games without a win was hardly the start he needed in the league but the green shoots of recovery are apparent in an improved run.

They are still a work in progress, of course, their most obvious weakness the lack of a goalscorer to share the burden with Suarez. The Uruguayan has weighed in with 10 in 13 league matches but nobody else has contributed more than one. Young Sterling, newly elevated to the England squad, has one in 19 appearances in all competitions.

"It's something we need to improve", Rodgers said after the game. "We've had 18 shots at goal, nine of them on target and we haven't scored. We need someone apart from Suarez to round off a lot of the good play we saw today."

The first question was answered early. What sort of reception would Rodgers get on his return to the Liberty for the first time? He deserved an appreciative round of applause after establishing the Swans in the Premier League but neutrality was the best the crowd could manage. The Ulsterman said: "It was an emotional occasion for me because I've seen so many people who shared great moments in my life. I was really looking forward to it and it was a wonderful atmosphere and a terrific game."

Swansea were quickly into their pleasing passing style, fostered by Rodgers and Roberto Martinez before him, and the first goal attempt of note saw a crisp drive from Wayne Routledge, on the right, bring a plunging save from Pepe Reina at the foot of his near post.

For Liverpool, Glen Johnson, who was outstanding, had a shot deflected over by Gerhard Tremmel after a pass and move incursion that called to mind Liverpool in their halcyon days.

Pablo Hernandez threatened with a curling strike from 20 yards but Liverpool were closest to a goal when Sterling, from 12 yards, thumped a shot against the bar and Enrique had the ball in the net, but from a debatably offside position. "We were unfortunate there," Rodgers said. "I thought it was a goal."

Suarez, with a powerful, low shot brought an improvised save from Tremmel, using his body, early in the second half as Liverpool resumed the offensive.

Getting nowhere and seeking an injection of pace, Laudrup sent on Nathan Dyer and the flyer soon raced past Stewart Downing, who was playing at left-back, into the penalty area, only to be foiled, and injured, by Reina's charge from his goalline.

As both players received treatment, the crowd chorused: "You know he's a diver, put Suarez in goal." Instead, Suarez burst free, through the middle but, after exchanging passes with Sterling, shot straight at Tremmel.

Hernandez, with a free-kick from 25 yards, tested Reina to his left and Jonjo Shelvey, on as substitute, threatened to win it at the death with a thunderous shot, but inaccuracy when it mattered most forced them to settle for a point apiece.

Man of the match Glen Johnson (Liverpool)

Compiled by Graeme Riley

Date: 25 November 2012
Opposition: Swansea City
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BBC	Times	Telegraph	Echo
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Swansea City

The Mail

Rodgers in the land of low return

SWANSEA 0 LIVERPOOL 0

THERE were warm handshakes, applause for both sets of supporters and slaps on the back for players past and present.

At first glance, it appeared Brendan Rodgers was a content soul after an intriguing game between Swansea and Liverpool. His first return to the Liberty Stadium was always going to be a big deal and leaving with a point and a clean sheet could be construed as a positive. To see the look on Rodgers' face, though, before he headed down the tunnel told another story.

His lips were pursed, his gaze was wistful. This was a game that, with some extra quality in the right areas,Liverpool would have won. As it was, it was the same old story: nearly but not quite. 'We wanted to keep our run going,' said Rodgers, whose side are unbeaten in their last eight Barclays Premier League games. 'I'd never say it was two points dropped here. This is a difficult place to come. We are chipping away, climbing the league and continually improving.

'If we can get the quality in the final third to support what we have, then we have enough to keep the team moving forward. It is a team who are coming together. I can see improvement all the time.'

The improvement, however, will only be slow unless Fenway Sports Group, the club's American owners, appreciate what could potentially be gained with the right expenditure when the January transfer window opens.

Liverpool, after all, are only four points behind an Arsenal side that Arsene Wenger still believes can qualify for the Champions League.

That deficit might have been down to two had Rodgers been able to call on that extra quality to his forward line.

Luis Suarez cannot keep carrying Liverpool on his own and the fact that only two of his team-mates have scored in the Premier League since September 29 -- Raheem Sterling and Jose Enrique -- shows where the team's deficiencies are.

'That is where we need to improve,' said Rodgers. 'We had 18 shots on goal, nine on target. But we need to finish them when we arrive in good areas.'

It was Sterling and Enrique who went closest to breaking the deadlock here, though. The former rattled the bar with a thumping volley after 33 minutes, while the latter had an effort ruled out for a marginal offside devision 60 seconds later after being picked out by Suarez.

'I thought it was a goal,' said Rodgers. 'But we played well. It was emotional returning to where I spent a great time in my life.' It looked for much of the opening 45 minutes that Rodgers would enjoy the happiest of returns with the outstanding Glen Johnson and Sterling running amok down Swansea's left.

Johnson was denied by a fine stop by Gerhard Tremmel after exchanging passes with Suarez and also went close with a header.

Angel Rangel flung himself in front of a Suarez blockbuster, while Enrique got in a tangle after another superb cross from Johnson.

