Date: 2 March 2013
Opposition: Wigan Athletic
Competition: League

BBC	Mail	Sunday Times	Sun Telegraph	Independent
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Wigan Today	Post	Sun Independent	Guardian	Mirror

2 March 2013

THE TIMES

Suarez states case to receive peers' seal of approval

Wigan Athletic 0 Liverpool Downing 2, Suarez 17, 33, 48 4 Referee M Atkinson Attendance 20,804 It says everything about Luis Suarez's status as one of English football's most divisive figures that even on a day when a wonderful hat-trick allowed him to overtake Robin van Persie as the Barclays Premier League's top scorer, the controversial Uruguayan still found himself at the centre of debate.
His brilliance is not in question, how could it be in a season when he has scored 28 goals in all competitions and at times carried Liverpool almost single-handedly? Neither is his talent, his desire nor his ability to inspire those around him, qualities that were all once again evident as he terrorised a Wigan Athletic side that wilted alarmingly in the face of the forward's magnificence.
The only remaining argument, one that polarises opinion and takes football into the uncomfortable realms of moral judgment, is whether Suarez's past indiscretions should stand in the way of him being named footballer of the year.
Ask Brendan Rodgers his view and his answer is emphatic - as the Premier League's best player this season, in his opinion, the 26-year-old not only deserves the award, his outstanding form demands it.
Alter the question slightly, though, to take into account how others, most notably Suarez's fellow professionals, view it and the Liverpool manager's response is less emphatic.
"I am not sure," Rodgers admitted after an impressive win at the DW Stadium indicated that Liverpool are moving in the right direction. "Everyone understands his passion and he has got himself into trouble a couple of times. But when you judge the player of the season on performance level and goals, then I can't see how you can look any further than him and I would hope other people will do that, certainly the professionals within the game. He is a class act and a genuine world class player."
Of the three leading contenders for the PFA award, Van Persie and Gareth Bale being the other two, Suarez's performance indicators are the most eye-catching. Not only has he now scored more goals than his two rivals and has a superior goals-to-minutes ratio, he also has more assists, made more key passes and more tackles. This in a Liverpool side in which he has been the only available recognised forward for a large part of the season.
It is only when matters of a more ethical nature are taken into account that questions emerge, with those who believe the footballer of the year title (which has been held previously by Norman Hunter, Eric Cantona and David Ginola among others) should be paragons of virtue that questions about Suarez's suitability for the award emerge.
"It should only be judged on his performance on the field, you can't fault him for that," Stewart Downing, who began Liverpool's rout with a well-taken header from Philippe Coutinho's cross, said. "Obviously he's had things which have happened in the past, but he's got on with his football and does his job at the end of the day. It should be judged on how he plays and, for me, that's all it boils down to. Nothing else should matter and I think he's got a hell of a chance."
As he became the first Liverpool player since Fernando Torres to score 20 Premier League goals in a season with his second hat-trick of the campaign, Suarez once again underlined the virtuous side of his nature. Such ruthless displays of finishing have come to be taken as standard from a forward who seems hellbent on dispelling notions that he is not a natural goalscorer, but what is easy to overlook is his insatiable appetite to play football and remarkable will to win.
Wigan could not cope, but there is no shame in that, and had Pepe Reina not produced an outstanding individual performance then Roberto Martinez's side could have still made a game of it despite the latest demonstration of Suarez's brilliance. On three separate occasions, the Liverpool goalkeeper produced saves that his critics have claimed are beyond him.
That they arrived at crucial moments in the game ensured that this would once again be Suarez's day and all that remained was for him to be engulfed in yet another debate. It is unlikely to be the last.
ratings Wigan Athletic (4-2-3-1): A Al Habsi 5 - E Boyce 4, G Caldwell 3 (sub: R Espinoza, 52min 5), P Scharner 5, M Figueroa 5 - J McArthur 4, J McCarthy 5 - S Maloney 5, F Di Santo 5 (sub: A Alcaraz, 52 5), J Beausejour 5 (sub: C McManaman, 62 5) - A Kone 5. Substitutes not used: J Robles, A Henriquez, J Gomez, R Stam. Booked: Caldwell, McArthur.Liverpool (4-2-3-1): JM Reina 8 - G Johnson 7, J Carragher 7, D Agger 7, J Enrique 7 - Lucas 7, S Gerrard 8 - S Downing 7, J Allen 7, P Coutinho 8 (sub: J Henderson, 71) - L Suarez 9. Substitutes not used: P Gulacsi, O Assaidi, S Coates, Suso, J Shelvey, A Wisdom. Booked: Allen, Lucas.

theguardian

Reputation stands between Suarez and player awards, says Rodgers

The match ball rewarded another show of ruthless efficiency from Luis Suarez and strengthened the case for the player-of-the-year award to follow. Two factors count against him. One is that Robin van Persie has shaped the destiny of the title rather than a club's modest rise from the lower reaches to seventh in the table. The other is Luis Suarez.
Liverpool's leading striker became the Premier League's leading marksman with a hat-trick befitting a devastating, hungry away performance from Brendan Rodgers' team. It is 21 league goals and counting for the outstanding Uruguay international, 28 in total for the season. Three more from the final 10 league matches would equal Fernando Torres' haul of 24 for the club in 2007-08. A further seven would bring Suarez level with Robbie Fowler's Premier League record of 28 from 1995-96.
Suarez's influence on Rodgers' debut campaign as Liverpool manager exceeds those statistics. In carrying the threat almost single-handedly until January he allowed the new manager's tactics to develop before the pressure from an underwhelming start became overwhelming. Rodgers' ideals were stamped through this victory at the DW Stadium where, with the new signing Philippe Coutinho enhancing the performance and displaying immediate rapport with Suarez, they pressed and passed a hapless Wigan defence into submission.
With Suarez producing his second hat-trick of the season from Coutinho's perfect pass, a deflected free-kick and following a fine run and release from Glen Johnson, Rodgers reiterated his belief that a failure to qualify for Europe will not turn the striker's head this summer. The second prevalent theme is Suarez's candidacy for player of the year.
The Liverpool manager stated his unequivocal vote for the striker before the trip to Wigan but, afterwards, even the optimist that is Rodgers conceded the controversies attached to Suarez this season alone might cloud the final judgment.
Asked if voters would take a dispassionate view, Rodgers replied: "I am not sure. Everyone understands his passion and he has got himself into trouble a couple of times. But I don't think there is anyone - when you come away and judge the player of the season on performance level and goals - then I can't see how you can look any further than him and I would hope other people will do that, certainly the professionals within the game. He is a class act and a world-class player."
Suarez had the game settled within 34 minutes when he produced Liverpool's third. The visitors were en route to victory from their first attack thanks to the collectors' item of a Stewart Downing header from Coutinho's delightful cross and a calamitous first-half offering from Wigan. They were a shambles defensively, careless and out-fought in midfield and at each other's throats when Emmerson Boyce and James McArthur almost came to blows following yet another error.
And yet it demonstrated Liverpool's defensive vulnerability that Pepe Reina made four excellent saves to preserve his first clean sheet away from Anfield this year.
"It was an outstanding performance and he made saves at critical moments," said Rodgers. "Sometimes these goals away can change the momentum of the game. His pass for the first goal was outstanding and he was deserving of his clean sheet. Overall, it was a great team performance."
Liverpool's first win at Wigan since 2007 suggested it will require a greater escape than usual for Roberto Martinez's team to pull clear of danger. Disharmony was not restricted to the spat between McArthur and Boyce. Franco Di Santo headed straight down the tunnel when substituted, before being ordered back out, and Gary Caldwell received a verbal volley from supporters when he was replaced.
"We are in a dangerous situation," the Wigan manager admitted. "For the first 20 minutes we weren't anywhere near the level you need to be to play against a team like Liverpool."
The severity of the defeat will shape Martinez's thinking for the FA Cup quarter-final at Everton on Saturday. He added: "It is an important game but in the position we are in after this result we need to find the best possible team to carry on playing in the league. We want success in the cup but never at the price that it would affect our league campaign. That's something that I will never allow to happen."
Man of the match Luis Suarez (Liverpool)

Compiled by Graeme Riley

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2 March 2013

The Mail

Rodgers: Judge Luis on football

LUIS SUAREZ had just departed the DW Stadium clutching the match ball and a bottle of champagne when the debate started to rage.

