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 Opposition: Newcastle United
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Observer	Times	Guardian	Mirror
	Telegraph	Independent	Echo
	Sun Independent	Sun Telegraph	Sunday Times



11 December
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THE TIMES

Hughton's legacy enshrined in win

Newcastle United 3 Nolan 15, Barton 80, Carroll 90+1 Liverpool 1 Kuyt 49 Referee: L Mason. Attendance: 50,137 GEORGE CAULKIN Northern Sports Correspondent They were committed and they were tenacious, they were sturdy and they were proud. For 90 minutes, Newcastle United's players blocked out the world, forgot the insanity and set about the task of winning a football match.

And that, of course, is precisely the point; it is what they have been doing for the past 16 months. It is what Chris Hughton drummed into them.

Joey Barton led the charge, dedicating Saturday's 3-1 victory over Liverpool to Newcastle's deposed manager, but it was also Hughton's legacy. A team who had been forged in the throes of chaos, when the club were newly relegated, up for sale and lacking leadership or vision, responded to the capricious whimsy of their owner by knuckling down and getting on with it.

Up in the directors' box, Mike Ashley cackled and high-fived as every goal flew in. Perhaps he thought it was down to him; sack Hughton, appoint Alan Pardew, beat the Scousers, genius.

In the dressing room they know differently, but they are also immune to the pressure inflicted upon them by Newcastle's hierarchy. If Alan Partridge had been plonked in the dugout, they would scarcely have flinched.

None of which is meant to denigrate Pardew. At the final whistle, the 49-year-old went straight down the tunnel, pausing only to acknowledge a crowd who had been vigorous in their support. He recognised it was not his moment. "I wasn't in any position to milk the applause," he said. "My tenure here has only just begun and although it was a great victory, I only played a very small part."

Kevin Nolan spoke with simple, solid, persuasive conviction afterwards. The midfielder player joined Newcastle in January 2009, during the bafflement of Joe "F*****" Kinnear, and has already worked under four managers on Tyneside. In spite of all the madness and mayhem he has grown to adore the club, their history and meaning and the captain's words carry substance.

"After what happened to Chris, all our focus was on getting the points and back to winning ways," Nolan said. "It was very disappointing what happened, but life goes on and the show must go on. What we have built with Chris is a massive changing room and that should not be allowed to change. The staff, the players, the fans all care, but we have to get over this quickly."

"I spoke to Chris and he was a very disappointed man. He gave me the captaincy so there is a lot of affection there, but he is a big boy, he knows the game, what happens. We all have our own opinions on that. The owners have the final say at this club and we have to respect that. We wanted to make sure we showed what this club means to us. That is down to the lads."

A vital role was played in the stands, too. While there were demonstrations before and after the game, which was peppered with chants against Ashley, this did not feel like the stirrings of revolution. The atmosphere was vivid and the volume loud, but dismay did not translate into a mood of destabilisation.

Fans have witnessed such mayhem before; inside the ground, they chose to support their team.

Whether, in the long term, disillusion might fester, is uncertain.

Newcastle is being run by a skeleton staff and St James' Park is gradually being transformed into a hoarding for Sports Direct, Ashley's other business, but one thing is certain: another relegation would help nobody. Twice Ashley has failed to sell the club and although there is an energy in anger and disgust, what can be done? So the fans sung and players dug in and Liverpool fulfilled the role of patsies. Newcastle's descent has brought recalibration and understanding between team and ticket-holders, but their opponents are still pulling in competing directions. Their performance was moribund. "How can we change that? You've just got to win, it's as simple as that," Roy Hodgson said. "There is no magic formula." Wow.

In the fifteenth minute a free kick from the excellent Joey Barton was flicked down by Andy Carroll and Nolan scored, and while Liverpool responded when Dirk Kuyt's shot was deflected off Steven Taylor, resistance faded. Carroll met a goalkick, Nile Ranger added to the pandemonium and Barton snared the advantage; in the final moments, Carroll scored blissfully from long-range. Much more of this and Pardew can expect his P45.

the guardian

Unruffled Pardew leaves Hodgson caught in a storm

Newcastle Utd 3

Nolan 15, Barton 80, Carroll 90

Liverpool 1

Kuyt 49

In a former life, as a glazier, Alan Pardew worked on some of London's tallest buildings. It is a job suited only to those with the strongest heads for heights but that early experience of conquering fear has served Newcastle United's new manager well during his turbulent years in football.

These are early days but the indications are that the Pardew approach - sharply confident banter, intense logic, zero sentimentality and assiduous planning - might just make him an ideal replacement for Chris Hughton.

If the Georgie managerial jury will be out for some time, many on Merseyside have long been insistent that Roy Hodgson is not the right successor for Rafael Benitez. An ability to hold your nerve under often hysterical pressure is a prerequisite for managing in cities such as Newcastle and Liverpool. The growing suspicion is that Hodgson's impressive judgment has been skewed by the demands of restoring Liverpool to former glories. On Saturday his tetchy, strained demeanour was much at odds with a previously urbane persona as manager of Fulham. Suddenly the man proficient in five languages seems stumped by the idiosyncrasies of Scouse.