Yet Swansea were not without chances. Pablo Hernandez bent an effort round a post after a rare mistake by Steven Gerrard not long after Wayne Routledge had tested Pepe Reina. They certainly contributed to a spectacle that contained 1,055 passes.

'Was it a point gained or two lost? I think it was a good point,' said Swansea manager Michael Laudrup 'MaybeLiverpool had more chances more than us but we had them. I'm pleased with my team.'

Laudrup was especially pleased in the 83rd minute when Suarez and Sterling failed to administer the ultimate punishment after a quick break, and he remains more than content with the way Swansea have started the campaign. Rodgers left the impression he will be truly content only when reinforcements have arrived.

'It will evolve,' said Rodgers. 'The guys are working well but you need to get your own type of players in before you can say, "This is my side". We will look to work with the players we have and hope to do some business in January.'

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MATCH FACTS

SWANSEA CITY (4-2-3-1): Tremmel 7; Rangel 6, Williams 7, Flores 7, Davies 5; Britton 7, De Guzman 5 (Agustien 85min); Hernandez 7, Michu 6, Routledge 7 (Dyer 67, 7); Shechter 5 (Ki 46, 6). Subs not used: Cornell, Monk, Tiendalli, Lita. Booked: Flores. LIVERPOOL (4-3-3): Reina 6; Johnson 8, Skrtel 6, Agger 6, Downing 6 (Cole 77); Gerrard 6, Allen 6, Henderson 5 (Shelvey 77); Sterling 7, Suarez 7, Enrique 7. Subs not used: Jones, Carragher, Coates, Suso, Sahin.

Man of the match: Glen Johnson. Referee: Jon Moss 7. Attendance: 20,621.

IN FOCUS

Gerhard Tremmel

Michel Vorm's understudy doesn't inspire the same confidence but he made the difference here. His saves to deny Johnson and Shelvey were great.

Joe Allen

A mediocre homecoming for the Liverpool midfielder. His passing was uncharacteristically poor and he was lucky not to be penalised for hauling down Chico Flores off the ball. Made amends by clearing Ashley Williams's header off the line.

Jordan Henderson

His first Premier League start of the season but did not justify the faith. Got a rollicking from Suarez for not making a run and looked sluggish.

The Daily Telegraph

Liverpool wastefulness spoils Rodgers return

Swansea City 0
Liverpool 0
Att: 20,621

A slice of misfortune and a series of wasted opportunities left Brendan Rodgers to lament another opportunity missed. A good point for Swansea, but with more than a third of the season gone, Liverpool remain outside the top 10.

The finger will once again point at the side's inability to turn their approach work into goals. And so it should.Liverpool's return for 21 shots, 14 of which were on target, was a Jose Enrique effort which was ruled out for offside just before half-time and a Raheem Sterling volley which hit the crossbar.

There was also a two-on-one situation in the final quarter when Luis Suarez and Sterling failed to seize the moment against defender Ben Davies. Little wonder that after 13 games, they have scored just 17 goals. Only West Ham of the sides above them have scored fewer.

Rodgers, returning to the Liberty Stadium for the first time since leaving Swansea for Anfield in the summer, said: "It was a very good game, we played really, really well and created chances. I thought we were unfortunate with the offside goal we had ruled out. That was a goal, I have seen it on the replay.

"I thought Suarez was bright and a threat, but we had several shots on target and failed to score. We need to finish them. The difference is that little bit of quality and that's something we will look to improve on.

"It was a great opportunity to be two against one on a young defender. It was one where, as a coach, you look at it and think if Luis had gone three or four more yards he would have committed him and Raheem would have been in on goal.

"It looked like he played the pass too early and Raheem then gave him a ball that knocked him wide on the return. We would have hoped to be more clinical on that but that is experience, he is only 17.

"However, we are now eight games unbeaten and we are chipping away and our method was good today."

Apart from the poor finishing, the game had just about everything else. Both teams played with purpose and panache with Leon Britton and Steven Gerrard imperious for their respective sides.

Gerrard, whose performance was bettered only by that of England full-back Glen Johnson, was all but untouchable in the first half when the deadlock really should have been broken.

Sterling rattled the woodwork in the 32nd minute and Swansea's German goalkeeper Gerhard Tremmel denied the marauding Johnson, who popped up inside the penalty area after a wonderful move involving Gerrard, former Swansea favourite Joe Allen and the excellent Enrique.

For Swansea, Pablo Hernandez, who improves with every game, was twice denied by Pepe Reina and the Spaniard also kept out Michu's second-half header as the home side threatened to repeat their victory on the final day of last season, which was Rodgers' last game in charge at the Liberty Stadium.

His replacement, Michael Laudrup, whose side beat Liverpool 3-1 in the Capital One Cup a month ago, was delighted with his side's 17th point of the season and a first clean sheet since Aug 25 against West Ham.

"It was a good point," said Laudrup.

"In the first half they had more chances than us, but we had chances too and I'm pleased with the performance.

"You know that when you play against Suarez and Gerrard, they are capable of inventing something, but I thought we handled it well."

The build-up to the game had been dominated by Rodgers' homecoming and the suggestion that Swansea captain Ashley Williams would refuse to shake the hand of Suarez, whom he criticised as arrogant and a diver in a recent book.