After another spell-binding performance, when he scored a hat-trick in Liverpool's 4-0 win over Wigan, two questions needed to be asked. Has he done enough to be named Footballer of the Year? And will his talents get the ultimate recognition? If the answer to the first poser is an emphatic 'yes', the reply to the second is 'probably not' -- evenLiverpool manager Brendan Rodgers has a feeling that 28 goals, a handful of assists and a perpetual threat will not be enough for Suarez.

'I am not sure,' Rodgers replied when asked if people could see the whole picture with regard to Suarez. 'Everyone understands his passion but he has got himself into trouble a couple of times.

'But if you come away and judge the player of the season on performance level and goals, then I can't see how you can look any further than him. I would hope other people do that, certainly the professionals within the game. He is a class act and a genuine world-class player.' There is no disputing Suarez's ability. His latest treble enabled him to become only the third Liverpool player in the modern era -- Robbie Fowler and Fernando Torres being the others -- to score 20 goals in a league campaign. His statistics are significantly better than those of Gareth Bale and Robin van Persie, the main contenders for the awards, and Suarez has performed consistently.

That Rodgers felt it necessary to question whether he will win one of the two footballer-of-the-year gongs, however, says much.

When Liverpool were last at the DW Stadium, in December 2011, Suarez was toxic and had just been charged by the FA for using racist language towards Patrice Evra. Liverpool caused outrage when they warmed up before that game wearing T-shirts in support of Suarez and some critics will not be able to forget that. That he has also been embroiled in controversies over diving -- as has Bale -- further muddies the waters.

'It should only be judged on his performance on the field,' said Stewart Downing, who scored Liverpool's other goal. 'You can't fault him for that. Obviously he's had things which have happened in the past, but he's got on with his football and done his job. Nothing else should matter.' It certainly didn't in 1996 when Eric Cantona was named Football Writers' Association Player of the Year, the season after returning from an eight-month ban for assaulting a spectator.

He was the driving force behind Manchester United clinching the double, but arguments that Suarez will miss out because of Liverpool's lack of achievement don't add up either. Back in 1999, when United won the treble, David Ginola received both the PFA and FWA awards.

'The amount of goals Luis has scored is frightening,' Downing continued. 'It's the hardest league to get goals in but there are 10 games to go and he could maybe get 30-odd. It may end up with whoever gets the most goals this season, so Luis is in with a hell of a chance.' How Roberto Martinez could do with someone with half of Suarez's ability to aid Wigan's relegation fight. They were abject on Saturday and their manager made no attempt to hide that next week's FA Cup quarterfinal at Everton is merely a distraction.

'Success in the Cup is something that we want,' said Martinez. 'But never at the price of it affecting our league campaign. That's something I will never allow to happen.'

The Daily Telegraph

Liverpool fear past sins could rob Suarez of players' award

Wigan Athletic 0
Att: 20,804
Liverpool 4
Downing 2, Suarez 18, 34, 49

No sooner had Luis Suarez completed his latest hat-trick than the conversation turned to whether he had secured extra crosses in the vote for the footballer of the year.

"It should only be judged on his performance on the field," Stewart Downing said. That such a point should need emphasising is symptomatic of the highly developed streak of sanctimony infecting the chattering circle. Are we no longer judging the footballer of the year solely on who is the best footballer of the year? Suarez's misdemeanours might be regarded as so nauseating, it would not matter if in his next game he juggled the ball 60 yards before chipping the goalkeeper with a back-heeled volley. How reassuring it is to know the Patrice Evra race-abuse affair and a propensity to dive make Suarez unfit to join an honours roll that includes the paragons of virtue, Cristiano Ronaldo and John Terry.

Downing, who headed Liverpool's first goal here, called on his fellow professionals to stick to the usual measures. "It should be judged on how he plays and, for me, that's all it boils down to. Nothing else should matter," he said. "Obviously he's had things which have happened in the past, but he's got on with his football and does his job. The number of goals he's scored is frightening."

Brendan Rodgers, Liverpool's manager, is not convinced performances will be the deciding factor.

"I am not sure," he said. "Everyone understands his passion and he has got himself into trouble a couple of times. But when you judge the player of the season on performance level and goals, then I can't see how you can look further than him. I would hope others will do that, certainly the professionals within the game. He is a genuine world-class player."

If these worries are valid, one wonders what type of players we really want in this country. Ask a manager what he desires in his squad - skill, yes, but personalities who can be rascals are more desirable than timid boy scouts. Give Roy Hodgson another Wayne Rooney, playing on the edge, rather than an extra Theo Walcott, who still looks like he bob-a-jobs and disappears in the toughest venues.

Whether Suarez is selling the English game with as much objectionable as desirable publicity, he enhances the Premier League.

He was captivating from first to last here. His touch was beguiling, goals a mixture of the great and the good, and his willingness to run to lung capacity suggested he might need an oxygen bottle rather than an energy drink at the final whistle.

The Uruguayan is instantly working in tandem with Philippe Coutinho, creator of the first two goals with the kind of nimble feet, vision and ability to execute a pass which could transform Liverpool from an exciting to a mesmerising attacking unit.

Wigan could argue Pepe Reina had his best game of the season but there was a significant gulf in class. It was Suarez's day. One of his many this season. If he does not win player of the year because Gareth Bale is considered even better, so be it. If he is ignored because we are handing out a halo rather than a trophy, they may as well as host the ceremony in St Paul's Cathedral.

Compiled by Graeme Riley

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2 March 2013

THE INDEPENDENT

Martinez to put Cup hopes to one side

Of all the clubs playing in the shadow of relegation, only Wigan are still in the FA Cup and their manager, Roberto Martinez, said he would not allow the chance of silverware to imperil their prospects of survival.

Martinez will radically change his side for Saturday's quarter-final at Everton, although he may have been tempted to make significant alterations anyway after a 4-0 defeat undermined by defensive incompetence. Liverpool were smooth and Luis Suarez inspired but their first win at the DW Stadium in six years was given considerable assistance.

"Yes," Martinez said when asked if cup runs affect league performances. "If you have the same 11 players, it is impossible to maintain the same level of performance. That is proven.

"But if you have a big enough squad you can share demands and that is what we have done this season. Success in the Cup is what we want but not at the price of our league status. I will never allow that to happen."

Four teams since the war have reached FA Cup finals and been relegated and only one - Middlesbrough in 1997 - improved their league position during their Cup run.

The expectation is that Wigan, the arch-escapologists, will survive but this was a savage defeat against opponents whose measure they have had. Given that Aston Villa will face Reading and Queen's Park Rangers before Wigan next play a league match, the expectation at Wigan must now be that they will be back in the relegation zone before they face Newcastle United on 17 March.

"Our situation is a dangerous one and it would be wrong to think we will achieve our aim easily," said Martinez. "We were not anywhere near the level we needed to be against a top side like Liverpool."