As fine performances from Andy Carroll, Joey Barton, Cheik Tiote and Kevin Nolan ensured that protests against Newcastle's board morphed into full-on support, Hodgson sensed a change in the prevailing wind. Suddenly a storm was gusting out of Toon and heading fast towards Liverpool.

"It's a major setback, a major blow, I'm angry," said Hodgson, who had seen his side fall behind to Barton's chipped free-kick, Carroll's flick on and Nolan's near-post finish. The key moment came when, not for the first or last time, Carroll out-jumped the hugely disappointing Martin Skrtel. "I thought we played well in the first half, we had most of the ball, asked a lot of questions of their back four and got into good positions," added Hodgson, who left Joe Cole on the bench. "But we didn't do that in the second half."

Liverpool did equalise after the break. In the absence of Steven Gerrard and Jamie Carragher, Dirk Kuyt proved their most reliable galvanising influence.

When the ball bounced off the head of Sol Campbell - who had such a shocker that the off-colour Fernando Torres will surely cringe at his failure to test Tim Krul's goalkeeping reflexes - Kuyt controlled it with his right foot, switched it to the left and took aim. Thanks to a deflection off Steven Taylor - who is poised to leave Newcastle in January after declining a new contract - Liverpool were level. Briefly, Hodgson's team looked the likelier winners but Pardew made an astute substitution. With Nile Ranger's pace now worrying defenders, Barton stole in to toe home Newcastle's second before Carroll's sublime long-range, stoppage-time drive added an unexpected gloss to scoreline.

The only shame was that Barton marred an excellent display with a needless bodycheck on Lucas Leiva and what could be interpreted as an obscene gesture towards Torres, although the Football Association said yesterday it was unlikely to investigate the incident.

Hodgson was ridiculed for a bizarre piece of technical-area behaviour, performed in the wake of Barton's goal. It saw Liverpool's manager repeatedly rub his hands so violently across his face that it appeared as if he were attempting to exfoliate the pain with an imaginary pumice stone.

When asked why his team have won once away in the league this season, he replied: "Because we can't win away." If, given the dubious legacy Hodgson inherited from Rafael Benitez, it cannot be seen to be a disaster that Liverpool are only just behind Newcastle in mid-table, their manager's defensive body language does not inspire confidence. Nor does it seem remotely likely to unlock the team's creative impulses.

By coincidence, Pardew highlighted the perils of cautious touchline mindsets.

"I've never looked negatively at things," he said. "If you have any negativity on the training ground or the pitch it will turn into a defeat and then another defeat. Then you'll be in trouble."

Man of the match Andy Carroll (Newcastle United)

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HERE'S THE NEW ALAN CHEERER! Toon & Ash

are rucking & rolling
 NEWCASTLE 3
 LIVERPOOL 1

NEWCASTLE: Krul 6, Simpson 7, Taylor 7, Campbell 5, Enrique 5, Gutierrez 6, Nolan 6 (Smith 87), Tiote 8, Barton 8 (Routledge 90), Carroll 8, Ameobi 6 (Ranger, 63, 7).

Goals: Nolan 15, Barton 80, Carroll 90

LIVERPOOL: Reina 6, Johnson 6, Kyrgiakos 5, Skrtel 5, Konchesky 5, Lucas 6, Meireles 6, Rodriguez 5 (Jovanovic 85), Kuyt 5, Torres 4, Ngog 5 (Babel 72, 5).

Goal: Kuyt 49

REFEREE: Lee Mason

ATTENDANCE: 50,137

THE Fat Controller celebrated like a high-roller who had hit the jackpot in a Mayfair casino. Next to him in the rogues' gallery, a former casino director basked in the reflective glory of a fine win at the end of a traumatic week.

As a double act, they looked like those old codgers Statler and Waldorf from the Muppet Show, the private box critics who always had the last word.

To call them Dumb and Dumber would infringe the intellectual rights of Walt Disney's circus elephant Dumbo, so we shall refer to them only as Smug and Smugger. Down on the shop-floor, Alan Pardew made a triumphant start but wisely kept a low profile without pausing to milk the acclaim.

As a work of art, Pardew's first game in charge was nearer a Rolf Harris sketch than a Rembrandt masterpiece, but Newcastle's latest fall guy had the good grace to acknowledge he provided only a lick of paint where his predecessor Chris Hughton had supplied all the important brush strokes.

And as the Geordie brotherhood spilled into their Tyneside watering holes to declare Christmas officially open among lasses in unfeasibly minimalist dresses, they toasted three points with the air of a guilty pleasure.

Foot soldiers from the Toon's militant tendency had gone through the motions of a protest against the Fat Controller's regime outside the main entrance, and during the match their reminders of his corpulence, London roots and parentage reverberated around St James' Park.