The game, however, was largely free of rancour as the two sides produced an exhibition of football that left a crowd of just over 20,000 on the edge of their seats. All that was missing was a goal.

Laudrup said; "There has been a lot of talk about Suarez and Ashley and today we saw two guys trying to do their best."

The fact that Suarez left emptyhanded was arguably down to Tremmel as much as the Uruguayan's profligacy. But, if both sides continue playing bright football like this, living outside of the top 10 might be a temporary rather than permanent situation.

Compiled by Graeme Riley

Date: 25 November 2012
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Swansea City

THE INDEPENDENT

Suarez needs new year help - but Rodgers may struggle for the money

Brendan Rodgers is desperate for a new striker in January, but has warned followers of Liverpool that any significant purchases may not happen when the transfer window reopens in little over a month.

The Merseysiders shaded a keenly-fought contest at Swansea City, but their inability to convert their chances into goals cost them maximum points at the Liberty Stadium.

With forward Luis Suarez shackled by Swansea centre-back pairing Chico Flores and Ashley Williams, the visitors did not manage to score. Yet Rodgers has sounded a note of caution to supporters by insisting patience in the transfer market will be required as he continues his rebuilding job at Anfield.

When asked if there would be significant spending in January, particularly on the wafer-thin attacking options, he said: "I'm not so sure it will be in January, to be honest. This year the club wanted to balance the books and see where it was at.

"There was a big investment in the club and a lot of players went out in the summer and a few came in.

"We will look to do some business in January to support the players here. The owners trust me to grow the club over time. As a manager you're always looking at the short term, but eventually we will get there."

Former Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish lost his job following the club's last visit to south Wales in May - a 1-0 defeat to Rodgers' then well-oiled Swansea outfit.

But there was a marked improvement in the visitors' play and performance on Rodgers' first return which he labelled as "emotional" since his summer departure.

Yet, as in large parts of the season to date, the same old problem exists for Rodgers' side with the vital final touch missing. He added: "You can see with each game that goes by that our work is improving. But we know our play in the final third has to improve. It's the work we have to do in the forthcoming months.

"Luis was bright and a threat in and around the box and we had 18 shots on goal with nine on target. We need to finish our chances to round off our good play. You can see that once we get the quality in the final third to support what we have then we have enough to keep moving forward.

"It's a team that is coming together. I can see improvement all the time. I was really pleased with the quality in our play."

This contest was high on technical ability from both teams, but lacked many clear-cut opportunities. After Raheem Sterling struck the crossbar, Liverpool felt aggrieved that Jose Enrique's 34th minute effort was ruled out for a marginal offside. Rodgers said: "We were unfortunate with the offside goal that was ruled out. I've seen the replay and I thought it was a goal."

The point maintains Swansea's recent good form of just one defeat in eight matches and manager Michael Laudrup was happy after his side nullified the threat of Suarez

Laudrup said: "I thought we deserved that point. Liverpool played well and maybe had a couple of good chances more than us in the first half but I am pleased with the performance of my side.

"Obviously when you play Liverpool there are going to be times when they have a lot of the ball but at no point did I feel that we were under constant pressure.

"With Steven Gerrard and especially Luis Suarez they have two players who can create something from nothing but I thought we handled them very well.

"Suarez did some good things but we expected that because he is a very good player.

"There was a lot of talk about Luis and Ashley Williams before but I thought we saw the best of both."

DAILY Mirror

PASS THE BUCKS; Ugly truth is Rodgers needs cash for Reds

PREMIER LEAGUE: SWANSEA 0 LIVERPOOL 0

BRENDAN RODGERS cited this stalemate as proof Liverpool need to invest in more firepower.

But the Anfield boss warned fans not to expect the club's American owners to bankroll a major overhaul of his squad in January.

He insisted his Reds showed a "marked difference" in their performance from when they lost in his last game in charge of Swansea on the final day of last season.

Yet on his first return to his old club, he could only watch in frustration as Liverpool sent in 21 shots on goal - 14 on target - without beating Gerhard Tremmel.

The battle of the two culture clubs of stylish football saw the highest number of completed passes in a match this season without a goal. The only result on the pitch was the brave young man who successfully proposed to his girlfriend during the half-time interval.

Liverpool extended their unbeaten run to eight Premier League games stretching back to the Manchester United defeat in September.

But in the three league matches against Swansea they have yet to score - and were also beaten by them in the Capital One Cup.

And although they had a first-half effort from Jose Enrique narrowly ruled out for offside, Luis Suarez remains the only player to have scored more than one goal for the Reds in the league this season.

After Swansea's first clean sheet since August, Rodgers (below) admitted: "We must improve up front, that's the work we need to do in the coming months and years to try to round off a lot of good play.

"We were bright and a threat around the box. What makes the difference is that bit of quality at the end."

But Rodgers admitted he was "not so sure" there would be major signings in January. "This year the club wanted to balance books and see where we're at," he explained.

Rodgers gave Jordan Henderson his first league start of the season and Stewart Downing his second, at left-back.

The match saw much pretty football but the only clinical finish was ruled out for offside. Suarez's elegant 34th-minute chip was converted by Enrique, but disallowed by a marginal call. "I thought it was a goal when I saw the replay," said Rodgers.