Liverpool are only slowly becoming a "top side". For their manager, Brendan Rodgers, it is crucial to finish higher than eighth, the position achieved by his predecessor, Kenny Dalglish, who did so while reaching two cup finals.

"A season of transition" which Rodgers promised is not much of a slogan with which to rush to the barricades and are words Bill Shankly would never have uttered.

However, with Liverpool's January transfers, Daniel Sturridge and Philippe Coutinho, making instant impacts, there are signs that the "work in progress" may be coming to fruition.

In football there are several magic numbers and one of them is 1.71 - the average number of points per game you need to qualify for the Champions League. It says something for the pace of Rodgers' overhaul of Liverpool that only now are they hitting that target.

"If you break the season into quarters, we had a difficult first one, with lots of application," said Rodgers. "In the second we got better and in the third we kicked on again."

Liverpool's first nine matches produced an average of 1.1 points per game, enough to have finished 16th last season. Their next nine brought them 1.6 (seventh place). Only now do the figures match Liverpool's ambition.

WIGAN ATH 0
LIVERPOOL 4
Goals: Liverpool Downing 2, Suarez 18, 34, 49.
Substitutions: Wigan Alcaraz 5 (Di Santo, 52), Espinoza 5 (Caldwell, 52), McManaman 6(Beausejour, 61).
Liverpool Henderson 6 (Coutinho, 71).
Bookings: Wigan Caldwell, McArthur.
Liverpool Allen, Lucas.
Man of the match Suarez.
Match rating 6/10.
Possession: Wigan 52%.
Liverpool 48%.
Attempts on target: Wigan 6.
Liverpool 6.
Referee M Atkinson (West Yorkshire).
Att 20,804.

DAILY Mirror

A LUIS CANNON

HIS hat-trick makes him the Premier League's top scorer with 21 goals in 27 games.

Manager Brendan Rodgers feels the debate should already be over and for him he is "clearly the Player of the Year".

Yet, we all know Luis Suarez is still very much the outsider in the running to win the coveted award.

It's not that rivals Robin van Persie and Gareth Bale are that much better, but rather Suarez's chequered past will count against him in the voting.

Put bluntly, players are less likely to vote for the Liverpool star because of his race row with Patrice Evra last season and the diving accusations.

There are many who think that is wrong and Stewart Downing, who has urged his peers to consider Suarez solely on his displays when it comes to voting, reckons the Uruguayan is flourishing in English football.

Downing said: "The goals he's scored is frightening, especially in this league. It's the hardest league to get goals in, but he's had two good seasons for goals.

"I'm sure he will get many more and there are still 10 games to go. You never know what he could get - 30-odd.

"It was another great performance.

All types of different goals for his hat-trick. At the minute he's on fire and if you have a striker like that in your team, you always have a chance of winning games."

Liverpool fans held a pre-match protest about the cost of tickets (below) but few Reds supporters are likely to have begrudged the price of entry here after seeing their team in such sublime form.

Suarez was his lethal best against Wigan, latching on to Philippe Coutinho's through-ball for his first on 18 minutes before netting his third free-kick in two games on 34 minutes via a deflection off Shaun Maloney and the post.

His movement was superb and he completed his hat-trick four minutes after the interval when Glen Johnson's bustling run put him through in the right channel, and he slotted home through keeper Ali Al Habsi's legs.

Suarez wasn't Liverpool's only star performer at the DW and Coutinho, likened by John Aldridge to "a Scouser with a Benidorm tan", created Downing's rare headed opener in the second minute as well as Suarez's first.

There was also Reds goalkeeper Pepe Reina, and the Spaniard looked back to his brilliant best after a difficult time as he made a string of top-class saves.

His right-handed stop to keep out Emmerson Boyce's half volley at 2-0 was nothing less than world class and he also saved from Franco Di Santo, Jean Beausejour and Maloney.

Wigan's defence was shambolic and they have maintained their unwanted record of conceding in every home league game this season.

The only fight they displayed was when Boyce and James McArthur clashed while Latics boss Roberto Martinez ordered back Di Santo when he headed down the tunnel in a sulk after being subbed.

The challenge for Liverpool remains to defeat one of the big boys and they will really look like they are making the progress Rodgers keeps banging on about if they beat Spurs on Sunday.

SUAREZ STRIKE-RATE IS UP THERE WITH GREATS.. Games Goals Goals/Game IAN RUSH (1980-1987, 88-96) 660 346 0.53 Roger Hunt (1958-1969) 492 286 0.58 Gordon Hodgson (1925-1936) 377 241 0.64 Billy Liddell (1938-1961) 534 228 0.47 Robbie Fowler (1993-2001, 06-07) 369 183 0.50 Kenny Dalglish (1977-1990) 515 172 0.33 Michael Owen (1996-2004) 297 158 0.53 Steven Gerrard (1998-) 620 157 0.25 Harry Chambers (1915-1928) 339 151 0.45 Parkinson (1903-1914) 220 130 0.59 Suarez (2011-) 90 49 0.54

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2 March 2013

LIVERPOOL ECHO

Luis Suarez continues to bang in the goals

ANOTHER matchball for his collection. Another awe-inspiring display from Liverpool's master craftsman. Luis Suarez lit up the DW Stadium on Saturday evening as Wigan Athletic were expertly dismantled.

The major prizes may have eluded Brendan Rodgers' side this term but the Uruguayan appears certain to ensure some silverware will be heading to Anfield come May. His third Liverpool hat-trick, achieved with the ruthlessness of an assassin, put him out in front in the race for the Golden Boot on 21 league goals.

Suarez is re-writing the record books and there are more significant milestones in sight. He's the first Reds player since Fernando Torres five years ago to notch 20 in the top flight, while Robbie Fowler's tally of 28 Premier League strikes in 1995/96 is under serious threat. Not bad for a striker who prior to this season had been labelled as a scorer of great goals rather than a great goalscorer.

There should be no debate about where the Player of the Year accolades end up. Nobody has contributed more for their club than Suarez has for Liverpool.

It's not just his goals or assists, it's that remarkable work ethic coupled with such breathtaking talent. Earlier in the campaign there were times when Suarez was leading the fight almost single-handedly. It's only been since the turn of the year that he's been graced with the kind of support someone of his ability deserves.

In contrast Robin van Persie is part of a Manchester United side destined to clinch the title who have repeatedly put chances on a plate for him.

Tottenham's Gareth Bale is currently flavour of the month and undoubtedly in the form of his life, but what did he achieve before Christmas apart from passable impressions of Tom Daley?Yet the nagging suspicion is that Suarez will miss out. That fellow professionals and football writers will be swayed not by his sustained brilliance but by the past controversies which have dogged him. From last season's ban for racially abusing to Patrice Evra, to the handshake debacle at Old Trafford, the allegations of diving and the outrage over his handball against Mansfield.Of course Suarez has made mistakes but he's also an easy target for critics with an agenda.He doesn't get the wider credit he deserves for having cleaned up his act – for staying on his feet more often and cutting out the needless berating of officials. Suarez divides opinion but among Liverpool supporters there is consensus. Never has his name been chanted with such feeling as it was by the 4,000 away fans at the DW Stadium on Saturday.

Despite the Kop icon's latest declaration of love for the Reds, speculation about his future won't go away. As Rodgers has admitted himself, a player of his calibre belongs in the Champions League. Unless Liverpool can miraculously gatecrash the top four between now and May, they must hope Suarez is prepared to bide his time. The South American needs to be convinced that under Rodgers the Reds are on the brink of becoming a force to be reckoned with.