Also appearing on the FC's train set on Saturday were Liverpool, and their contribution to the latest soap opera ablutions on Tyneside we can dismiss in a trice. They were hopeless.

A great club built on the wisdom of Shankly, Paisley and Dalglish could manage only mundane, mid-table plodding. Newcastle were there for the taking yet the Kop, in boxing terms, barely laid a glove on them - otherwise known as an Audley. But if the Toon was primed for rebellion, they soon decided mutiny can wait.

Pardew's reign began with glad tidings of comfort and joy - and who better to deliver them, at this time of year, than a striker named Carroll?

While Newcastle's third home win of the season was driven by the excellent Joey Barton, Cheik Tiote and Kevin Nolan in midfield, England striker Andy Carroll was a monster who could not be tamed.

Nolan and Barton's goals both stemmed from the Geordie wild child's aerial supremacy, and Carroll's final flourish from 25 yards in stoppage time was the work of a forward on top of his game.

Pardew described his first three points as "gold dust," but the real bullion was wearing a No.9 shirt and winning his private battle of ponytails with Sotiris Kyrgiakos. The new manager handled his trial by touchstone with commendable tact, slipping quietly into the dugout before kick-off with no showboating, and he made a dignified exit when the battle was won.

Pardew has always been blessed with a smooth line in diplomacy or, as they say in these parts, if patter was watter he'd be drooned. (Translation: Verily, he has the gift of the gab). "I wasn't in a position to milk the applause," he acknowledged.

"My tenure here has only just begun and although it was a great victory, I played only a very small part.

"It was vital I didn't interfere too much and I think I got the balance right. These players were doing well already and I just wanted to introduce three or four things into their game.

"My meeting with the players on Friday went far better than I had dared to imagine. A big part of that was down to Kevin Nolan - he's a great captain and I can understand why other managers rate him so highly."

Barton, who decorated his performance with a crude gesture at Fernando Torres, marvelled at the "insane" league in which Newcastle can lose at home to Blackburn, Blackpool and Stoke, but hit Villa for six, the Mackems for five and win at Arsenal.

And he unfurled a breathtaking series of cliches about Hughton's brutal sacking last week: ships in the night, the king is dead, long live the king, we'll take this club forward.

But whatever the players thought about Hughton's crass treatment from the Fat Controller, they are undeniably behind Pardew now. Barton added: "It's not Alan's fault that Chris got sacked. We sat down with Alan and told him none of us would say anything behind his back that we wouldn't say to his face."

Nolan added: "Alan can take credit. This club does not just belong in the Premier League, it belongs in European Cups and we believe we will get there."

The Daily Telegraph

Nolan resists return to bad old days

Newcastle United 3

Nolan 15, Barton 80, Carroll 90

Liverpool 1

Kuyt 49 Att: 50,137

There may well have been an air of triumphalism in the St James' Park directors' box as Mike Ashley celebrated the instant success of his latest roll of the dice, and judging by the way Newcastle captain Kevin Nolan was talking afterwards his most recent gamble should pay long-term dividends.

Newcastle's owner may have inadvertently turned his Tyneside club into a laughing stock, but Nolan is determined to ensure the club shed their "Loony Toons" image and avoid a repeat of the mistakes made in their slide into the Championship two seasons ago, after manager Kevin Keegan was forced out. It was just under two years ago that Nolan joined Newcastle from Bolton when his new club was in freefall but while the present group of players may be short on the bighitters of that era, he believes they can more than compensate with the spirit that Chris Hughton built before he was sacked and Alan Pardew installed as manager.

"We don't want to go back to where we were two years ago," Nolan said. "We want to get away from that 'Loony Toons' tag, we want to get away from everything being up in the air at Newcastle. We want to just focus on our football.

"If we finish 17th then we are safe. We have to get there as quickly as possible to make sure we're in this league next year. That can help us bring a higher calibre of players in. This club does not just belong in the Premier League, it belongs in European cups. We believe it will get there, even if it is just step by step."

There had been suggestions that dressing-room unrest would follow Hughton's axing, but with managing director Derek Llambias holding clear-the-air talks, Nolan was keen to dispel such rumours. "The owners have the final say at this club and we have to respect that," he said. "We wanted to make sure we put on a performance and showed what this club means to us. Alan is trying to learn about us as quickly as possible. Any talk of any revolt towards Alan is nonsense. He is our gaffer and we have to work under him.

"It is a difficult situation for him. He wants to make sure we don't resent him and we don't. It has nothing to do with him. We wanted answers when we spoke to Derek. It was a private meeting and nothing was over-boiled. It was straight-talking and Derek was good enough to come and explain the decision."

Former manager Keegan claimed the club were going nowhere under Ashley's auspices but Pardew an "impressive" figure according to Nolan would beg to differ. "I have a long-term vision and that's to create a team that can threaten the top half of the Premier League because, get there, and momentum can take you higher," Pardew said. "When you get promoted, the first year is about staying in the division. The second is about building on it, like a Stoke."