Raheem Sterling hit the bar with his third shot of the first half and Tremmel made a fine save after Enrique put Glen Johnson in on goal.

Liverpool should have scored on a counter-attack but Sterling overhit a return pass to Suarez when faced only by Ben Davies and the Uruguayan had to check before shooting.

Pepe Reina saved a late Pablo Hernandez free-kick and Tremmel blocked an injury-time shot by Jonjo Shelvey.

SWANSEA: Tremmel 7, Rangel 6, Chico 7?, Williams 7, Davies 7, Britton 7, De Guzman 6 (Agustien 85), Hernandez 7, Michu 7, Routledge 6 (Dyer 67, 6), Shechter 5 (Ki Sung Yeung 46, 7). LIVERPOOL: Reina 7, Johnson 7, Skrtel 7, Agger 7, Downing 6 (Cole 77), Allen 7, Sterling 7, Henderson 5 (Shelvey 77) Gerrard 6, Enrique 7, Suarez 7. REFEREE: Jon Moss ATTENDANCE: 20,261

LIVERPOOL ECHO

LIVERPOOL FC'S revival was hampered by Brendan Rodgers's own legacy on a desperately frustrating afternoon in South Wales.

Rodgers was afforded a warm reception on his first return to the Liberty Stadium but the Reds boss left feeling short-changed. Liverpool should have clinched the victory they required to clamber into the top 10 for the first time this season. Instead, they were thwarted by the club Rodgers transformed from Championship also-rans into a mid-table Premier League side in the space of two seasons.

A share of the spoils extended the Reds' unbeaten league run to eight games but after a fifth stalemate in that sequence no-one was in the mood to celebrate.

It wasn't just the surroundings which were familiar for Rodgers. There was also the sight of his Liverpool side spurning chances and lacking a ruthless streak in the final third. This time Luis Suarez didn't bail them out. Having plundered eight goals in the previous seven league games, the Uruguayan couldn't maintain his stunning scoring run. And, predictably, the supporting cast weren't able to ease the burden on the top scorer's shoulders.

Compiled by Graeme Riley

Date: 25 November 2012
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Swansea City

Of course the Reds were hampered by poor fortune as the woodwork and a controversial offside decision helped Swansea remain on level terms. Jose Enrique's effort before the break was harshly ruled out with replays suggesting the Spaniard was level with the Swans' line of defenders.
However, the reality is that for long periods Swansea were able to sit back and comfortably deal with everything Liverpool threw at them.
Out wide, there was a threat with Raheem Sterling and Enrique working tirelessly for the cause. But in the centre there was an alarming lack of spark as Steven Gerrard, Joe Allen and Jordan Henderson struggled to impose themselves on proceedings. Allen appeared so desperate to impress against his boyhood club that his composure deserted him at times. Possession was carelessly squandered and needless free-kicks given away which almost proved costly.
Rodgers' Liverpool are a work in progress and reinforcements are urgently required in January but what the manager has successfully installed is steel and resilience in the ranks.
They head for Tottenham on Wednesday night buoyed by successive clean sheets in the league, and with Pepe Reina showing signs of getting back to his best.
The Anfield No 1 will be nursing a sore head today after getting Nathan Dyer's studs in his face but the keeper will take some comfort from his faultless performance. With Andre Wisdom ruled out with a knee injury, Rodgers opted to hand Stewart Downing his first league start since the opening day defeat at West Bromwich Albion. It meant the Reds had a £20m winger at left-back and a left-back in Enrique playing on the left wing. Whether that was a reflection of Enrique's impressive display going forward against Wigan or a lack of faith in Downing's ability to be a creative force was open to interpretation.
Rodgers also opted to drop Suso to the bench with Henderson starting in the Premier League for the first time since May.
The inclusion of Downing saw Glen Johnson moved back to his natural position on the right and the England international was Liverpool's outstanding performer. With his bursting runs forward and intelligent inter-play, Swansea struggled to contain him. Johnson's slick combinations with Sterling helped the Reds improve after a slow start. Sterling fired tamely at Gerhard Tremmel before Johnson planted a header over.
There was a scare when Wayne Routledge turned away from Martin Skrtel but his strike was turned behind by Reina.
Enrique, who carried on where he left off against Wigan, slid in to meet Johnson's curling cross but bundled it agonisingly wide. The Spaniard also had his work cut out getting back to provide cover when Downing's deficiencies were exposed.
The Reds grew in confidence and midway through the opening half they should have scored. A slick one-two with Enrique left Johnson with just Tremmel to beat but his shot clipped the keeper's leg and looped over.
Henderson was clearly desperate to impress as he snapped into tackles but at times his lack of awareness let him down. He got an earful from Suarez after standing rooted to the spot when the Uruguayan was crying out for him to provide an overlap. The highly-talented Pablo Hernandez, Swansea's £5.5m club record signing from Valencia, was a real handful and after skipping away from Allen his curler flew just past the post. The Reds were exposed again when Gerrard's back-heel was intercepted but to the skipper's relief, Jonathan de Guzman went for glory with better options around him and failed to hit the target. A sustained assault from the visitors before the interval should have brought some reward. Sterling's enticing cross was touched by Tremmel into the path of Suarez who was denied by Angel Rangel's block.
From the ensuing corner, Sterling latched on to Michu's defensive header, took a touch to steady himself and unleashed a thunderous volley which cannoned back off the bar. Then came the controversy with Sterling and Johnson heavily involved before Suarez's clipped cross was turned home by Enrique. Having waited two-and-a-half years for one goal, Enrique was cruelly denied a second in eight days by the raised flag. After such a promising spell, the disappointment was that in the second-half Liverpool couldn't maintain that tempo and intensity.
Suarez's much-anticipated battle with Ashley Williams, who had apologised for saying in his new book he wanted to "knock out" the Reds striker, failed to truly ignite. Just before the hour Gerrard picked out Suarez but the angle was tight and his drive was parried away.
Swansea gave as good as they got with a Williams header hacked off the line by Allen before the Reds were indebted to Reina for denying substitute Dyer, who had burst clear after embarrassing Downing.
In search of inspiration, Rodgers brought on Jonjo Shelvey and Joe Cole for Henderson and Downing.
With seven minutes to go Reina's punch was seized upon by Suarez and with Sterling racing up in support it was two against one. However, Sterling's return pass was slack and the opening fizzled out as Suarez was forced wide and shot straight at Tremmel.
Shelvey's 25-yarder was beaten away by the keeper in stoppage time as the Reds added another hard luck story to their collection.