Saturday's rout of the Latics was another promising step forward and suggests Liverpool are capable of salvaging something from a rollercoaster campaign. Generating momentum and finishing with a flourish is not only key to booking European qualification but also putting down a marker for next season.

Suarez was outstanding but this was no one-man show as in all departments the Reds excelled. This was Liverpool playing the Rodgers way. When they were in possession, their slick passing and intelligent movement ripped Wigan to shreds. When they didn't have the ball, they pressed relentlessly and forced the hosts into giving it back. Clinical hasn't been a word associated with Liverpool too often in recent years but on Saturday – despite the absence of the injured Daniel Sturridge – they put Roberto Martinez's side away with a minimum of fuss.

Philippe Coutinho, restored to the line up at the expense of Jordan Henderson, continued his impressive start to his Anfield career.

It was the Brazilian's turn of pace, skill and vision which created the opening goal inside two minutes. Latching on to Pepe Reina's long pass, Coutinho skipped past Emmerson Boyce down the left and expertly picked out Stewart Downing, who nodded home from close range. Skipper Steven Gerrard stamped his authority on proceedings in the middle with the quality of his distribution launching wave after wave of attacks, while Joe Allen produced an eye-catching display which suggests he has put a worrying slump in form behind him.

By the 18th minute Liverpool had doubled their lead. Gerrard cleverly steered the ball into the path of Coutinho, who burst forward and slid the perfect pass through to Suarez. The striker's control was instant and he coolly waited for Ali Al Habsi to commit himself before rolling it into the corner.

Liverpool played at a tempo and intensity the Latics simply couldn't handle but it took a stunning save from Reina to stop the hosts from gaining a foothold in the game. Boyce's strike appeared destined for the top corner before the Spanish keeper somehow clawed it away. This was Reina's finest performance of a season during which his form has fluctuated wildly.

It took more heroics to thwart Franco Di Santo, Jean Beausejour and Shaun Maloney and secure the Reds' first away clean sheet of 2013.

Eleven minutes before the break the points were wrapped up. Suarez slipped as he struck a 25-yard free-kick but it deflected off Maloney and Al Habsi couldn't keep it out. There was nothing lucky about Suarez's third goal four minutes into the second half. Glen Johnson exchanged passes with Gerrard and embarked on a surging run which left the Latics exposed.

The full-back found Suarez who finished in style, nutmegging Al Habsi with the outside of his right boot, for his 28th goal in all competitions this season.

From then on it was party time in the away end as the travelling Kop, celebrating the Reds' first triumph at Wigan since 2007, went through their full repertoire.

Among the names to echo around the DW Stadium was that of Rafa Benitez as fans made their feelings known about Chelsea's treatment of him and toasted that magical night in Istanbul.

The chant then turned to praising Liverpool's current boss who responded with a thumbs-up. Rodgers can't escape reminders about the club's past, but there are promising signs about the future he's plotting.

With Suarez leading the charge and the supporting cast looking the part, Sunday's visit of Tottenham can't come soon enough.

LIVERPOOL DAILY POST

Incredible form of Luis Suarez continues

OUTSIDE the DW Stadium on Saturday evening, an admiring huddle formed around a ball-juggler skilfully demonstrating his wares.

But once inside, however, there was only one man upon whom adoring gazes were resolutely transfixed. It is simply impossible to take your eyes off Luis Suarez at present. Suarez may polarise opinion across the country given past misdemeanours but, when it comes to harnessing sheer talent, the Liverpool striker surely has no equal in the Premier League this season.

Just ask Wigan Athletic, the Uruguayan running riot against Roberto Martinez's strugglers to claim his second hat-trick of the campaign and notch further landmarks in an already-bulging Anfield scrapbook.

Of course, it was on Liverpool's last visit to these parts in December 2011 that they sported controversial tops underlining their support for Suarez in his race row with Patrice Evra. Now, though, you can put your shirt on the Uruguayan lighting up whichever stadium in which he performs; the nearest Wigan got to Suarez was when substitute Roger Espinoza exchanged jerseys as the striker dribbled off with the matchball at full-time.

Liverpool will hope Anfield remains his home stage for years to come. Brendan Rodgers revealed last week a meeting with Suarez's agent suggested the player gave no inkling of wanting a move elsewhere.

But with Rodgers readily admitting the striker is more than deserving of the Champions League stage, he will surely be braced for a summer of interest from the likes of Bayern Munich and Juventus. Whether Suarez's incredible form – he now has 28 goals in 38 games in all competitions this season – is enough to earn either the Player of the Year or Footballer of the Year awards remains to be seen. It should. But those past controversies could yet sway the minds of his peers and scribes alike, despite neither Robin van Persie nor Gareth Bale, Suarez's only realistic rivals for such accolades, hardly boasting unblemished records.

Suarez might not be able to erase the past in that respect, but he continues to do so in another. By becoming the first Liverpool player to score 20 league goals in a season since Fernando Torres five years earlier, the 26-year-old has further banished the memory of the Spaniard from the minds of the Anfield support.

Even Suarez's team-mates are being left speechless. "There is not much more you can say about him," says Joe Allen. "He is world class and his hat-trick speaks for itself. "His relationship not only with the players he plays with, but also the fans, doesn't really happen that often. He really is a hero and an idol for everyone. The way he is performing for this club, he deserves to be.

"With Luis, you know he is going to conjure something up at any given moment in a game. To have that in your team is enormous."

Suarez wasn't the only South American to catch the eye at the weekend as Liverpool made light of the absence of Daniel Sturridge to continue their goal-laden form; it's now 12 in three games for Rodgers' men.

The other January arrival, Philippe Coutinho, stepped in for a second start and continued to provide encouragement, helping create Liverpool's opening two goals. Inside two minutes, the Brazilian capitalised on poor position from Emmerson Boyce to latch on to Pepe Reina's searching kick and then bamboozled the Wigan right-back before standing up a cross for Stewart Downing to convert a rare header from inside the six-yard box.

Then, having exchanged incisive passes with Steven Gerrard on the halfway line, Coutinho advanced and slipped in an inch-perfect ball for Suarez to clip over Wigan goalkeeper Ali Al Habsi. The sight of Coutinho on his haunches midway through the second half was a reminder it will be some time before the 20-year-old comes to terms with the rigours of English football. But, like Sturridge, he is thus far proving money well spent. Coutinho's compatriot, Lucas Leiva, was another to excel, the midfielder now fit and sharp and helping negate the threat of combative Wigan duo James McCarthy and a masked James McArthur, the latter of which took out his frustrations on team-mate Boyce as the Latics capitulated. Suarez, though, was the star turn, netting a second on 34 minutes although, having been fouled by Gary Caldwell, the Uruguayan slipped when striking a 25-yard free-kick that went in off the post via Shaun Maloney and Al Habsi. His third came four minutes after the interval, a flowing Liverpool move ending when Glen Johnson played in the striker who finished through the legs of Al Habsi. Suarez's treble was his third on the road after successive hat-tricks at Norwich City – only Michael Owen and Wayne Rooney have scored more in Premier League history – as Rodgers' men continually capitalised on Wigan's

Compiled by Graeme Riley

curiously high defensive line. The home side, although well beaten, were not without their chances, and it gave Pepe Reina the platform to illustrate his confidence is being restored by making a clutch of fine saves to deny Boyce, Franco di Santo, Jean Beausejour and Maloney. While only Manchester United can boast a better record against teams in the bottom half of the table than Rodgers' men, an inability to beat any of those above them underlines why the Anfield outfit are scrabbling among the also-rans. But with Bale and Tottenham journeying to Merseyside next weekend, it's the perfect opportunity for Liverpool – and Suarez – to post a significant message of intent.
MAN OF THE MATCH. Luis Suarez. Who else?
GOALS: Downing 2, Suarez 18, 34, 49
WIGAN ATHLETIC (4-4-2): Al Habsi; Boyce, Caldwell (Alcaraz 52), Scharner, Figueroa; Maloney, McCarthy, McArthur, Beausejour (McManaman 61); Di Santo (Espinoza 52), Kone. Subs: Robles, Henriquez, Gomes, Stam.
BOOKINGS: Caldwell and McArthur (foul).
LIVERPOOL (4-1-4-1): Reina; Johnson, Carragher, Agger, Enrique; Lucas; Downing, Allen, Gerrard, Coutinho (Henderson 71); Suarez. Subs: Gulacsi, Assaidi, Coates, Suso, Shelvey, Wisdom.
BOOKINGS: Allen and Lucas (both fouls).
REFEREE: Martin Atkinson. ATT: 20,804.
NEXT GAME: Liverpool v Tottenham Hotspur, Barclays Premier League, Sunday 4pm.

