

Date: 27 August 2011

Opposition: Bolton Wanderers

Competition: League

Independent	Times	Guardian	Echo
Mirror	Telegraph	Mail on Sunday	Sun Telegraph
	Sun Independent	Sunday Mirror	Sunday Times



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THE TIMES

Dalglish restores old Anfield values

Liverpool 3 Henderson 15, Skrtel 52, Adam 53 Bolton Wanderers 1 Klasnic 90+2 Referee: L Probert. Attendance: 44,725 TONY BARRETT The narrative of Liverpool's revival under Kenny Dalglish has already been established. It is a familiar Premier League tale of a manager utilising the largesse of sugar-daddy owners to transform a team out of all recognition.

"Finance plays a huge part in football; if you gave me [pounds sterling]110 million, I am sure I would have a team that look dangerous every time they walk on to the park," was how Owen Coyle, the Bolton Wanderers manager, explained away the chasm between the side that Dalglish inherited from Roy Hodgson in January and the one that thrillingly dismantled his team at Anfield on Saturday.

Coyle's logic was irrefutable, particularly after two of Dalglish's summer signings, Jordan Henderson and Charlie Adam, had opened their goalscoring accounts for their new club and Luis Suarez, an acquisition from January, had run amok against yet another Barclays Premier League defence, the Uruguayan's reign of terror showing no sign of relenting.

But there is a compelling back story to Liverpool's renaissance that demands greater scrutiny and a hitherto largely unnoticed subplot featuring the reinstatement of values that served the club so well in the past. Its physically fragile symbol is Daniel Agger, a central defender of high class who suffered the indignity of being shunted to left back or ordered to play the ball long during Roy Hodgson's forgettable reign but who has now taken centre stage again with a brief to carry the ball out of defence. The return of Dalglish has coincided with the reintroduction of pass-and-move football at Anfield. It is no coincidence.

"The way he wants to play is pass and move, and with a high tempo," Agger said with an admiration for his present manager's philosophy as revealing as his diplomatic assessment of that of Dalglish's predecessor. "Ever since I joined Liverpool, that is how we have wanted to play, but it just hasn't always worked out like that."

The team ethic that Dalglish has instilled is equally evident. It, too, has an emblem. In this case a largely unheralded one in Lucas Leiva, whose increasingly astute appreciation of the midfield holding role allows Liverpool to commit more players forward than would otherwise be possible. The Brazilian dominated the Bolton midfield to such an extent that Liverpool were able to swamp the visiting team's defence, as illustrated by Henderson popping up in the opposition penalty area in the build-up to his well-taken goal and Adam's appearance on the edge of the box for his equally impressive strike. In between, Martin Skrtel demonstrated that Liverpool are capable of scoring more basic goals with a powerful header from Adam's corner.

The only conundrum for Dalglish on a day when there were far more answers than questions is how does Andy Carroll, the club's record signing no less, fit into the free-flowing style he has established? On Saturday, he did not. His involvement extended no farther than stretching his legs during the later stages after being left on the bench until the game had been won. "We've got a really strong squad," Dalglish said when asked about Carroll's non-inclusion but he will be as aware as anyone that in the opening games of the season that Liverpool have looked a more expressive and cohesive unit when the [pounds sterling]35 million forward has not been involved.

Gary Cahill was clearly relieved that the more static Carroll replaced Suarez, who had once again been effervescent and spent most of the game making Arsenal's alleged [pounds sterling]6 million valuation of the defender seem excessive. "[Suarez] is an outstanding player," Coyle said, understandably choosing to accentuate the positive about an opposition player rather than highlight the limitations of one of his own. "This league is full of world-class players. He is certainly one of those and he has scored goals wherever he has been. He has a great touch and is very easy on the eye. He has been a great signing and today he formed a terrific partnership with Dirk Kuyt."

Ivan Klasnic offered Coyle a modicum of consolation with a goal in stoppage time after an uncharacteristic lapse by Jamie Carragher but the Bolton manager could take little else from the performance. "I will accept that Liverpool played very well," he said. "But I don't accept that we got to the standard we are capable of. That's something I have to rectify."

Ratings LIVERPOOL 4-4-2 J M Reina 6 MKelly 6 J Carragher 7 D Agger 8 J Enrique 7 J Henderson 8 LucasLeiva 9 C Adam 8 S Downing 7 D Kuyt 7 L Suarez 8 Substitutes: M Skrtel 7 (for Kelly, 30min), M Rodriguez (for Henderson, 77), A Carroll (for Suarez, 77). Not used: Doni, J Spearing, J Shelvey, J Robinson. Next: Stoke City (a). BOLTON 4-4-2 J Jaaskelainen 7 G Steinsson 0 6 G Cahill 5 Z Knight 5 P Robinson 5 C Eagles 4 F Muamba 5 NReo-Coker 5 MPetrov 6 K Davies 5 I Klasnic 0 6 Substitutes: M Davies 5 (for Muamba, 26), Tuncay Sanli 5 (for Eagles, 57), D Pratlley 5 (for K Davies, 72). Not used: A Bogdan, R Blake, D Wheater, J Riley. Next: Manchester United (h).

the guardian

Dalglish spending spree paying dividends

When asked the difference between this Liverpool side and the one that stumbled to victory over Bolton on New Year's Day, Owen Coyle replied it was pounds 110m. "If you gave me pounds 110m, I am sure I would have a team that looked dangerous every time they walk on to the pitch," said the Bolton manager. "They are on an upward spiral but finance plays a big part in football."

It is not quite that simple, otherwise the galactico project at Real Madrid would have produced a gaggle of European Cups. However, Kenny Dalglish points out that money is an almost essential prerequisite for success and he has always employed it - successfully at Blackburn Rovers and with a rather more scattergun approach at Newcastle. At Liverpool John W Henry's investment is being thrillingly returned.