LIVERPOOL DAILY POST

Brendan Rodgers' 'homecoming' hampered by recurring LFC problems

BRENDAN RODGERS didn't need to be among familiar surrounds to know he had seen it all before. On his first return since departing the Liberty Stadium in the summer, the Northern Irishman witnessed his hopes for a happy 'homecoming' undermined by recurring problems.
Once again, an inability to convert domination into tangible reward proved frustrating as Liverpool eked out a goalless draw against Rodgers' former charges Swansea City. No catastrophe, it was no great encouragement either as Rodgers' attempts to progress his new team were hampered by his own legacy, forged by two successful years in South Wales.
Such is the way at present, as the Anfield outfit continue to edge tentatively rather than stroll purposefully forward.
While this result – the very least they deserved – extends Liverpool's Premier League unbeaten to eight matches, they are still yet to trouble the top half of the table. Five of those games have been draws, highlighting not just a steely resolve but also a failure to be ruthless when facing inferior opposition.
The latter applied yesterday, with Rodgers' men dominating possession – particularly in the first half – and creating the better chances without applying the finishing touch. Swansea captain Ashley Williams had caused ripples before the game by declaring he wanted to "knock out" Luis Suarez, such was his dislike of the Uruguayan. Williams content himself with helping keep Suarez in check, the striker thwarted in his attempt to become only the third Liverpool player to score in five successive away games. Of course, the question with Rodgers has had to grapple this season is if Suarez doesn't score, who does?
The answer yesterday was nobody. But it wasn't for the want of trying, as Raheem Sterling was denied by the crossbar, Glen Johnson by a good save and Jose Enrique by an offside flag. If Rodgers was afforded a mixed reception by the Swansea supporters, the same could be said of the reaction to his team selection, a paucity of options symbolised by the defensive reshuffle prompted by Andre Wisdom having failed to recover from a knee problem suffered in Thursday's damaging Europa League draw against Young Boys.
Stewart Downing, a regular feature in cup competitions, retained his place at left-back with a first Premier League start the opening-day defeat at West Bromwich Albion, while Jordan Henderson's form was rewarded with a first top-flight start since Liverpool's 1-0 defeat at Swansea on the final game of last season.
While neither player was disgraced by their performance, it was telling both were substitute long ahead of other candidates; one of which, it could be argued, being Joe Allen. Allen, having followed Rodgers from Swansea, made an immediate impact in the red shirt but has appeared burdened by the weight of expectation given those impressive opening months, notably since yesterday's opponents dumped out the League Cup holders with a 3-1 win at Anfield last month.
There was never any chance of a repeat here, although Liverpool will see it as an opportunity missed against a team that hadn't kept a clean sheet in their previous 13 games. The tone was set in the ninth minute. Intercepting as Suarez shaped to shoot, Angel Rangel succeeded only in finding Raheem Sterling inside the area but was relieved the Liverpool winger scuffed his effort at Swans goalkeeper Gerhard Tremmel. Shortly afterwards, Johnson – Liverpool's standout performer – sent a free header over from Steven Gerrard's whipped corner delivery and then saw his inviting cross knocked narrowly wide by the Jose Enrique, reprising his makeshift left midfield role. The Johnson-Enrique partnership conjured another opportunity on 24 minutes, Johnson, having embarked on a mazy run off the right flank, sent clear following a one-two with the Spaniard but denied by the body of Tremmel. The keeper was thankful eight minutes later for Rangel block after touching Sterling's cross straight to Suarez. But there was nothing any Swansea player could do when, from the resultant corner, the ball eventually fell to Sterling who showed great technique to strike across the ball but saw his effort thump against the crossbar. Two minutes later Liverpool finally found a way through. After yet another Johnson run at heart of Swansea defence, Suarez clipped ball across for Enrique to prod the ball home. However, an offside flag cut short away celebrations; television replays suggested it was a close call.
With Liverpool still guilty of some lackadaisical defending, chances fell Swansea's way, Wayne Routledge firing a shot Pepe Reina did well to repel at his near post and Pablo Hernandez twice off target with ambitious long-range curled efforts. With Swansea inviting Liverpool to break down their defence, Suarez's fierce drive shortly before the hour drew a decent save from Tremmel.
But a tactical half-time tweak from Michael Laudrup saw Swansea grow in threat, Ashley Williams seeing a header cleared off the line by Allen before Reina was brave on 74 minutes, taking a boot to the face while saving from Nathan Dyer after the Swansea substitute beat Downing to a bouncing ball.
Liverpool wasted a fine opening nine minutes later when, from a lightning break, Sterling's pass to Suarez was overcooked on an increasingly slippery surface, the Uruguayan's eventual shot straight at Tremmel.
In an increasingly frantic finish, Reina turned behind Pablo's free-kick and substitute Jonjo Shelvey tested Tremmel with a 25-yard smash. But, unlike on Thursday, there would be no late twist for the visiting side.
MAN OF THE MATCH. Glen Johnson. Another impressive display from the in-form full-back