Nolan put Newcastle ahead, before Dirk Kuyt equalised and while Andy Carroll's long-range effort sealed victory it was Joey Barton's goal, when the visitors failed to deal with a long ball, that will give Liverpool manager Roy Hodgson nightmares. Hodgson, who will have Steven Gerrard back this weekend against former club Fulham following injury, said: "It will be great to have him back, but even he could not have done anything about the second goal. That has cost us any chance of getting anything. And that is what is going to haunt me when I wake up in the middle of the night."

SNOOD WATCH

The home side's Cheik Tiote was the odd one out here with his neckwarmer.

Many fans were shirtless, never mind snoodless

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THE INDEPENDENT

Barton helps Magpies move on but leads tribute to departed Hughton

The half-protesting, half-celebratory chants of the departing Toon Army had just about faded into the night air by the time Alan Pardew took his seat in the press room to pick over the bones of his first match-day in charge of team affairs at the madhouse of Newcastle United. "How far can you take this club?" he was asked. Having taken the team he inherited from Chris Hughton to a maiden victory, without the remotest sign of revolt on the pitch and without the natives baying for his blood, was probably far enough to be going on with.

The forecasted fans' protests amounted to a sustained rant directed squarely at Mike Ashley by a mob of a hundred or so outside the main entrance before kick-off time, and to some less than complimentary chanting about the Newcastle owner during the match. The players' revolt against the new manager that had been predicted in some quarters amounted to nothing other than Joey Barton dedicating his man-of-the-match champagne to Hughton. The response from Barton and his colleagues to the unwanted changing of the managerial guard was a rousing performance, whipped up by an impassioned Toon Army. It swept Liverpool aside and presented the kind of welcome mat Hughton's unpopular replacement could hardly have imagined amid the furore of his midweek appointment on a five-and-a-half year contract. "Alan can take credit for that result," Kevin Nolan, the captain and leading light in the Newcastle dressing room, maintained. "He had to get us up for the game and he did that. He told us to forget what had happened and put our hearts into our performance on the pitch. It's a fantastic start for him." It was Nolan who got the ball rolling, sweeping home a first-time shot on the quarter-hour after a Barton free-kick and an Andy Carroll head-down. It was the relentless driving force of Barton, though, that got Newcastle back on top after Dirk Kuyt scrambled in a deflected equaliser five minutes into the second half. It was the sometime England midfielder who toe-poked the Magpies back in front 10 minutes from time and who won the ball deep in home territory to start the move that culminated in Carroll's cracker of a third goal, a thumping 25-yard drive in injury time.

"Any talk of revolt towards Alan was nonsense," Nolan added. "He is our gaffer and we have to work under him. It's a difficult situation for him to come into. He wants to make sure we don't resent him and we don't. We don't resent anybody. "The owners have the final say at this club and we have to respect that. Derek Lambias [Newcastle's managing director] was good enough to come down to talk to us the other day. We wanted some answers and Derek explained the decision to us. It was straight talking in the dressing room. It was a private meeting and nothing was over-boiled. It's done and dusted now. We have to move on."

Newcastle move on under their new manager to a trip to Birmingham this coming Saturday with a first win under their belt in six matches, their first at St James' since Nolan's hat-trick heroics in that 5-1 demolition derby against Sunderland in October. "The win today makes life a lot easier for my management," Pardew reflected. "After one game it's difficult to answer any question about how far I can take this club, but I have a long-term vision. That is to create a team that can threaten the top half of the Premier League. Get there, and the momentum can take you higher."

NEWCASTLE 3-1 LIVERPOOL

Scorers: Newcastle Nolan 15, Barton 80, Carroll 90; Liverpool Kuyt 49. Substitutes: Newcastle Ranger (Ameobi, 63), Smith (Nolan, 87), Routledge (Barton, 90). Liverpool Babel (Ngog, 72), Jovanovic (Rodriguez, 85). Booked: Newcastle Gutierrez, Tiote; Liverpool Johnson. Man of the match Barton. Match rating 7/10. Possession Newcastle 47% Liverpool 53%. Shots on target Newcastle 3 Liverpool 5.

Referee L Mason (Lancashire) Att 50,137.



Liverpool FC's travel sickness goes on with 3-1 loss at Newcastle United

CONSIDERING the season of festive cheer and goodwill to all men is upon us, there wasn't much swirling round the St James' Park dugouts on Saturday evening. And it had nothing to do with the weather.

Alan Pardew, a thorn in the Liverpool side as a player and now a manager, was busy discovering that even victory on your home debut can count for nothing at a club like Newcastle, as fans railed against the man who employed him, and pined for the man he replaced.

The chants of "Ashley Out" and "There's Only One Chris Hughton" echoed long after the final whistle, having begun long before the first.