During Dalglish's tortured attempt to stamp his authority on St James' Park, one writer recalled visiting his house and seeing the televisions turned to every conceivable European football channel. The transfer market was changing radically and Dalglish resembled an old blues singer confronted by a 56-track recording studio, overwhelmed by choice.

This time his biggest outlay has been on British footballers. In the reprint of his memoir, My Liverpool Home, Dalglish generously acknowledged it was the club's director of football, Damien Comolli, who arranged Luis Suarez's transfer, although he could have vetoed it. However, the midfielders who controlled this game - Jordan Henderson, Charlie Adam and Stewart Downing - were his own work.

There were question marks over them all. Before Blackpool Adam had not enjoyed Rangers, where the pressures of Ibrox are akin to Anfield's. Henderson was young and his last season for Sunderland had been patchy. Downing had not established himself as an England international despite all the promise. They have gelled beautifully. It may not seem so to the exiled remnants of Roy Hodgson's regime or even Andy Carroll, who spent most of the match on the bench, but Dalglish tends to run happy training grounds, even at Newcastle.

Here it showed on the pitch, where Liverpool enjoyed a width they seldom made use of even when Rafael Benitez's sides were at their most expansive. The opening goal, an exquisite curling pass from Suarez, met first time by Downing and then curved in by Henderson after Jussi Jaaskelainen had somehow saved the first effort, must have been as good as anything fashioned by any of the Liverpool sides Dalglish had been involved in.

"It is a combination of everything," said Daniel Agger, part of a defence that was not troubled until too late for a Bolton recovery. "We have a strong squad, a good manager with good coaches around him. The way he wants to play is pass and move with a high tempo. Ever since I joined Liverpool [in 2006], that is how we have wanted to play but it just hasn't worked like that. You saw there was some quality passing in the team and that we are playing it on the ground. I think this is what most people want to see. But this season we have to be more consistent." Early season statistics are like canapes at a wedding reception - enjoyed but never remembered. However, this was Liverpool's best start to the season since 1994-95, when Steve McManaman and Robbie Fowler stepped into Anfield's limelight. Suarez did not emulate Fowler's record of scoring in Liverpool's opening three league fixtures but he did everything but find the net. Man of the match Luis Suarez (Liverpool)

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Liverpool FC 3 Bolton 1 - Final whistle report
 LIVERPOOL moved to the top of the Premier League with a 3-1 victory over Bolton Wanderers at Anfield.

Kenny Dalglish's side dominated throughout to ensure they go into the international break on a high.

Jordan Henderson fired them in front early on with his first goal for the Reds and the points were wrapped up just after the break.

Substitute Martin Skrtel headed home the second and then Charlie Adam opened his account for his new club with a sweet strike from the edge of the box.

The margin of victory could have been greater with the Reds spurning numerous chances before Ivan Klasnic pulled one back in stoppage time.

With seven points from three games Dalglish will be delighted with Liverpool's flying start to the campaign.

The manager made just one change from the victory at Arsenal a week earlier as Luis Suarez replaced Andy Carroll, who dropped to the bench.

Giant Uruguay centre-back Sebastian Coates, who is on the verge of completing a £7million move to Liverpool from Nacional, watched on from the directors box as the hosts flew out of the traps.

Inside eight minutes Henderson's pass released Stewart Downing through the centre but the winger hesitated and allowed Paul Robinson to get back and make a last-ditch tackle.

The Reds continued to press and got the breakthrough in the 15th minute.

Suarez turned creator with a wonderful cross with the outside of his boot which picked out Downing in the middle.

His volley was parried by Jussi Jaaskelainen but Dirk Kuyt latched on to the rebound and teed up Henderson who curled the ball into the far corner.

Bolton responded with Martin Petrov's stunning volley forcing a decent save from Pepe Reina but the Reds were soon back on top.

Adam impressed in midfield and his raking 40-yard pass found Suarez only for Jaaskelainen to race out and deny him.

The goal clearly boosted Henderson's confidence and midway through the first half he whipped in a fine cross which Kuyt narrowly failed to convert.

Suarez should have doubled the Reds' advantage when clean through but his chip over the keeper landed on the roof of the net.

Liverpool suffered a setback on the half hour mark as Martin Kelly limped off and was replaced by Martin Skrtel.

However, they remained in the ascendancy and two minutes before the break there were loud appeals for a penalty when Gretar Steinsson handled.

Much to the Reds' disgust, referee Lee Robbert ruled it was just outside the box and Henderson's free-kick was hacked clear by Ivan Klasnic.

The second goal Liverpool deserved finally arrived seven minutes into the second half as Skrtel rose six yards out to head home Adam's corner.

Sixty seconds later Anfield erupted once again. Kuyt found Adam lurking 20 yards out and Scotland international unleashed a low drive into the bottom corner.

Suarez had a great chance to make it 4-0 soon after but after going around the keeper he could only find the side netting from a tight angle.

Dalglish brought on Carroll and Maxi Rodriguez in place of Henderson and Suarez as Liverpool continued to carve the Trotters apart.

Bolton rode their luck and then struck a consolation in stoppage time as Klasnic slotted home from close range.

Liverpool (4-4-2): Reina, Kelly (Skrtel 30), Carragher, Agger, Enrique, Henderson (Rodriguez 77), Adam, Lucas, Downing, Kuyt, Suarez (Carroll 77). Not used: Doni, Spearing, Shelvey, Robinson.

Bolton (4-4-2): Jaaskelainen, Steinsson, Cahill, Knight, Robinson, Eagles (Tuncay 57), Reo-Coker, Muamba (M Davies 26), Petrov, K Davies (Pratley 71), Klasnic. Not used: Bogdan, Blake, Wheeler, Riley.