THE INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

Suarez puts sloppy Wigan to the sword

Of the three men competing for the title of footballer of the year, Luis Suarez is the one playing for least. Liverpool's season, if not dead, has had a priest in attendance since they were beaten by Zenit St Petersburg on the frozen banks of the Neva last month.
Robin van Persie is competing for the Treble. Gareth Bale might still win a European trophy and is playing for the Champions' League. It says plenty about Suarez that he should produce displays like these when there is so little at stake. "For me, there is no better striker in the Premier League," said his manager, Brendan Rodgers, who believes that even without Champions' League football, the Uruguayan will remain on Merseyside. "He is clearly the player of the year for myself and for many Liverpool people. Forget his quality - it is his hunger and desire that stand out. "It is hard to say the Champions' League is not important, but Luis has a real affinity with the players. The supporters adore him and he loves the city of Liverpool. It could have been easy for him to have walked away last summer. I speak regularly with his agent and he wants to be part of our future." Liverpool's expectations at Wigan are usually low. Rafa Benitez, whose name was chanted long and loud in the away end, was the last manager to win here and that was six years ago. Last night the match was settled by half-time. If Wigan had thought their record against Liverpool would shield them, it was a mood that was broken after just two minutes.
For Roberto Martinez, this may be the season when the escapology ends and the Wigan manager, his voice pained, remarked: "Our defensive performance in the first 20 minutes made our situation impossible."
Suarez and Philippe Coutinho had been murderously effective but Wigan's attempts to stop them were exercises in incompetence. Paul Scharner argued openly with his goalkeeper, Ali Al Habsi, while Emmerson Boyce and James McArthur engaged in a bitter-looking spat. Coutinho had been wonderful on his Anfield debut, the 5-0 dismissal of a Swansea side that appeared entirely fixated by the upcoming League Cup final. Here he created two of Liverpool's three first-half goals, deceiving Boyce and crossing perfectly for Stewart Downing almost before the chorus of Jackie Wilson's "Higher and Higher" had faded away. The Brazilian continued pulling apart Wigan's defence with a beautifully measured through-ball that sent Suarez clear for the opening goal of his hat-trick.
Wigan's sloppiness could be measured by watching Scharner take an age over his free-kick and then pass straight to Glen Johnson. Suarez did rather better with his. It struck the edge of the defensive wall, slid through Al Habsi's gloves and went in off the post. Al Habsi would not have enjoyed his 100th appearance for Wigan and it became more forgettable when, three minutes after the end of Martinez's team talk, the Uruguayan sprinted through with painfully inevitable results - Suarez's third hat-trick for Liverpool and his 21st Premier League goal, two more than Van Persie. During the interval, a new mother announced she would be naming her baby after anyone who scored for Wigan. Pepe Reina, who produced what Martinez thought the best goalkeeping performance at Wigan this season, ensured it would not be Jean (Beausejour), Emmerson (Boyce) or Franco (di Santo). She might try Luis.
Wigan (4-3-2-1): Al Habsi; Boyce, Caldwell (Alcaraz, 52, Scharner, Figueroa; Maloney, McCarthy, McArthur; Beausejour (McManaman, 61), Di Santo(Espinoza, 52); Kon[c].
Liverpool (4-3-2-1): Reina; Johnson, Carragher, Agger, Enrique; Gerrard, Lucas Leiva, Allen; Coutinho (Henderson, 70), Downing; Suarez.
Referee: Martin Atkinson Man of the match: Suarez (Liverpool)
Match rating: 6/10

The Sunday Telegraph

Suarez treble sinks woeful Wigan

Wigan 0
Att: 19,000
Liverpool 4 Downing 2, Suarez 18, 34, 49
For those who rolled their eyes when Brendan Rodgers maintained there was still plenty to play for in Liverpool's season following their exit from the Europa League, here was the brutal and clinical response.
At the DW Stadium Luis Suarez just did what he does, with three goals taking his tally in the League to 21 for the season, but the team around him, even with Daniel Sturridge absent, continues to show signs of a brighter future.
Steven Gerrard's passing was magnificent but Philippe Coutinho, the 20-year-old Brazilian making just his second start since joining from Inter Milan in January, showed a great deal of promise, drifting in from the left flank to wreak havoc and laying on the opening two goals.
Suarez's reliability is taken for granted but the challenge for Rodgers's side, who achieved back to back league wins for the third time this season, is to match that. They will play better than this but there was a ruthlessness about them that will satisfy Rodgers, whose team remain nine points adrift of fourth-placed Tottenham.
Pepe Reina was still forced to pull off three fine first-half saves but Wigan were dreadful at the back and after gleaning so much hope from their 3-0 win at Reading last weekend, this was a real blow to their survival hopes. Emmerson Boyce took just 30 seconds to demonstrate the positives of Wigan's flexible formation when he bombed forward from wing-back to float over a cross that should have been finished by Arouna Kone, who could only produce a weak prod. But just a minute later the defender was caught out by a long ball from Pepe Reina and Coutinho managed to get in behind, lifting a perfectly weighted cross over for the unmarked Downing to head in.
Coutinho also demonstrated a rawness by attempting a flick on the edge of his own area that almost put Liverpool into trouble before playing a role in a neat passing move that almost saw Steven Gerrard played clean through by Joe Allen. Gerrard found Downing whose powerful curling shot came back off James McCarthy. But with just 17 minutes gone, Coutinho showed yet more class when he clipped a pass through a gap for Suarez to surge through to add a second with a precise finish.
Reina had to be alert to claw away a Boyce effort that looked bound for the top corner before Wigan were opened up with a sweeping move at the other end that resulted in Boyce and teammate McArthur having to be separated by their team-mates.
Twelve minutes before the interval, the visitors moved into what looked like an unassailable when Suarez slipped as he was taking a free-kick but the ball glanced off Shaun Maloney on the end of the wall and bounced in off the post. Just to underline the advantage, Reina produced another great save from a Franco Di Santo header from a Jean Beausejour cross. Whatever Roberto Martinez had to say at the interval clearly had little effect as Glen Johnson was allowed to wander through Wigan's midfield before sliding a pass for Suarez to stab the ball through Ali Al Habsi's legs. Maloney thumped a free-kick straight into the Liverpool wall and also saw a header palmed away by Reina but it was an absolute stroll for the visitors.
Wigan (3-4-3) Al Habsi; Scharner, Caldwell (Alcaraz, 52), Figueroa; Boyce, McArthur, McCarthy, Beausejour (McManaman 61); Di Santo (Espinoza, 52), Kone, Maloney.
Subs Robles, Henriquez, Gomez, Stam. Booked Caldwell, McArthur Liverpool (4-3-3) Reina; Johnson, Carragher, Agger, Enrique; Allen, Gerrard, Lucas; Downing, Suarez, Coutinho (Henderson, 71). Subs: Gulacsi, Assaidi, Coates, Suso, Shelvey, Wisdom. Booked Allen, Lucas.
Referee M Atkinson (West Yorkshire).