For Roy Hodgson, meanwhile, the problems these days are less political, more practical. The Liverpool manager, himself struggling to find acceptance amongst his own supporters, has searched long and hard to find a cure for travel sickness but, amidst a backdrop of black-and-white despair, disgust and disillusionment, his side once again came up short on the road. Handed the chance to break into the Premier League's top six for the first time this season, the Reds once more trudged away from an away day with only a silent, reflective journey home to look forward to.

It might have been different; had Fernando Torres converted a gilt-edged chance moments after Dirk Kuyt had fortuitously levelled the score at 1-1, had Raul Meireles's first-half effort ricocheted anywhere but into the shins of Jose Enrique on the goal-line, had any one of three Reds defenders reacted quicker to Andy Carroll's 80th minute flick. But ifs, buts and maybes simply don't cut it where Liverpool's away form is concerned these days – the problems are too deep-rooted, too regular.

Hodgson has called upon his side to show some consistency on their travels, to carry their performance levels from one away game to the next. The trouble is, that's what they already have been doing.

So far this season Liverpool have beaten Bolton, and Bolton only on the road. They have picked up uninspiring draws at Birmingham and Wigan, and lost at Manchester City, Manchester United, Everton, Stoke, Tottenham, and now Newcastle. One win and six defeats from nine fixtures; pretty consistent, no? Moreover, the manner of (most of) those defeats, has been alarmingly similar. They might have been unfortunate to walk away empty-handed from White Hart Lane a fortnight ago, but generally Liverpool have deserved what they have got away from home this season – not a lot.

This was not the worst display they have delivered by any means – they will do well to 'top' their showings at Goodison Park and the Britannia Stadium – but for those hardy souls who braved the Arctic conditions to spend 90 minutes tucked away in the upper echelons of the Leazes End, and just about every other Red, it was an all-too-familiar story. Hodgson's angry response to Newcastle's second goal proves he shares the frustration. The test now is to do something about it. Once more, Liverpool enjoyed more possession than their opponents, once more they fashioned more shooting opportunities, and once more the endeavour and commitment was undeniable. But once more, the failure to convert their chances, their chronic lack of pace in wide areas and their growing defensive frailties were exposed. Newcastle rode their luck – their opening goal could easily have been ruled offside, for example – but it is hard

Just like at Stoke last month, Hodgson's side found themselves muscled out of the contest early on. The physical presence of Shola Ameobi and, in particular, the superb Andy Carroll had the Reds' defence on the back-foot from the word go, though Newcastle's front pair certainly benefited from some generous refereeing from Lee Mason. Indeed, it was from a dubious free-kick, awarded for a push by Sotirios Kyrgiakos, that Kevin Nolan – a boyhood Liverpoolian – was able to sweep home the game's opening goal, after Carroll had climbed higher than Martin Skrtel at the far post.

And though Liverpool gained a foothold following a barnstorming 10-minute spell after half-time, in which they were rewarded with Kuyt's heavily-deflected equaliser, any belief within the side seemed to vanish from the moment Tim Krul won his battle of wits with an off-colour Torres.

Had they taken the lead so soon after levelling, and with Newcastle's supporters growing increasingly restless, Liverpool could well have gone on to win comfortably. But if any one player encapsulates the lack of conviction that seems to have invaded the club at the moment, it is Torres. To be fair to the Spaniard, his touch to pull Paul Konchesky's raking diagonal pass out of the gloomy Tyneside sky was sensational, but having done the hard part, his finish went awry. It, more so than his worryingly familiar assortment of failed flicks and heavy touches, rather summed up his – and Liverpool's – day. Their hosts were in far less generous mood. Barton, fired by a clash with Lucas and a feisty exchange of words with Torres, took full advantage when Skrtel failed to deal with yet another Carroll flick 10 minutes from time, poking home beyond a stranded Pepe Reina for 2-1, whilst Carroll himself was left unopposed to wrap up the win with a skimming 25-yarder in stoppage time, as Liverpool's resolve simply evaporated.

Pardew's men now sit above them in the league table on goal difference. It is a big few weeks for Liverpool, on and off the field. John W. Henry, eager to ensure smooth, sensible recruitment at the club, has employed Damien Comolli to work alongside the manager, and the Frenchman should already know the size of his task. He will surely have noted – it is hardly a secret, after all – that this is a squad lacking balance and depth, and in desperate need of an injection of pace, power and quality. After today, the name of Andy Carroll, who alone could provide all three, may just have worked its way onto Roy Hodgson's list of targets. In the meantime Hodgson can at least comfort himself with the knowledge that four of his side's next five fixtures are at home, though even he conceded that "Fortress Anfield" is not the daunting prospect it once was. But with their travel sickness remaining uncured, the need to pick up points on home soil is greater than ever. If Liverpool are left to rely on their away form, one suspects there will be plenty more disappointing days to come this season.