The Daily Telegraph

Dalglish faces Carroll question

Liverpool 3

Henderson 15, Skrtel 52, Adam 53

Bolton 1

Klasnic 90 Att: 44,725

Three games, three shades of red. Kenny Dalglish enters the international break with the first skirmishes of the season behind him and much to ponder. The biggest of those issues, metaphorically and physically, spent 77 minutes seated behind Dalglish on the Anfield bench.

The Scot must work out how to solve the Andy Carroll quandary. The striker, all [pounds sterling]35million of him, had started both Liverpool's draw with Sunderland and the victory at Arsenal, first alongside Luis Suarez and then partnering Dirk Kuyt. Here, it was his turn to miss out.

Of all three combinations, this worked best. Uruguayan and Dutchman provide endless intensity, affording a side built to the Scot's energetic, pressing specifications the sharpest of edges.

Both were involved in Jordan Henderson's opener, Suarez playing perhaps the most sumptuous pass of the season so far, Kuyt scrapping and scrabbling to tee up the midfielder; Suarez won the corner which led to Martin Skrtel's second; the pair's running dragged Bolton's defence apart to grant Charlie Adam the chance to kill the game off. Both, indeed, might have scored themselves: Suarez had three gilt-edged opportunities; the best of them a chip which landed on the roof of the Anfield Road net; and the industrious Kuyt one.

The contrast with Owen Coyle's side's last visit, when only a late Joe Cole goal "an offside winner" to quote the Bolton manager; salvaged a victory, granting the doomed Roy Hodgson the most temporary of reprieves, was stark.

"If you want to compare Liverpool today with back then, they look a very good side," Coyle said, with Ivan Klasnic's late strike of little consolation. "They can score goals. Having said that, if you gave me [pounds sterling]110million I am sure I would have a team that look dangerous every time they walk on the park." Coyle may soon have money; he insists he "will not buckle" on his valuation of Gary Cahill, a target for Arsenal; but he knows there is more to building teams than finance.

There is philosophy, and thought, and vision. Dalglish's is not a revolution so much as a restoration, and it seems Suarez and Kuyt are at the forefront, in more ways than one. As the Uruguayan was replaced by Carroll, Dalglish's old No 7 shirt granted its now customary ovation, the Scot must have wondered, and feared, that he had hit upon his winning formula.

Kuyt and Suarez certainly seem most suited to what he is trying to achieve; that much was clear even last season. They offer the movement, the versatility and the remorselessness Dalglish demands. "The way he wants us to play is pass and move and with a high tempo," said defender Daniel Agger, no less a spectator than the 45,000 inside Anfield for vast periods of the game.

"It is not just one thing; it is a combination: a strong squad, a good manager, good coaches around him. There was some quality passing in the team, we are playing it on the ground, and that is what people like to see. Results are the most important thing, but if you can get them playing like this, that is a bonus."

The issue for Dalglish is that such a style seems to flow more naturally with Suarez and Kuyt on the pitch, and Carroll on the bench. It is a problem Dalglish will welcome but it will offer him no little trouble, too.

The issue is not with Carroll himself, but more his consequences. The 22 year-old's presence inspires Liverpool to adopt a more agrarian philosophy, one they are ill-suited to and one which does not, in truth, elicit the best from the striker.

That is the challenge facing Dalglish.

His outlay on Carroll now totals [pounds sterling]66million, such has been the cost of the striker himself, Stewart Downing and Jose Enrique to provide the requisite width and Adam to create the space. This is a side built for Carroll. The irony is that it does not appear to need him.

Liverpool's three strike options

Carroll and Suarez Financially, the first choice of Kenny Dalglish (pictured). Suarez buzzes behind Carroll in a system which allows a high tempo, passing game and offers an aerial outlet. Fine in theory, yet to succeed in practice.

Carroll and Kuyt The more defensive option. Kuyt functions essentially as a fifth midfielder. Used to some effect at Arsenal, stifling the home side and having Carroll as a focal point. Victory assured only once Suarez was introduced, though. Kuyt and Suarez Devastatingly effective at the end of last season, the pair offer a highly mobile, versatile strike force that affords the energy Dalglish's style requires.

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THE INDEPENDENT

'Outstanding' Suarez the pivot as Liverpool go on the rampage there was a difference of only one goal between **Liverpool's** 2-1 victory over **Bolton Wanderers** on New Year's Day and their 3-1 success over Owen Coyle's team on Saturday but that cold statistic tells nothing of the transformation in the Merseysiders' fortunes over the intervening eight months.

Then there was only a disputed late Joe Cole strike to separate the sides in front of 35,400 disgruntled supporters witnessing Roy Hodgson's final home game as manager and Fernando Torres's last Anfield goal.

On Saturday, by contrast, a wave of optimism rolled around Anfield as the home side produced some thrilling pass-and-move football that suggested Kenny Dalglish's arrival and the Fenway Sports Group's plus-[pounds sterling]100m investment in new talent since January is fast bearing fruit.

Although Dalglish says there is nothing complicated about his team-building - "good footballers can play with other people" - he must have been delighted with the evidence that his [pounds sterling]45m British trio of Stewart Downing and scorers Jordan Henderson and Charlie Adam are finding their feet.

That said, it was a player who arrived in January, Luis Suarez, who shone brightest. An under-par **Bolton** side had no answer to the movement and link-up play of the Uruguayan, whose superb outside-of-the-foot pass to Downing led to the opening goal, Downing's saved volley eventually leading to Henderson's top-corner finish.

"Outstanding," was the **Bolton** manager Owen Coyle's appraisal of Suarez, who, on another day, might have had a hat-trick. He is showing no tiredness after his Copa America-winning feats and can look forward to the company of his Uruguay team-mate Sebastian Coates; the tall centre-back was a spectator at Anfield ahead of his imminent transfer from Nacional.