Compiled by Graeme Riley

Date: 25 November 2012
Opposition: Swansea City
Competition: League

BBC	Times	Telegraph	Echo
	Guardian	Mirror	Post
	Independent	Mail	Evening Post

Swansea City

Evening Post

MICHAEL Laudrup is eyeing a landmark in midweek after his Swansea City side took another step away from the shadow of last season.
The mastermind of Swansea's brilliant debut Premier League campaign returned to the Liberty Stadium yesterday.
And just like at Anfield in the Capital One Cup last month, Brendan Rodgers's Liverpool team did not win.
Victors on Merseyside four weeks ago, Swansea had to be content with a goalless draw this time around.
But even a stalemate represents a triumph for Laudrup given the sharp contrast in resources between his club and the one Rodgers left to join.
Liverpool are very definitely a work in progress under Swansea's former boss. But it should not be forgotten that the squad at his disposal is packed with players who did not come cheap.
Take Joe Cole, for example. He was signed on a Bosman, admittedly, but he takes home £100,000 a week, a sum which would probably be enough to cover the top four earners at the Liberty.
Luis Suarez, Stewart Downing, Jordan Henderson and Glenn Johnson were all megamoney signings.
And then there is Joe Allen, who was plucked away for a cool £15 million in the summer having been arguably Swansea's best performer last season.
By rights, Swansea should not be competing with Liverpool. Yet in four meetings in the past 12 months, they have not once been beaten.
Rodgers was on the Welsh side of the divide for the first two of those encounters, but it is Laudrup who is in charge at the Liberty now.
And the latest positive result was a big one for the Dane. Not only was he not humbled by his predecessor, but his Swansea team kept their momentum going.
They are unbeaten in five games and have lost only one of the last eight — by a solitary goal to the champions, Manchester City, in their own backyard.
Not surprisingly, therefore, the Premier League table makes pretty good reading.
Swansea are a lofty ninth in the top flight and, having played only 13 of their 38 games, have a very healthy 17 points on the board.
"If we could win on Wednesday against West Brom," Laudrup pointed out, "we will have 20 points already.
"That would be fantastic."
The Baggies are the unlikely success story of the season so far, and Laudrup's team will have to dig out a high-class performance if they are to reach Laudrup's landmark in two days' time.
But Swansea have done enough in their recent displays to suggest that they have the ability to humble anyone in the top division, particularly when playing on their own patch.
"I would never say a draw here is two points dropped because I know how hard it is to come and play Swansea," Rodgers said.
The Northern Irishman was pleased enough with a point, even if Liverpool had a goal disallowed for the tightest offside call SA1 will see all season.
This cannot have been an easy day for Rodgers, but he got a decent reception from the fans who once idolised him and he a got a decent display from his team.
Liverpool are now unbeaten in eight league fixtures, so both Rodgers's old club and his new one seem to be heading in the right direction.
"We can't get better every time," Laudrup suggested, "because otherwise we will end up hitting the roof.
"But we have only lost one of the last seven or eight games and that's important.
"We had a great week, then we went to Southampton and didn't play so well in the second half but we still got a point.
"We had a great win last week against Newcastle and now a good game against Liverpool.
"It's important to maintain a certain level every week, to get something even when we are not playing at our very best, because every time we extend the positive series of results, we get a little bit more confidence."
The West Brom dressing room must be bouncing — or should that be boinging — right now, but Swansea should not be short of belief come kick-off on Wednesday.
There were many who feared the worst after Rodgers departed, many who were quick to insist that the Championship beckoned after an unwanted change of manager.
And while there are still many points to be gathered before Swansea can begin planning for a third season among the elite, things are going nicely just now for the Laudrup regime.
Rodgers's team has very quickly become Laudrup's line-up, and the return of points so far has been as good as anyone could have hoped for.
"This is another one gained," reckoned Laudrup, "and we deserved it."
Rodgers could not really argue. This was an intriguing contest, a battle between two sides who wanted to dominate with the ball.
Both did so at times, and both created enough opportunities to win the game.
That neither did was about right in a game which entertained even if there were no goals.
Swansea pressed first when Wayne Routledge's drive was beaten away by Pepe Reina, Liverpool responded as Jose Enrique's chested effort went wide.
Johnson caused problems from full-back, and Gerhard Tremmel made a big save to deny the England man before the outstanding Pablo Hernandez shot just wide of the upright at the other end of the field.
Next Angel Rangel robbed Steven Gerrard, but Jonathan de Guzman sliced his effort off target when a couple of team-mates were better placed.
Liverpool came again, Suarez seeing his drive blocked before Raheem Sterling's fabulous volley smashed the raindrops off the bar.
Enrique thought he had opened the scoring a minute later when he tapped in Suarez's centre, but a questionable offside flag saved Swansea and the home side threatened again when Hernandez's piledriver flew just too high.
The pattern continued after the break, with both sides probing but failing to find the killer touch.
Tremmel repelled Suarez's drive, Michu headed straight at Reina.
Williams's header was hacked clear by Allen and then Tremmel gathered another Suarez shot when Liverpool should have done better on the counter-attack.
Swansea came again, Ki Sung-Yueng firing over and Hernandez forcing a sprawling save from Reina.
The last word almost went to Reds substitute Jonjo Shelvey, but Tremmel saved again and the points were shared.
Rodgers was satisfied, and so was the man who took the baton from his hands last summer.
And so to West Brom, and the chance, already, to get halfway to 40 points.