NEWCASTLE (4-4-2): Krul, Jose Enrique, Campbell, Taylor, Simpson, Barton (Routledge 90), Tiote, Nolan (Smith 86), Gutierrez, Ameobi (Ranger 62), Carroll. Subs (not used): Harper, Guthrie, Perch, Lovrenkrands.

GOALS: Nolan (15), Barton (80), Carroll (90).

BOOKED: Gutierrez (78), Tiote (83).

LIVERPOOL (4-4-2): Reina, Johnson, Kyrgiakos, Skrtel, Konchesky, Kuyt, Meireles, Lucas, Maxi (Jovanovic 84), Torres, Ngog (Babel 71). Subs (not used): Jones, Aurelio, Cole, Poulsen, Kelly.

GOAL: Kuyt (49).

BOOKED: Johnson (19).

REFEREE: Lee Mason (Bolton)

ATTENDANCE: 50,137

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THE INDEPENDENT

ON SUNDAY

Carroll puts Newcastle in festive mood.

There was a time when the good folk of Newcastle used to ascend the hill to Gallowgate truly screaming for blood. In 1829 some 20,000 of them trekked up the slope from the city centre to see Jane Jameson get her just deserts. The murderess came by cart, sitting on her coffin.

The Novocastrians were in a state of restlessness yesterday before Alan Pardew took his seat in the dugout at the football ground built on the site of the old town moor gallows. If he had the look of a condemned man, it was hardly surprising, given the near-funereal reaction to his arrival on Tyneside.

The locals had not exactly come to bury Pardew with praise but by the final whistle they were celebrating his maiden victory as the new manager of Newcastle, the Magpies' first in six matches. It was a sometime sinner who helped to make it a flying start for the former manager of the Saints, Joey Barton crowning a fine display by toepoking Newcastle into a 2-1 lead 10 minutes from time. An Andy Carroll cracker put the issue beyond doubt.

The object of the Toon Army's ire was not Pardew, unloved though he might be as the replacement for the popular Chris Hughton. The hundred or so locals who vocalised their dissatisfaction outside the main entrance before kick-off directed their bile at Mike Ashley, the Newcastle owner. "You fat Cockney bastard, get out of our club," sung to the tune of "Sloop John B", was their most popular refrain. Pardew might be a Cockney, by Geordie definition at least, but could hardly be described as corpulent. At kick-off time the chant reverberated around the arena, with a smirking Ashley taking his seat next to managing director Derek Llambias high up in the Milburn Stand, and Pardew positioning himself in the home dug-out virtually unnoticed.

The new Newcastle manager selected the starting XI in consultation with reserve-team coaches Peter Beardsley and Steve Stone and, happily for him, it included Kevin Nolan and Barton, the influential midfielders having recovered from the injuries that forced them to miss the 3-1 defeat against West Bromwich Albion last Sunday. A quarter of an hour in, with Liverpool holding sway, Barton hoisted a free-kick from deep, Carroll nodded the ball down on the right edge of the Liverpool six-yard box and Nolan despatched a first-time shot past Jose Reina. It took Pardew by surprise. He was busy unscrewing his water bottle and missed the moment of celebration - unlike Ashley, who was warmly embraced by a female companion.

It could hardly have been a better first half for the new manager. The defence that had been at sixes, sevens and ultimately P45s at the Hawthorns the previous Sunday managed to hold itself together, though only just when Jose Enrique cleared a deflected Raul Meireles shot off the line in the 33rd minute.

Liverpool returned to the field with a snap in their stride and four minutes into the second half they were level - thanks to some less than tidy work by Newcastle's central defenders. A weak header by Sol Campbell presented Dirk Kuyt with an invitation to shoot but the Dutchman's low effort required a big deflection off the legs of Steven Taylor to find its way past Tim Krul.

It might have been 2-1 to the visitors a couple of minutes later had Krul not made a fine reflex save to deny Fernando Torres. As it was, Newcastle rode their luck and turned the tide. They were the dominant force, with Barton at the hub of their endeavour, long before they struck for a second time. That came in the 80th minute, Krul pumping the ball upfield, Carroll getting his head to it, substitute Nile Ranger flicking it on, and Barton poking it past Reina.

For good measure, in the first minute of injury time Carroll hammered home a left-footed drive from 25 yards. The natives were happy, but still restless. "Get out of our club," they chanted again as they streamed out on to Gallowgate.

Substitutes: Newcastle: Ameobi for Ranger (63), Smith for Nolan (87). Liverpool: Babel for Ngog (72), Jovanovic for Rodriguez (85), Routledge for Barton (90).

Bookings: Newcastle: Gutierrez, Tiote. Liverpool: Johnson.

Attendance: 50,137

Referee: Lee Mason

Man of the match: Barton

Match rating: 7/10

The Sunday Telegraph

DREAM START; PARDEW'S NEWCASTLE BEAT LIVERPOOL 3-1; Barton dedicates match award to Hughton

Joey Barton dedicated the bottle of champagne he received for his man-of-the-match performance in **Newcastle's** 3-1 win over **Liverpool** to Chris Hughton yesterday, a further public display of loyalty by this team to their sacked manager. Mike Ashley, who attended the game, was the subject of pre-match protests, and supporters inside the stadium made clear their disgust with the club owner in the early stages of the game and after the final whistle. Stewards confiscated anti-Ashley banners and flags inside and outside the ground.