Asked about **Liverpool's** resurgence, Coyle said: "If you want to compare **Liverpool** today with back then, they look a very good side. Offensively, they look like they can score goals. Having said that, if you gave me [pounds sterling]110m I am sure I would have a team that look dangerous every time they walk on to the park," he said.

"Kenny has done that. He has signed some good players, youthful players who are going to grow and get better."

Another player whom Coyle expects to grow and get better is Arsenal target Gary Cahill but where that happens remains to be seen. Cahill's display suggested he had been affected by uncertainty surrounding his future.

"He didn't have his best game," admitted Coyle, who said Arsenal had so far made only a verbal offer last week and warned that they would not get the centre-back on the cheap. "I won't buckle. I have had a chat with Gary. He knows my opinion. The bottom line is that we don't have to be taking poor offers. If someone makes the right offer, and I am very fair-minded in this, then we can do business."

Scorers: **Liverpool** Henderson 15, Skrtel 52, Adam 53. **Bolton** Klasnic 90.

Substitutes: **Liverpool** Skrtel 6 (Kelly, 30), Rodriguez (Henderson, 76). **Bolton** M Davies 6 (Muamba, 26), Tuncay 5 (Eagles, 56), Pratley 6 (K Davies, 71). Booked: **Liverpool** None. **Bolton** Steinsson, Klasnic. Man of the match Suarez. Match rating 8/10. Possession: **Liverpool** 59% **Bolton** 41%. Attempts on target: **Liverpool** 9 **Bolton** 4. Referee L Probert (Wiltshire). Attendance 44,725.



BLAST FROM THE PASS; Agger puts the boot into Hodgson era.. Kenny's stylish approach is streets ahead

PREMIER LEAGUE: LIVERPOOL 3 BOLTON 1

MUCH has changed at Liverpool since the Bolton team bus last drove through the Shankly Gates.

Back then, on New Year's Day, Roy Hodgson's ill-fated reign was in its death throes and Liverpool were in turmoil.

The Kop had turned on the manager and the 35,400 crowd that day was the lowest league gate at Anfield for nearly seven years.

Joe Cole's late winner proved to be just a stay of execution for Hodgson and a week later he was gone with the Reds languishing in 12th place.

Enter King Kenny (right) and on Saturday his rebuilt team blew Bolton away with a display of passing football reminiscent of when he wore the red No.7 shirt.

Daniel Agger, who was bizarrely played at left-back when the sides last met, has witnessed this transformation and relishes Dalglish's pass-and-move style after being an open critic of Hodgson's more direct approach.

The centre-half's stance almost cost him his Anfield career and he was being offered for sale to Bundesliga teams before Hodgson was sacked.

"My footballing philosophy definitely fits with the team's now," said the Danish international.

"You saw there were some quality passes in the team and now we're playing it on the ground. I think that is what people like to see and it's getting us the results we want.

"The way the manager wants to play is pass and move with a high tempo. Ever since I joined Liverpool, that's how we've wanted to play, but it just hasn't always worked out like that. In the end results are the most important thing, but if you can get them playing like this, it's just a bonus and this is the way we enjoy football.

"That's down to a combination of things - a strong squad, a good manager, good coaches around him. It's not only one thing.

"When you play good football and things are going the right way, everyone enjoys it."

The Kop are certainly enjoying themselves and they loved seeing their beloved side top of the Premier League on Saturday evening for the first time since January 2009.

This was vintage stuff from Liverpool and they showed Bolton no mercy. Dalglish's side have clearly learned a valuable lesson from their opening-day draw against Sunderland when they relinquished their lead. No such slip-ups here though.

Luis Suarez was his irrepressible self, pulling Wanderers' hapless defence all over the pitch, and one pass with the outside of his right boot to Stewart Downing was simply out of this world.

But it would be wrong to portray Saturday as another episode of the Luis Suarez Show.

Downing, Jordan Henderson, Charlie Adam, Lucas, Dirk Kuyt, Martin Skrtel and Jose Enrique all excelled as Liverpool gave their most complete performance since they went close to winning the title in 2009.

Henderson opened the scoring on 15 minutes with a great strike for his first Reds goal and also produced a brilliant cross, which Kuyt almost converted, and two great through balls for Downing and Suarez.

They finished Bolton off when Skrtel took advantage of the Trotters' lax marking to head home Adam's corner on 52 minutes. A minute later the Scot proved he has got a right foot as he drove home low into the far corner for his first Reds goal.

Agger sounded a note of caution amidst all the euphoria and claimed Liverpool must now maintain this high level of performance. Jamie Carragher made an uncharacteristic slip on 90 minutes to let Ivan Klasnic score his third of the season and doubts remain over the Reds rearguard.

Dalglish knows this and Uruguayan centre-half Sebastian Coates, who watched from the directors' box, will complete his pounds 7million arrival in the next 48 hours. Agger said: "In any team there's always something you can do better. I think in this team there are a lot of things we can do better.

"This season we have to be consistent with performances like this. That's the only way we can move forward. It's a little bit early to be saying we have done that now."

Bolton boss Owen Coyle felt his side made Liverpool look good by defending so badly and put Gary Cahill's indifferent display down to the uncertainty surrounding his future.

At the risk of sounding churlish, Coyle put the difference in Liverpool down to the pounds 110m they have splashed out on the likes of Andy Carroll, Suarez, Henderson and Downing. The hard-up Glaswegian, who has spent just pounds 3m this summer, claimed he could build an attacking side at the Reebok with that amount of cash.

"If you want to compare Liverpool today with the team they fielded back then [at the start of the year], you have to say they look a very good side now," said Coyle. "Offensively, they look like they can score goals.

"Kenny has done that. He has signed some good players, youthful players, who are going to grow and get better. "But for me the difference from this time to last is that we didn't play and Liverpool did.

"Having said that, if you gave me pounds 110m, I'm sure I would have a team that looked dangerous every time they walked onto the park."