Date: 2 March 2013
Opposition: Wigan Athletic
Competition: League

BBC	Mail	Sunday Times	Sun Telegraph	Independent
	Echo	Observer	Times	Telegraph
Wigan Today	Post	Sun Independent	Guardian	Mirror

2 March 2013

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Suarez destroys Wigan

IF ONLY all their away days were like this, Liverpool would not still be seeking their first Premier League title. A four-goal cruise, highlighted by a clinical Luis Suarez hat-trick and a coming-of-age performance from Philippe Coutinho, suggests that something special might be on the horizon.

"The players are becoming accustomed to how I want them to play, to pressing as a team," said Brendan Rodgers, theLiverpool manager. "This was a wonderful win for us."

Last week's victory at Reading was the sort of dogfight Wigan Athletic needed to win to retain their status; taking points off Liverpool was the way ahead. After just two minutes, those heady thoughts were over.

"You can't defend like we did and expect to win," said Wigan manager Roberto Martinez. "We have much to look forward to, but we need to learn quickly from this."

Pepe Reina hoofed the ball forwards. Coutinho twisted around and past Emmerson Boyce and crossed. Inside the penalty area, Stewart Downing planted a firm header past Ali Al Habsi and with 88 minutes to negotiate, the die was cast. Wigan were more at sea than a submarine. In the box of tricks that is Coutinho, Suarez, inset, has found a sidekick on his wavelength and the pair combined when the Brazilian ambled through the centre of midfield before his through ball bamboozled Boyce and Paul Scharner. Suarez nipped in between them, waited for Al Habsi to commit himself and dinked home his fourth goal in three games.

Wigan tried to make a fight of it, in more than one sense, first when Boyce's piledriver brought the first of several saves from Reina and then when Boyce and James McArthur squared up to each other with more vigour than they squared up toLiverpool.

There was further first-half horror for Wigan when Gary Caldwell upended Suarez. The Uruguayan slipped as he took the free kick and it took a massive deflection off Shaun Maloney before hitting the post and rolling in.

After 49 minutes, Suarez had his first hat-trick since September at Norwich. Glen Johnson gambolled forward 40 yards down Liverpool's right before finding the Uruguayan, who slotted his team's fourth goal between Al Habsi's legs.

"He is the best striker in the Premier League," argued Rodgers. "His quality, his hunger and his desire are incredible. He has a real affinity for the place and the supporters adore him." Star man: Luis Suarez (Liverpool) Yellow cards: Wigan: Caldwell, McArthur Liverpool: Allen, Lucas Referee: M Atkinson Att: 20,804

Wigan: Al Habsi 4, Boyce 4, Scharner 4, Caldwell 4 (Espinoza, 52min, 5), Figueroa 4, McCarthy 5, McArthur 6, Beausejour 6 (McManaman, 62min), Maloney 5, Kone 4, Di Santo 5 (Alcaraz, 52min, 5) Liverpool: Reina 7, Johnson 6, Agger 6, Carragher 6, Enrique 6, Allen 5, Downing 6, Lucas 6, Gerrard 6, Coutinho 7 (Henderson 70min) , Suarez 8 WIGAN ATHLETIC 0 LIVERPOOL Downing 2 Suarez 17, 33, 48 4

The Observer

Suarez trick proves a treat with Wigan all-too welcoming hosts

WIGAN 0
LIVERPOOL 4
Downing 2 Suarez 18 34 49

Brendan Rodgers was subjected to ridicule the last time he said "near-perfect away performance", coming as it did in the aftermath of a 2-0 defeat at Zenit St Petersburg. He resisted the temptation for a repeat at Wigan, arguably for that reason, though on this occasion it would have been justified after a devastating attacking display produced a hat-trick for Luis Suarez.

The only thing to be mocked at the DW Stadium was the suggestion that Roberto Martinez's team have commenced their annual spring leap away from the relegation zone. Wigan were defensively abject, inviting the trouble that allowed Suarez to overtake Robin van Persie as the Premier League's leading goalscorer on 21 for the season and unable to deal with the creativity of Philippe Coutinho. Liverpool cruised to their first win here since 2007, to the extent that the travelling fans found time to show rousing support for their former manager Rafael Benitez.

From Pepe Reina in goal to Suarez as the spearhead, Liverpool excelled in every position. The hosts were the opposite, their only fight coming from a row between James McArthur and Emmerson Boyce; the pair had to be pulled apart by the Wigan captain, Gary Caldwell.

"There isn't a better striker in the Premier League than Luis," said Rodgers, who reiterated his belief that a lack of Champions League, or even European, football at Anfield next season would not prompt the Uruguay international to leave. "The Champions League is important. It would have been easy for him to walk out last summer but hopefully he can see these next few years will be important years for the club and for him here."

Liverpool were ahead from their first attack after two minutes and their victory was never in doubt thereafter. The visitors sliced through the Wigan defence too easily. Coutinho was the architect as he collected Reina's long clearance, left Boyce trailing and floated a perfect cross over Wigan's central defenders; Stewart Downing planted an unmissable header wide of Ali al-Habsi.

As poor as Wigan were, and they were hopeless in the first half, Liverpool forced countless mistakes from their opponents through constant harrying of the home defence. Coutinho was at the heart of the second goal, this time taking Gerrard's pass, beating McArthur and threading a perfect ball between Caldwell and Boyce for Suarez to advance on goal. Liverpool's leading striker waited for Habsi to commit himself, then found the near corner.

Liverpool made the contest safe with their third when Suarez, fouled by Caldwell, picked himself up to find the bottom corner of Habsi's goal from the resulting free-kick, via a deflection off Shaun Maloney's shoulder and the post. "We were too soft in the opening 20 minutes," Martinez said. "Our defensive performance made it impossible to win."

Wigan did have chances to disrupt Liverpool's momentum but, in Reina, faced a goalkeeper in commanding form. He made three stunning saves before the interval to prevent Boyce hooking a volley into the top corner, Franco Di Santo scoring with a close-range header and Jean Beausejour converting a free-kick from 20 yards.

Suarez had to wait only four minutes into the second half for the inevitable to arrive. Wigan were promptly picked off as Glen Johnson waltzed past three lame challenges and sent the striker through. Despite Paul Scharner diving at his heels, Suarez held his aim and nutmegged Habsi for his second hat-trick of the season.