Alan Pardew, the new manager whose appointment has caused so much angst on Tyneside, said he had no problem with Barton dedicating his performance to his predecessor.

"Can I understand it? 100 per cent" Pardew said. "We talked about it after the game. I know Chris and he can feel very unfortunate he is not sat here where I am, talking to you. Football can be a very cruel game and it happened to me at Southampton. But I was also conscious that they lost three games in a row after I left there and it was important that did not happen here."

Barton scored the crucial second, with 10 minutes to go. Kevin Nolan had given **Newcastle** the lead early in the game but Dirk Kuyt had scored a deflected equaliser just after the break. Andy Carroll added a third in stoppage time as a crowd of 50,137 got firmly behind the team -- if not the owner.

Pardew said: "They reacted with disappointment to the events of this week, losing Chris. He is a gentleman and has done a lot of good work here. But ultimately they do not support me or any individual player, they support the club. The noise level out there was something I had only ever experienced in cup finals. I was struggling to get my message across, it was so loud. I'll have to develop sign language."

Pardew, who is clearly being very careful with his choice of words, said his job has been made easier by the support he received on meeting the senior players on Friday. "They welcomed me and that obviously made it easier for me. All the staff were terrific."

But speculation mounted last night over the future of Peter Beardsley, promoted by Ashley to assistant manager under Hughton, who watched the game from the stands.

Date: 11 December 2010 Opposition: Newcastle United Competition: League	Observer	Times	Guardian	Mirror		11 December 2010
		Telegraph	Independent	Echo		
		Sun Independent	Sun Telegraph	Sunday Times		



Newcastle stick to Hughton blueprint

NEWCASTLE 3
Nolan 15, Barton 80 Carroll 90+1
LIVERPOOL 1
Kuyt 49

THERE have been moments when Mike Ashley has recognised his shortcomings as an owner of a football club. Sadly for Newcastle United, there have been many more when he has demonstrated them.

It is as if the Londoner is engaged in some kind of self-destructive drinking game, entitled "How to infuriate the maximum number of people at one time". Sack the manager who took Newcastle back to the Premier League with a record points tally? That'll wind up the players and the punters.

He's one of the nicest men in football? Good, I'll get everyone else in the game going too. Hand a five-and-a-half-year deal to a coach punted from his past three clubs after getting two of them relegated? Nobody can beat me at this.

Back in the Premier League after three years in which his career has headed in a generally southern direction, even Alan Pardew questioned the sanity of succeeding Chris Hughton last week. Yesterday his new team took three points from a madcap evening meeting with Liverpool courtesy of a brace of Andy Carroll knockdowns yet it will be a major surprise if there are not messier times ahead. There may come a day when Pardew pens a column on his spell as the sixth manager of Ashley's three-and-a-half-year stewardship of St James' Park. If he does, it will do well to match the excoriation delivered by the owner's first appointment to the position.

"I do not understand the decision to get rid of Chris," wrote Kevin Keegan. "I lived with the same people for eight months - I didn't understand them then and I don't understand them now."

Yesterday Pardew handled the dressing room by standing fast to Hughton's blueprint. Returning from injuries, Kevin Nolan and Joey Barton were the only changes.

Newcastle's football was of the meat-and-potatoes variety. When Liverpool had possession, the home side filed back and drew up their defences. When the ball was regained it was generally directed swiftly up to Carroll. Hardly pretty, yet effective enough.

On the quarter-hour mark, Sotiris Kyriakos bundled through Carroll, conceding a 30-yard free kick. Joey Barton chipped the dead ball to the left-hand side of Liverpool's area, where Carroll outjumped Martin Skrtel to head the ball square for Nolan. Judging the offside line perfectly, Newcastle's captain swept home, eliciting barely a flicker of emotion from Pardew.

It wasn't difficult, but Liverpool were more subtle, working the ball through Raul Meireles to the wings or Fernando Torres' feet. Before the opener, Maxi Rodriguez had played in Kyriakos for a shot that Tim Krul palmed dangerously into the centre of his box. After it, Maxi planted a uncontested header over the goalkeeper's bar and Torres claimed hand-ball as Carroll protected his midriff in a Newcastle wall.

Though Cheik Tiote and Barton were efficient in the home midfield, it was a measure of Newcastle's potency that their other first-half chances came from a long-ball knockdown and an errant Meireles pass.

The equaliser was messy. Sol Campbell turned his back on a seemingly innocent pass, letting it bounce off his rear to Dirk Kuyt, whose shot was deflected in by Steven Taylor.