LIVERPOOL: Reina 6, Kelly 6 (Skrtel 30, 8), Agger 7, Carragher 5, Enrique 7, Henderson 8 (Rodriguez 76, 6), Lucas 8, Adam 8, Downing 8, Kuyt 7, Suarez 8 (Carroll 76, 5). Goals: Henderson 15, Skrtel 52, Adam 53 BOLTON: Jaaskelainen 5, Steinsson 6?, Knight 5, Cahill 5, Robinson 6, Eagles 6 (Tuncay 56, 5), Muamba 5 (M Davies 26, 6), Reo-Coker 4, Petrov 6, Klasnic 6?, K Davies 5 (Pratley 71, 5). Goal: Klasnic 90 REF: Lee Probert ATT: 44,725

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The Mail

Henderson cashes in to send Liverpool top
 LIVERPOOL 3

Henderson (15), Skrtel (52), Adam (53)
 BOLTON 1

Klasnic (90)

JORDAN HENDERSON scored his first goal for table-topping Liverpool to silence the critics who scoffed at his [pounds sterling]16million price tag.

Henderson's sweet strike was celebrated with pure relief after a difficult start to his Anfield career following the big-money move from Sunderland.

Then relief turned to joy early in the second half when further goals in rapid succession by Martin Skrtel and Charlie Adam confirmed Kenny Dalglish's side as Barclays Premier League leaders on goal difference from Chelsea and Wolves after an unbeaten start to the season.

More than anyone, Henderson seems to have been the fall-guy for transfer-market inflation, always mentioned in conversation about overpriced players.

But all that was forgotten as the 21-year-old buried his first goal since April in style. Stewart Downing's brilliant volley was pushed away by Jussi Jaaskelainen to Dirk Kuyt and, when the Dutchman squared a pass back to Henderson, he brushed aside Nigel Reo-Coker before curling a 12-yard shot into the top corner.

Among those celebrating was Steven Gerrard, the injured club captain who Henderson may one day replace in Liverpool's engine room.

Poor Bolton were so over-run that Owen Coyle was forced to make a tactical change after just 26 minutes and defender Gary Cahill, included despite a bid coming in from Arsenal last week, will be glad he does not have to face Luis Suarez every week.

Liverpool racked up the chances in the first half but were wasteful in front of goal.

Downing took a poor first touch when played in by Suarez and allowed Paul Robinson to make a saving tackle. Unusually, Suarez also missed one-on-one, his chip over Jaaskelainen too heavy and ending up on the roof of the net.

Coyle hauled off England Under-21 international Fabrice Muamba for Mark Davies to make a difference. But he would still have been relieved to reach half-time only a goal down.

His side's only chance fell to Martin Petrov, his volley saved by Pepe Reina.

Liverpool's opening goal was a beauty, Suarez flicking a cross with the outside of his boot to Downing, who hammered a volley that Jaaskelainen did well to keep out. It was his misfortune that Liverpool scored from the rebound.

They also had two penalty appeals denied, the first when Gretar Steinsson handled on the edge of the box and then when Suarez fell theatrically over Zat Knight.

The only downside for Liverpool in the opening 45 minutes came when Martin Kelly went off injured and Skrtel came on as a makeshift right-back. But even that turned out all right as the big Slovak, an ever-present last season, rose to meet Adam's corner with a thumping headed goal after 52 minutes.

Just 60 seconds later, Adam was celebrating his first competitive Liverpool goal, too, taking a square pass from Kuyt and drilling a low finish past Jaaskelainen.

It will be Coyle rather than Dalglish who needs to be busy at the end of the transfer window. The Bolton boss wants to sign Manchester City's Shaun Wright-Phillips and Liverpool striker David Ngog, left out yesterday, if he accepts a renewed [pounds sterling]12million bid from Arsenal for Cahill next week.

Dalglish has already done his business and, with Liverpool top of the league, you could not get a more contented Anfield, even if talk of a first title since 1990 is premature.

The rest of the game saw a comical sideshow starring Suarez and the match officials. The Uruguayan went all bug-eyed when Lee Probert turned down his appeal for a back-pass to Jaaskelainen.

And when he was denied a penalty after Robinson's tackle, Dalglish wisely took him off to a standing ovation to save him a booking.

Bolton scored in the final minute as Jamie Carragher's mistake let in Petrov and the ball broke for Ivan Klasnic to claim a consolation goal.

LIVERPOOL (4-4-2): Reina; Kelly (Skrtel 30), Carragher, Agger, Enrique; Henderson (Maxi 76), Lucas, Adam, Downing; Suarez (Carroll 76), Kuyt.

Subs (not used): Doni, Robinson, Spearing, Shelvey. Booked: None.

BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): Jaaskelainen; Steinsson, Cahill, Knight, Robinson; Eagles (Tuncay 56), Reo-Coker, Muamba (M Davies 26), Petrov; Klasnic, K Davies (Pratley 71).

Subs (not used): Bogdan, Wheeler, Blake, Riley.

Booked: Steinsson, Klasnic. Referee: Lee Probert.

The Sunday Telegraph

Inspirational Suarez puts the frighteners on Bolton
 Liverpool 3

Henderson 15, Skrtel 52, Adam 53

Bolton 1

Klasnic 90 Att: 44,725

On the sidelines stood the man credited with restoring Liverpool's feelgood factor. Kenny Dalglish has always been a man apart, an island in the storm.

The technical area is his personal fiefdom. It is the only part of Anfield that belongs to him. Every other blade of grass, belongs to Luis Suarez, the man who brought the fear back.

The Uruguayan is a terror. He is a bewitching, bewildering menace, trailing roiling panic in his wake. The 24 year-old did not score in this dismantling of Bolton. He does not need a goal. Often, he does not even need the ball. His presence alone is a torment.