WIGAN
Habsi; Boyce, Caldwell (Booked) (Espinoza 51) Scharner, Figueroa; McArthur (Booked), McCarthy, Beausejour (McManaman 61); Maloney, Di Santo (Alcaraz 52), Kone Subs not used Robles, Henriquez, Gomez, Stam
LIVERPOOL
Reina; Johnson, Carragher, Agger, Enrique; Gerrard, Lucas (Booked), Allen (Booked); Downing, Suarez, Coutinho (Henderson 70) Subs not used Gulacsi, Assaidi, Coates, Suso, Shelvey, Wisdom
DW Stadium 20,804
Game rating 8/10
Referee Martin Atkinson

Compiled by Graeme Riley

Date: 2 March 2013
Opposition: Wigan Athletic
Competition: League

BBC	Mail	Sunday Times	Sun Telegraph	Independent
	Echo	Observer	Times	Telegraph
Wigan Today	Post	Sun Independent	Guardian	Mirror

2 March 2013

WIGAN today.net

WOEFUL Wigan were undone by the magic of Luis Suarez who scored a hat-trick and was a constant handful for the Latics, Emmerson Boyce and James McArthur almost coming to blows as Liverpool tore them apart.
Suarez has scored 15 in as many matches in all competitions, which has enhanced his bid to also be crowned player of the year for which he faces stiff competition from Van Persie and Tottenham's Gareth Bale.
Had Wigan's leading scorer Arouna Kone shown a semblance of his opposite number's sharpness the hosts could have been ahead with their first attack but the Ivory Coast striker failed to properly test Jose Reina.
Stewart Downing made them pay as he lost his marker in the penalty area to head home a cross from the impressive Coutinho, making only his third appearance since joining from Inter Milan.
The young Brazilian provided the assist for the 18th-minute second, from Gerrard's initial pass, with a perfectly-weighted ball into path of Suarez whose control was instant and finish clinical.
Coutinho's clipped pass over the top almost put Gerrard in for a third before Suarez doubled his tally with a mixture of brilliance and good fortune.
Gary Caldwell clattered the Uruguayan who, after scoring two brilliant free-kicks against Zenit St Petersburg in his last appearance, stepped up again.
He slipped as he connected with the ball but his shot had enough power and curl on it to clip Shaun Maloney on the edge of the wall and beat Ali Al Habsi with the help of the post.
Liverpool were in unfamiliar territory, 3-0 up with 55 minutes remaining and their dominance fully rewarded, but still they ploughed forward and Suarez's shot was blocked by the Wigan goalkeeper with Caldwell doing just enough to put off Joe Allen.
But for all Suarez's excellence had it not been for the brilliance of goalkeeper Jose Reina it may have been a less comfortable evening.
The Spain international, having one of his better games this season, had already saved one-handed from Emmerson Boyce's volley in the 21st minute with the score at 2-0 when he superbly tipped over Franco Di Santo's header from Jean Beausejour's cross.
Reina also denied Beausejour's free-kick on the stroke of half-time before normal service was resumed just four minutes into the second half.
Glen Johnson set off on what is increasingly under Rodgers' tutelage becoming a trademark surge forward which allowed him to advance more than 40 yards before picking the opportune moment to slide in Suarez.
From the position the striker was in on the right of the area a goal would not normally be a foregone conclusion but the form he is currently in meant there was only going to be one winner between him and Al Habsi as the Oman international lost again.
With Liverpool in cruise control and, understandably, taking their foot off the gas slightly allowed the hosts to improve - although they could not have got much worse - and Reina again showed his agility to deny Maloney's close-range header.
Victory ensured Liverpool closed the gap on fourth place to nine but with Tottenham playing Arsenal tomorrow it could be back to 10 again very soon.
At the other end of the table Wigan still have plenty of work to do as they remain above the relegation zone on goal difference - significantly damaged by this result.
Twelve months ago they went on a run which claimed 23 points from the last 11 matches, including a win at Anfield, to survive.
If they were planning on a match against the inconsistent Reds to spark that again they were hopelessly mistaken.

BBC

Luis Suarez scored a hat-trick as Liverpool thrashed Wigan and boosted their hopes of European qualification.
Brazil's Philippe Coutinho was integral to the first two goals, crossing for Stewart Downing to head in from close range before playing in Suarez, who slotted past keeper Ali Al Habsi.
The Uruguay forward made it 3-0 before the break with a deflected free-kick before he poked in his third.
Emmerson Boyce and Franco Di Santo were denied by great saves from Pepe Reina.
Liverpool's Spanish keeper, renowned as a superb shot-stopper, excelled himself with a glorious clawed save to prevent Boyce's spectacular effort from finding the top corner before tipping over Di Santo's point-blank header.
Had either of those first-half efforts gone in, the Latics might have had hopes of fighting their way back into the match, but this was Liverpool's day as manager Brendan Rodgers saw his side follow up their 5-0 win over Swansea with an equally dominant victory at the DW Stadium.
The result leaves the Reds only five points behind fifth-placed Arsenal. The Gunners play their game in hand at Spurs on Sunday.
For their part, the hosts missed a chance to move clear of 18th-placed Aston Villa. Instead they remain a single point above the Midlands side, who are at home to Manchester City on Monday.
Downing began the rout with only his second league goal for Liverpool when he leapt to nod in from close range after a brilliant jinking run by Coutinho.
The South American pair of Coutinho and Suarez quickly established a good understanding and duly combined for the second goal.
The Brazilian caused panic among the home defence before stabbing a pass through to Suarez, who took the sting off the ball and slotted expertly past goalkeeper Al Habsi.
Seconds after the restart, more cracks began to show in the Wigan defence as team-mates Boyce and James McArthur squared up to each other after Suarez had been played in on goal following a poor backpass.
And the Latics day went from bad to worse when Suarez added a third when his free-kick came off the head of Shaun Maloney and crept inside the far post.
The Latics conceded the fourth shortly after the restart when England full-back Glen Johnson produced one of his trademark surges down the right and played in Suarez, who poked his shot through the legs of Al Habsi.
Any realistic hopes of revival had passed, but Wigan still created chances with Reina yet again coming to Liverpool's rescue - pushing away Paul Scharner's header and preventing Arouna Kone from getting a touch on a cross that flew across his goal.
Wigan woes
Wigan have conceded in all of their 14 home games in the Premier League this season
Liverpool's pressure eased in the last half-hour, and they created just one more opportunity when substitute Henderson had his header cleared off the line by James McCarthy.
Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers:
"This was a place that's been very difficult to win at - it's been a number of years.
"Roberto [Martinez] has done an outstanding job and everyone understands it's a very tricky place to come.
"Our defensive organisation was very good and we're very pleased to score goals.
[Suarez] is a real pleasure to work with. Every week I stand talking superlatives, but his biggest attribute is humility. He never looks for a lazy day and is the first out on the training pitch every day, which is why he's so special to his team-mates.
"[Coutinho] is young but has played over 100 games and a lot of them have been at the top level. He owns the ball, he was born with the ball at his feet."

Compiled by Graeme Riley

Date: 2 March 2013
Opposition: Wigan Athletic
Competition: League

BBC	Mail	Sunday Times	Sun Telegraph	Independent
	Echo	Observer	Times	Telegraph
Wigan Today	Post	Sun Independent	Guardian	Mirror