Then Torres had one shot smartly saved by the keeper, then spun another a foot past the post. Carroll's failure to direct a fine Barton cross on target and Nile Ranger's inability to capitalise on a bad Skrtel slip underlined a difficult period. They clawed themselves out of it via a familiar route. Long ball to Carroll, headed on towards the box, where Ranger and Barton forced it on and into the net. As the game entered stoppage time, Carroll drove a stunning third beyond Pepe Reina.

Newcastle: Krul 6, Simpson 6, S Taylor 6, Campbell 6, Jose Enrique 6, Barton 8 (Routledge 90+3), Nolan 7 (Smith 87min), Tiote 6, Gutierrez 6, Carroll 7, Ameobi 6
Liverpool: Reina 6, Johnson 6, Kyriakos 6, Skrtel 5, Konchesky 6, Kuyt 6, Meireles 6, Lucas 6, Maxi 7 (Jovanovic 85min), Torres 6, Ngog 6 (Babel 72min)



Perfect start for Pardew: Carroll lifts Newcastle after a traumatic week at St James'

NEWCASTLE 3
Nolan 15 Barton 80 Carroll 90
LIVERPOOL 1
Kuyt 50

There have been almost as many fake Messiahs as false dawns at St James' Park but, for the moment at least, Newcastle United fans have reason to believe Alan Pardew might prove an unexpected 'answer' after all

If a gritty, gutsy win will not erase the mystification and misery induced by the club's decision to sack Chris Hughton, at least it buys the latest messiah time to implement his blueprint for Geordie salvation. First though, Pardew had to survive a baptism of boos as an underwhelmed 51,000 audience greeted his first appearance in the dug out with a cacophony of disapproval. "It wasn't a very pleasant reception," said Hughton's successor. "But I understand that."

Happily for Pardew, goals do not merely change games but entire moods. With 15 minutes on the clock, as Kevin Nolan celebrated giving Newcastle the lead with a now trademark "funky chicken" dance routine, a relieved home manager relaxed. Thanks largely to an outstanding performance from Andy Carroll, the rest of the game was not overly traumatic. Even so, Pardew seemed close to losing his voice.

"The noise level was something I've only experienced in cup finals," he said.

"Getting my message out was difficult, I'll have to learn sign language."

On this evidence, he is communicating just fine. "To get three goals was something special," said a manager who had admitted to reservations about accepting the job. "I was a bit nervous; you need the group to be with you but the players made it easy for me when I met them and I felt a lot better about things." Sensing the atmosphere, the crowd ultimately switched from pre-match militancy and post kick-off rumblings of discontent to full-on encouragement. "In the end, Newcastle fans gave their team incredible support," said Roy Hodgson, Liverpool's rueful manager. "I'm sure it buoyed them."

Pardew was delighted. "The crowd were understandably disappointed about losing Chris [Hughton] but ultimately they support the shirt and the club," he said. "And the team showed their spirit and unity and individual talent; we have four or five outstanding players."

Nolan is among them and, as he began that silly dance, Pardew knew all the talk of a mutinous dressing room had been rather over-egged. Granted, Newcastle's squad harbour great affection for Hughton but they will surely view this latest upheaval on Tyneside as a case of the king is dead; long live the king.

Fans, though, are a very different matter and earlier hundreds of locals had demonstrated peacefully outside the ground's main reception, chanting "Cockney Mafia out" and, among other much ruder things, "Hughton is a Geordie" and "Get out of our club".

Mike Ashley's only solace was that the protesters looked extremely young. Significantly, their 30-, 40- and 50-something seniors inside the stadium, albeit still disgruntled, proved slightly more polite as they waved home-made "Thank you Chris" banners. Accordingly, once Joey Barton's 15th-minute free-kick was headed on by Carroll before dropping kindly for Nolan to score, the fear of things turning ugly abated.

It might have been different had Tim Krul not saved well from Sotirios Kyriakos early on or had Fernando Torres better struck an inviting free-kick won when he fell over in the face of Sol Campbell, but Pardew's luck held. Admittedly, there were a few nervous moments. Early in the second half, for instance, a long ball hit Campbell on the head before falling to Dirk Kuyt's right foot. Kuyt switched it on to his left, took a swipe and the ball deflected off Steven Taylor into the back of the net.

No matter; Pardew introduced Nile Ranger from the bench and the impressive youngster swiftly made a difference, ruffling Hodgson's side with a dangerous strike that went fractionally wide.

Ranger also helped Barton restore the lead. When Carroll provoked pandemonium by heading on a long ball, the substitute and a marker tussled, allowing the ball to drop for Barton to toe home. Up in the stand, Ashley literally danced for joy.

Newcastle's best, namely a fabulous long-range, stoppage-time shot into the bottom corner from Carroll after Liverpool's defence inexplicably backed off, was reserved until last.

"It's a major setback," said Hodgson, sensing a crisis blowing out of Tyneside and on to Merseyside. "A major blow."

St James' Park 50,137

Game rating 7/10 Referee Lee Mason