An example, drawn from the moments just after Liverpool had taken the lead. It was just after Suarez, bristling with the impudence of genius, had cut Owen Coyle's defence to shreds with a swerving pass played with the outside of his right boot and Jordan Henderson had curled his first goal for the club past Jussi Jaaskelainen, after the Finn had denied Stewart Downing.

Suarez stood on the halfway line, the ball at his feet. In front of him, Gary Cahill, rated at [pounds sterling]17million but not, as Coyle later confessed, at his "absolute maximum" thanks to the unsettling effects of a mooted move to Arsenal, and Zat Knight, a reliable campaigner.

The forward feinted one way, then the other, and then accelerated away. Cahill looked left, Knight right, and the two collided. A pratfall, with Suarez as Road Runner, the defenders as a pair of Wile E. Coyotes. The pair exchanged barbs. A defence reduced to fear and loathing by their unrelenting foe.

Fear spreads and mutates, infecting, afflicting. Jaaskelainen dropped a high ball. Gretar Steinsson handled just outside the box. Coyle's team shook, and splintered, and shattered.

The hosts might have had three or four, by the break. Downing might have had a penalty for Steinsson's apparent handball. Suarez should have scored twice himself. He narrowly failed to clip one effort round Jaaskelainen and then saw a sublime chip land on the roof of the net. That is the thing about Suarez: his finishing in one-on-one situations is not as ruthless as his forebear as Anfield's idol, Fernando Torres. His footwork, is not so silky as, say, a Cristiano Ronaldo. He dives; that is undeniable. It is a stain on his game. There is little else wrong with it. He has energy, passion and vision in abundance. His imagination is ceaseless. But his greatest asset is his aura.

Suarez's undeniable excellence should not be cause to write Liverpool off as a one-man team, though, to suggest that Dalglish's expensively-acquired ensemble are little more than Suarez's supporting cast. On the contrary, they sit proudly atop the Premier League as a work of immense promise in progress.

"It was a pleasure to watch," Dalglish said. "Our passing and our movement was excellent. There will always be various people that grab the headlines, but for us it is a team event. There will have been a few people watching who will have seen some players and thought they could play a bit, too."

Henderson, maybe, in his best performance for the club.

Downing, all pace and purpose. Lucas, patrolling the midfield with bite and brio, and Charlie Adam, whose corner found Martin Skrtel's head for the second and who scored the third just 30 seconds later. Coyle described it as a "comedy of errors".

The Bolton manager was clearly disappointed in his side's surrender, but that is the effect of fear. They had initially made a good fist of competing with their hosts - Martin Petrov, Steinsson and Mark Davies - all crafting half chances. "There were only three who came out of it with pass marks," Coyle said. "You need more than that."

With Suarez like this, certainly. The Uruguayan did not stop, even when the game was over. He might have had another two penalties, and a free kick when Jaaskelainen picked up a back pass. His indignation with officialdom was such that Dalglish removed him for his own good, introducing Andy Carroll.

Suarez was afforded a standing ovation, his work done, his rule absolute, his terror ingrained.

Date: 27 August 2011 Opposition: Bolton Wanderers Competition: League	Independent	Times	Guardian	Echo		27 August 2011
	Mirror	Telegraph	Mail on Sunday	Sun Telegraph		
	Sun Independent	Sunday Mirror	Sunday Times			



THE INDEPENDENT

ON SUNDAY

Superb Suarez inspires Liverpool's flying start

On the day that Liverpool's owner, John W Henry, defended his club's expensive summer outlay on British talent in a newspaper interview, Kenny Dalglish's team added their own eloquent argument.

This 3-1 success featured first Anfield goals for two of those newcomers, Jordan Henderson and Charlie Adam, sandwiching a Martin Skrtel header, and moreover, ensured that the Merseyside club ended the day on top of the table, ahead of Chelsea and Wolves on goal difference.

When Liverpool beat Bolton on New Year's Day there were only 35,400 fans at Anfield for a 2-1 win secured by an injury-time Joe Cole goal in the last home game of Roy Hodgson's unhappy reign. This was another victory but the manner and the mood could not have been more different as Liverpool's passing and movement left Bolton chasing shadows for much of the 90 minutes. With it Liverpool - with seven points from a possible nine - have achieved their best start since winning three in a row in 1994-95. That year they ended up fourth; a repeat would be welcome after two seasons without Champions' League football, though this flying start will have some Anfield optimists dreaming of more. Dalglish, though, merely observed: "It's better than being bottom."

Liverpool had not lost a home League game to Bolton since 1954 and that record never looked under threat. Even the visitors' first corner almost produced a Liverpool goal as Stewart Downing raced clear on a counter only to be foiled by Paul Robinson's block.

It was Luis Suarez who proved the biggest thorn in Bolton's side. Writing in yesterday's Liverpool Echo, former Anfield favourite Tommy Smith likened him to Kevin Keegan for his exceptional movement though it was a more recent Kop hero, Robbie Fowler, whom the Uruguayan was looking to emulate by becoming the first Liverpool player since the Toxteth tearaway in 1994 to score in his opening three League games.

He did not manage that but from the start Suarez asked questions with that movement - not to mention his eye for a pass and trickery in tight spaces - and it was after drifting out wide that he helped create the opening goal. From the left flank Suarez played a lovely ball with the outside of his right boot into the path of Downing in the Bolton box and although Jussi Jaaskelainen was equal to his volley, Bolton's reprieve was brief. Dirk Kuyt turned the loose ball back to Henderson and after his first shot was blocked, he duly arced a left-foot shot into the far corner. Suarez missed a golden chance to double the lead after 24 minutes when lobbing on to the roof of the net after being put clear by Henderson. Then another move begun on the left by the South American ended with Kuyt firing over. Both managers were forced into early substitutions but it had no effect on the flow of traffic.

Suarez was unfortunate not to earn a penalty at the start of the second half as he tumbled in the box under a Zat Knight challenge - the defender using a hand to stop him as he threatened to wriggle clear - but as it was, Liverpool secured the points with two goals in a minute soon after.