2 March 2013

BBC

90:00+2:15Full time The referee ends the match.
90:00+1:39 James McCarthy produces a right-footed shot from just outside the area that goes harmlessly over the target.
90:00+1:30 Shaun Maloney produces a cross, clearance made by Jamie Carragher.
89:06 Corner taken by Callum McManaman from the right by-line, clearance made by Steven Gerrard.
87:17 Inswinging corner taken left-footed by Stewart Downing, Jordan Henderson takes a shot. Blocked by Maynor Figueroa.
86:44 Joe Allen fouled by Paul Scharner, the ref awards a free kick. Steven Gerrard restarts play with the free kick.
86:03 The ball is swung over by Sanchez Jose Enrique.
84:06 Roger Espinoza challenges Joe Allen unfairly and gives away a free kick. Glen Johnson takes the free kick.
82:59 Arouna Kone gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Joe Allen. Jose Reina takes the free kick.
82:16 The ball is delivered by Luis Suarez, clearance made by Paul Scharner.
79:20 Effort on goal by Steven Gerrard from just inside the area clears the crossbar.
77:55 Shaun Maloney takes a shot. Save made by Jose Reina.
77:45 The ball is sent over by Callum McManaman.
75:42 Arouna Kone takes a shot. Daniel Agger gets a block in.
75:23 A cross is delivered by Shaun Maloney.
73:22 Foul by Antolin Alcaraz on Stewart Downing, free kick awarded. Steven Gerrard takes the free kick.
71:46 Effort on goal by Maynor Figueroa from long range goes over the crossbar.
69:42Substitution SubstitutionJordan Henderson is brought on as a substitute for Phillippe Coutinho.
66:25 The ball is swung over by Maynor Figueroa, Shaun Maloney takes a shot. Save by Jose Reina.
65:16 Shaun Maloney fouled by Leiva Lucas, the ref awards a free kick. Shaun Maloney delivers the ball from the free kick right-footed from left channel, clearance made by Jamie Carragher.
64:12 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Joe Allen by Shaun Maloney. Leiva Lucas takes the free kick.
62:08 Corner taken short by Arouna Kone.
60:37 Emmerson Boyce restarts play with the free kick.
60:37Substitution SubstitutionCallum McManaman replaces Jean Beausejour.
60:37 Shaun Maloney fouled by Steven Gerrard, the ref awards a free kick.
59:46 The ball is sent over by Steven Gerrard, Paul Scharner manages to make a clearance.
58:20 Indirect free kick taken by Sanchez Jose Enrique.
58:20Booking The referee cautions James McArthur for unsporting behaviour.
58:08 Free kick awarded for a foul by James McArthur on Phillippe Coutinho.
55:11 Arouna Kone concedes a free kick for a foul on Joe Allen. Sanchez Jose Enrique takes the free kick.
54:30 Jean Beausejour crosses the ball, Daniel Agger manages to make a clearance.
53:23 Joe Allen gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Jean Beausejour. Direct effort from the free kick comes in from Maynor Figueroa.
50:56Substitution SubstitutionAntolin Alcaraz replaces Franco Di Santo.
50:56Substitution SubstitutionGary Caldwell goes off and Roger Espinoza comes on.
48:13 The assist for the goal came from Glen Johnson.
48:13Goal scored Goal - Luis Suarez - Wigan 0 - 4 LiverpoolLuis Suarez finds the net with a goal from inside the penalty area low into the middle of the goal. Wigan 0-4 Liverpool.
47:00 A cross is delivered by James McCarthy, Jose Reina makes a comfortable save.
46:21 Joe Allen gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Shaun Maloney. Gary Caldwell restarts play with the free kick.
45:01 The referee starts the second half.
45:00+3:13Half time The first half comes to an end.
45:00+2:04 Strike comes in from Jean Beausejour from the free kick, Jose Reina makes a save.
45:00+2:04Booking Leiva Lucas is cautioned by the ref for unsporting behaviour.
45:00+1:51 Unfair challenge on Shaun Maloney by Leiva Lucas results in a free kick.
45:00+0:46 Luis Suarez gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Franco Di Santo. Free kick taken by Paul Scharner.
44:38 Luis Suarez is flagged offside by the assistant referee. Gary Caldwell takes the indirect free kick.
43:18 James McArthur takes the free kick.
43:18Booking Joe Allen goes into the book.
43:05 Shaun Maloney fouled by Joe Allen, the ref awards a free kick.
39:15 The assistant referee signals for offside against Luis Suarez. Gary Caldwell restarts play with the free kick.
38:34 Phillippe Coutinho concedes a free kick for a foul on Arouna Kone. James McArthur takes the free kick.
38:01 Luis Suarez takes a shot. Ali Al Habsi makes a save.
27:30 Arouna Kone takes a shot. Daniel Agger gets a block in.
36:42 Maynor Figueroa has an effort at goal from long range that goes wide left of the upright.
36:02 Franco Di Santo takes a shot. Save by Jose Reina. Outswinging corner taken from the left by-line by Jean Beausejour, Leiva Lucas manages to make a clearance.
27:33 James McCarthy produces a right-footed shot from just outside the area that goes wide left of the goal.
34:09 Leiva Lucas takes the indirect free kick.
34:09Booking The referee cautions Gary Caldwell for unsporting behaviour.
34:03 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Phillippe Coutinho by Gary Caldwell.
33:05Goal scored Goal - Luis Suarez - Wigan 0 - 3 LiverpoolLuis Suarez hits the back of the net with a goal direct from the free kick from long distance to the bottom right corner of the goal. Wigan 0-3 Liverpool.
31:51 Gary Caldwell challenges Luis Suarez unfairly and gives away a free kick.
31:25 Unfair challenge on Leiva Lucas by Franco Di Santo results in a free kick. Steven Gerrard takes the indirect free kick.
30:43 The referee blows for offside against Luis Suarez. James McCarthy takes the indirect free kick.
29:42 Unfair challenge on Franco Di Santo by Leiva Lucas results in a free kick. Direct free kick taken by Paul Scharner.
29:10 Jose Reina fouled by Franco Di Santo, the ref awards a free kick. Jose Reina takes the free kick.
28:37 James McCarthy produces a right-footed shot from just outside the penalty box that misses to the left of the target.
28:25 Outswinging corner taken left-footed by Jean Beausejour from the left by-line, Gary Caldwell takes a shot. Save by Jose Reina.
10:35 Emmerson Boyce takes a shot. Save by Jose Reina.
27:30 Arouna Kone takes a shot. Blocked by Daniel Agger.
27:16 The ball is delivered by Emmerson Boyce.
24:45 Unfair challenge on Arouna Kone by Jamie Carragher results in a free kick. Indirect free kick taken by Paul Scharner.
20:05 Effort on goal by Emmerson Boyce from 6 yards. Save by Jose Reina.
21:36 Inswinging corner taken right-footed by Steven Gerrard from the left by-line, clearance made by Paul Scharner.
20:29 Steven Gerrard decides to take the corner short.
20:05 Shot by Arouna Kone. Save by Jose Reina.
19:10 Leiva Lucas gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Shaun Maloney. Jean Beausejour delivers the ball from the free kick left-footed from left channel, Daniel Agger makes a clearance.
17:06 The assist for the goal came from Phillippe Coutinho.
17:06Goal scored Goal - Luis Suarez - Wigan 0 - 2 LiverpoolLuis Suarez grabs a goal from close in to the bottom left corner of the goal. Wigan 0-2 Liverpool.
15:17 Foul by Leiva Lucas on Franco Di Santo, free kick awarded. Gary Caldwell takes the indirect free kick.
15:00 Stewart Downing takes a shot. James McCarthy gets a block in.
12:10 Glen Johnson gives away a free kick for an unfair challenge on Jean Beausejour. Jean Beausejour takes the free kick.
11:37 Jean Beausejour fouled by Stewart Downing, the ref awards a free kick. Indirect free kick taken by Maynor Figueroa.
10:35 Emmerson Boyce takes a shot.
8:24 The assistant referee flags for offside against Joe Allen. Ali Al Habsi restarts play with the free kick.
4:42 Free kick awarded for an unfair challenge on Shaun Maloney by Leiva Lucas. Gary Caldwell takes the free kick.
1:41 Phillippe Coutinho provided the assist for the goal.
1:41Goal scored Goal - Stewart Downing - Wigan 0 - 1 LiverpoolStewart Downing scores a headed goal from close range. Wigan 0-1 Liverpool.
0:35 Emmerson Boyce delivers the ball, Arouna Kone has an effort at goal. Save by Jose Reina.
0:00 The game kicks-off.

Compiled by Graeme Riley