Compiled by Graeme Riley

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Swansea City

BBC

90:00+4:58Full time The final whistle is blown by the referee.
90:00+2:26 Centre by Joe Cole, Daniel Agger takes a shot. Save made by Gerhard Tremmel.
90:00+2:12 Drilled right-footed shot by Jonjo Shelvey. Save by Gerhard Tremmel.
90:00+1:29 Outswinging corner taken right-footed by Luis Suarez from the right by-line to the near post, clearance by Miguel Michu.
90:00+0:50 Effort from outside the penalty area by Steven Gerrard goes wide left of the goal.
90:00+0:31 Kemy Agustien concedes a free kick for a foul on Raheem Sterling. Joe Allen takes the direct free kick.
87:16 The ball is crossed by Miguel Michu, clearance by Martin Skrtel.
85:00 Unfair challenge on Sung-Yeung Ki by Joe Allen results in a free kick. Direct effort from the free kick comes in from Pablo Hernandez, Jose Reina makes a save. Corner taken right-footed by Sung-Yeung Ki from the right by-line, Ashley Williams produces a header from inside the area that goes over the crossbar.
83:24Substitution SubstitutionKemy Agustien is brought on as a substitute for Jonathan de Guzman.
83:24 Sung-Yeung Ki has an effort at goal from outside the penalty area which goes wide right of the goal.
82:36 Sanchez Jose Enrique gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Jonathan de Guzman. Leon Britton restarts play with the free kick.
82:11 Luis Suarez takes a shot. Save by Gerhard Tremmel.
81:30 Miguel Michu takes a shot. Blocked by Sanchez Jose Enrique. Corner taken right-footed by Jonathan de Guzman, save by Jose Reina.
80:14 Raheem Sterling sends in a cross.
78:29 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Chico by Luis Suarez. Angel Rangel restarts play with the free kick.
77:36 Pablo Hernandez sends in a cross.
76:05 Indirect free kick taken by Gerhard Tremmel.
76:05Substitution SubstitutionJoe Cole is brought on as a substitute for Stewart Downing.
76:05Substitution SubstitutionJordan Henderson leaves the field to be replaced by Jonjo Shelvey.
76:05 The official flags Martin Skrtel offside.
75:28 Corner taken by Steven Gerrard, Chico makes a clearance.
71:36 Shot by Luis Suarez from deep inside the penalty area misses to the left of the goal.
70:07 Steven Gerrard sends in a cross, Daniel Agger takes a shot. Save by Gerhard Tremmel.
70:07Booking The referee shows Chico a yellow card for unsporting behaviour.
70:03 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Luis Suarez by Chico.
67:44 Jonathan de Guzman takes a inswinging corner from the left by-line to the near post, save made by Jose Reina. Nathan Dyer takes a shot. Stewart Downing gets a block in. Corner taken right-footed by Sung-Yeung Ki, Header from deep inside the area by Ashley Williams goes harmlessly over the crossbar.
66:19Substitution SubstitutionWayne Routledge leaves the field to be replaced by Nathan Dyer.
63:33 Miguel Michu is penalised for a handball. Free kick taken by Jose Reina.
62:36 Angel Rangel takes a shot. Blocked by Stewart Downing. Corner taken right-footed by Sung-Yeung Ki, Ashley Williams takes a shot. Joe Allen makes a clearance.
60:01 Pablo Hernandez crosses the ball, Miguel Michu takes a shot. Save by Jose Reina.
57:46 Luis Suarez takes a shot. Save by Gerhard Tremmel.
56:23 Foul by Ben Davies on Raheem Sterling, free kick awarded. Steven Gerrard restarts play with the free kick.
55:31 Steven Gerrard takes a shot. Gerhard Tremmel makes a save.
51:40 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Pablo Hernandez by Joe Allen. Pablo Hernandez produces a shot on goal direct from the free kick.
50:04 Free kick awarded for a foul by Joe Allen on Sung-Yeung Ki. Free kick taken by Sung-Yeung Ki.
47:32 The ball is sent over by Sanchez Jose Enrique.
45:01 The match restarts for the second half.
45:01Substitution SubstitutionSung-Yeung Ki on for Itay Shechter.
31:31 Raheem Sterling produces a cross, save made by Gerhard Tremmel. Luis Suarez takes a shot. Blocked by Angel Rangel. Inswinging corner taken by Steven Gerrard from the left by-line played to the near post, Angel Rangel manages to make a clearance. Shot from 18 yards from Raheem Sterling. Steven Gerrard takes a shot. Ashley Williams gets a block in. Effort from a long way out by Joe Allen goes wide right of the target.