"We shot ourselves in the foot," was Owen Coyle's verdict on Bolton's defending for both. Skrtel got ahead of Knight to power in a header from Adam's corner, then the Scottish midfielder got the third himself after holding off a Nigel Reo-Coker challenge before drilling a low shot through the legs of Knight and beyond Jaaskelainen from the edge of the box. Adam, like Henderson, is now up and running in a red shirt.

Yet Dalglish was quick to praise two players not on the scoresheet. "It is always nice to score your first goal but Stewart Downing never scored and was brilliant and Luis Suarez was man of the match."

Pepe Reina had made only one first-half save from a Martin Petrov volley when he was beaten by Ivan Klasnic's consolation strike in the last minute, a close-range finish after Jamie Carragher had inadvertently teed him up when halting Petrov's advance. The Croatian, not Suarez, has a goal from each of his three League outings but it is the Uruguayan's Liverpool sitting pretty this morning.

Liverpool (4-4-2): Reina; Kelly (Skrtel, 30), Carragher, Agger, Enrique; Henderson (Rodriguez, 76), Lucas, Adam, Downing; Kuyt, Suarez (Carroll, 76).

Bolton Wanderers (4-4-2): Jaaskelainen; Steinsson, Cahill, Knight, Robinson; Eagles (Tuncay, 56), Muamba (M Davies, 26), Reo-Coker, Petrov; Klasnic, K Davies (Pratley, 71).

Referee: Lee Probert

Man of the match: Suarez (Liverpool)

Match rating: 8/10



THE SUNDAY TIMES

Liverpool top class

LIVERPOOL 3

Henderson 15, Skrtel 52, Adam 53

BOLTON 1

Klasnic 90+2

IT'S EARLY days, of course, and the weekend's fixtures are far from complete, but after a swaggering performance against a shells shocked Bolton Wanderers Liverpool trooped out of Anfield on top of the Premier League. In the end the margin of victory was two, but double that would have been a more accurate representation of the gulf between the sides.

As if to confirm he is beholden to neither man nor price tag, manager Kenny Dalglish omitted record signing Andy Carroll, while persisting with Jordan Henderson, who had previously found life at Anfield far from straightforward. Yesterday, though, Henderson came of age as a Liverpool player and without Carroll the side were more mercurial, more speedy and less direct. Luis Suarez, a game-changing substitute at the Emirates last week, was restored to run at Bolton's defence.

With Charlie Adam and Lucas Leiva a well of midfield creativity, Liverpool looked as set fair as they had against Sunderland in their previous home game until they ran out of steam in the second half.

Here, they looked less fragile from the beginning and parity lasted for just 15 minutes. Suarez curled a world-class ball into the area off the outside of his foot. Stewart Downing met it on the half-volley and Jussi Jaaskelainen brilliantly pawed it aside.

As the Bolton defence stood and admired their goalkeeper's handiwork, Kuyt laid it back for Henderson, who skipped around Nigel Reo-Coker's flimsy challenge and imperiously curled his first Liverpool goal beyond Jaaskelainen.

It could - should - have been more. Suarez was thwarted by Jaaskelainen and lobbed on to the roof of the net after delicious through balls from Charlie Adam and Henderson respectively, while Kuyt was inches away from connecting with Henderson's vicious cross.

Bolton have not won at Anfield since 1954 and if their first-half showing was any yardstick, they will struggle to take home three points until 2054. They looked dangerous on their occasional breaks: indeed, Martin Petrov was unfortunate to see Jose Reina foil his thunderous volley, but they gave away the ball too often, too sloppily when they weren't being overrun in midfield.

Injuries forced early substitutions.

Liverpool looked less secure with Martin Skrtel at right-back, while Mark Davies gave Bolton some of the midfield oomph they lacked. Liverpool were three up before 10 second-half minutes had passed. First Adam's terrific corner was met by Skrtel's thumping header, and then, while the Kop were acclaiming the second, Kuyt threaded a through ball to Adam, who charged forward, brushed past another feeble Nigel Reo-Coker challenge and drove through the statuesque Knight's legs for Liverpool's third and the first for the man who looks like their midfield fulcrum for years to come.

From there, it was merely a question of "how many?" The often unplayable Suarez hit the side-netting, but, understandably, Liverpool eased off.

Ivan Klasnic scored a late consolation after good work by Petrov following Jamie Carragher's miscontrol.

Star man: Luis Suarez (Liverpool) Yellow cards: Bolton: Steinsson, Klasnic Referee: L Probert Attendance: 44,725 Liverpool: Reina 6, Kelly 6 (Skrtel 30min, 6), Carragher 6, Agger 6, Jose Enrique 6, Kuyt 7, Henderson 8 (Maxi 76min), Lucas 7, Adam 8, Downing 6, Suarez 8 (Carroll 76min) Bolton: Jaaskelainen 7, Steinsson 5, Cahill 5, Knight 5, Robinson 6, Eagles 5 (Tuncay 57min, 6), Reo-Coker 4, Muamba 5 (M Davies 26min, 6), Petrov 6, K Davies 6 (Pratley 71min), Klasnic 6 PREMIER LEAGUE PW D L Pts Liverpool 3210 7 Chelsea 3210 7 Wolves 3210 7 Man City 2200 6 Man Utd 2200 6 AstonVilla 3120 5 Wigan 3120 5 Newcastle 2 1 10 4 Bolton 3102 3 Everton 2101 3 QPR 3102 3 Stoke 2020 2 Sunderland 3021 2 Norwich 3021 2 Swansea 3021 2 Arsenal 2011 1 Fulham 2011 1 WestBrom 2002 0 Tottenham 10 0 10 Blackburn 3 0 0

Date: 27 August 2011 Opposition: Bolton Wanderers Competition: League	Independent	Times	Guardian	Echo		27 August 2011
	Mirror	Telegraph	Mail on Sunday	Sun Telegraph		
	Bolton News	Sun Independent	Sunday Mirror	Sunday Times		



A JOR DROPPER; Henderson kops first goal to lead the Anfield charge
LIVERPOOL 3 Henderson 15, Skrtel 52, Adam 53
BOLTON 1 Klasnic 90

LIVERPOOL sent out an early title warning as goals by Jordan Henderson, Martin Skrtel and Charlie Adam took the Reds to the top of the Premier League. Kenny Dalglish has taken just three games to prove that they are going to be a force to be reckoned with.

Last night they simply blew away Bolton. Liverpool should have been out of sight before the break. Luis Suarez was too clever for Fabrice Muamba on the halfway line when the home team caught Bolton on the break from a corner.

And although the Bolton midfielder hauled him down, the ball broke for Henderson to send Stewart Downing clear. Downing's pace was too hot for Paul Robinson, but his touch was poor and goalkeeper Jussi Jaaskelainen was able to race from his line to smother.

But the creativity of Kenny Dalglish's team - with Henderson outstanding - was illustrated perfectly by the goal that brought them the lead in the 15th minute. Jose Enrique's pass down the left flank found Suarez drifting wide and with Gary Cahill in close attendance.

Bolton had not been reprieved. Dirk Kuyt collected the loose ball and squared for Henderson to make the most of. But the livewire Uruguayan turned to lift a glorious pass into the path of Downing to crash a first-time volley from 12 yards that Jaaskelainen palmed away brilliantly.

of Nigel Reo-Coker's weak challenge by guiding a glorious shot into the top corner. It was Henderson's first goal for the Reds since his pounds 20million capture from Sunderland and the relief in his celebration was clear.

Bolton replied immediately when Martin Petrov met Chris Eagles' cross from the right with a powerful volley that Pepe Reina beat away.

But Liverpool were full of invention. Adam conjured up the kind of long-range pass that was his trademark at Blackpool last season to put Suarez clear, but this time the striker's control did not match the intelligence of his run.

Henderson then sent in an inviting cross that Kuyt would have given Kuyt a tap-in a deflection off Zat Knight hadn't taken the ball out for a corner. And when Henderson sprang Suarez clear through the middle he should have done better than lift his shot onto the roof of the net.

Owen Coyle sent on Mark Davies for Muamba on 26 minutes and the change appeared to be forced by a change of tactics rather than injury.

Four minutes later, Liverpool right-back Martin Kelly limped off to be replaced by Skrtel.

Mark Davies finally gave Bolton's fans something to get excited about with a clever charge forward, but his shot lacked the power to trouble Reina.

But Kuyt finished another flowing Liverpool move by firing an angled drive just too high. Liverpool were furious when referee Lee Probert failed to punish Greтар Steinsson's handball with a penalty - although replays proved he got it right with the offence taking place inches outside the area.

On the opening day, Liverpool paid for failing to make the most of their early dominance as Sunderland came back to take a point.

Not this time.

Seven minutes after the break, Skrtel steamed in to leap higher than Knight to bulge the net with an unstoppable header. And a minute later, Adam left Reo-Coker trailing as he strode forward from midfield to fire a low right-footed shot through Knight's legs to leave Jaaskelainen stranded.

Referee Probert got it right again when he turned a deaf ear to Kop screams after Paul Robinson's tackle Suarez legally left Suarez in a heap.

Dalglish made sure that Suarez and Henderson both got the standing ovation they deserved by substituting the pair 14 minutes from time.

Bolton grabbed a consolation through Ivan Klasnic, but it was never going to deny Liverpool a glorious day.

MULLOCK'S VERDICT

Liverpool are making pulses race once more with their brand of football. Bolton were poor and lucky not to get the kind of hammering that can really hurt.

The Bolton News

WANDERERS were thumped by Liverpool's new boys on a torrid evening for Owen Coyle's men.

Jordan Henderson opened the scoring before two goals from Martin Skrtel and Charlie Adam in the space of two minutes at the start of the second half ended the contest.

Ivan Klasnic grabbed an injury-time consolation for the beleaguered Whites. Bolton had not won at Anfield since 1954 - and they never looked like ending that poor run as the outstanding Adam, signed from Blackpool over the summer, pulled the strings in midfield.

Henderson scored his first goal for the rampant Reds when he curled home the opener on 15 minutes.

Martin Petrov's volley stung Pepe Reina's palms with Wanderers only shot on target in a one-side encounter.

Luis Suarez caused the visitors all kind of problems and missed a great chance to make it two before half time.

But Liverpool doubled their lead on 52 minutes when substitute Skrtel lost Greтар Steinsson to head home Adam's corner.

The playmaker opened his Reds account moments later when he drilled a shot past Jussi Jaaskelainen on his less favoured right foot.

Suarez fired into the side netting as the Merseysiders threatened to run riot - and only some wayward finishing and sympathetic refereeing from Lee Probert ensured Wanderers did not suffer further misery.

Bolton had the last word when Petrov pounced on Carragher's error to set up Klasnic for his third goal of the season.

Liverpool: Reina, Enrique, Agger, Suarez (Carroll 77), Henderson (Maxi 77), Kuyt, Downing, Lucas, Carragher, Adam, Kelly (Skrtel 30). Subs not used: Spearing, Doni, Shelvey, Robinson.

Wanderers: Jaaskelainen, Steinsson, Robinson, Cahill, Muamba (M Davies 26), Eagles (Tuncay 57), Petrov, Knight, K Davies (Pratley 72), Klasnic, Reo-Coker. Subs not used: Bogdan, Blake, Wheeler, Riley.

Booked: Steinsson, Klasnic, Robinson.

Referee: Lee Probert. Attendance: 44,725.