45:00+1:11Half time The referee blows for half time.
45:00+0:55 Jordan Henderson takes a shot. Leon Britton gets a block in.
45:00+0:11 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Joe Allen by Miguel Michu. Martin Skrtel restarts play with the free kick.
42:21 Luis Suarez challenges Angel Rangel unfairly and gives away a free kick. Free kick taken by Leon Britton.
41:22 Outswinging corner taken right-footed by Steven Gerrard, Header on goal by Glen Johnson from inside the box goes harmlessly over the target.
40:07 Stewart Downing delivers the ball, clearance made by Ben Davies.
39:12 Miguel Michu gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Joe Allen. Steven Gerrard takes the free kick.
36:54 Pablo Hernandez takes a shot from just outside the penalty area which clears the crossbar.
36:01 Miguel Michu takes a shot. Blocked by Martin Skrtel.
34:30 Effort on goal by Miguel Michu from 25 yards. Blocked by Martin Skrtel.
33:25 The referee blows for offside against Sanchez Jose Enrique. Gerhard Tremmel takes the free kick.
31:31 A cross is delivered by Raheem Sterling, Gerhard Tremmel makes a save. Luis Suarez takes a shot. Blocked by Angel Rangel. Corner taken by Steven Gerrard from the left by-line played to the near post, clearance made by Angel Rangel. Raheem Sterling takes a shot from 18 yards. Steven Gerrard takes a shot. Blocked by Ashley Williams. Joe Allen takes a shot from long distance which goes wide of the right-hand upright.
29:33 Jonathan de Guzman has an effort at goal from just outside the area which goes wide of the left-hand post.
27:37 Pablo Hernandez has shot on goal from just outside the area which goes wide of the right-hand upright.
27:03 Luis Suarez takes a shot. Blocked by Ashley Williams.
27:03 Luis Suarez takes a shot. Chico gets a block in.
23:36 Glen Johnson takes a shot. Gerhard Tremmel makes a save. Corner taken by Steven Gerrard from the right by-line, free kick awarded for a foul by Martin Skrtel on Miguel Michu. Free kick taken by Gerhard Tremmel.
18:47 Sanchez Jose Enrique sends in a cross, save by Gerhard Tremmel.
16:10 The ball is crossed by Glen Johnson, Effort from inside the six-yard box by Sanchez Jose Enrique goes wide right of the goal.
15:01 The assistant referee flags for offside against Luis Suarez. Gerhard Tremmel takes the free kick.
14:32 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Glen Johnson by Wayne Routledge. Martin Skrtel restarts play with the free kick.
13:34 Raheem Sterling takes a shot. Comfortable save by Gerhard Tremmel.
11:46 Shot by Wayne Routledge. Save made by Jose Reina. Outswinging corner taken by Jonathan de Guzman from the right by-line, Martin Skrtel makes a clearance. The ball is swung over by Jonathan de Guzman, Martin Skrtel manages to make a clearance.
10:39 The ball is delivered by Glen Johnson, Chico manages to make a clearance. Outswinging corner taken right-footed by Steven Gerrard from the right by-line, Header from deep inside the penalty area by Glen Johnson goes harmlessly over the crossbar.
9:10 Luis Suarez challenges Ashley Williams unfairly and gives away a free kick. Chico restarts play with the free kick.
8:22 Raheem Sterling has an effort at goal from 12 yards. Save by Gerhard Tremmel.
8:00 A cross is delivered by Raheem Sterling, Angel Rangel makes a clearance.
6:43 Chico takes a shot. Daniel Agger gets a block in.
3:36 Short corner taken by Jonathan de Guzman from the right by-line, Pablo Hernandez crosses the ball, clearance by Daniel Agger.
3:10 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Jonathan de Guzman by Jordan Henderson. Direct free kick taken by Leon Britton.
2:52 Unfair challenge on Itay Shechter by Sanchez Jose Enrique results in a free kick. Chico takes the direct free kick.
2:39 Sanchez Jose Enrique takes a shot. Ashley Williams gets a block in.
0:00 The referee gets the game started.

Compiled by Graeme Riley