

Date: 5 November 2011 Opposition: Swansea City Competition: League	Mail	Telegraph	Times	Guardian	Sunday Mirror		5 November 2011
	Echo	Independent	Mail on Sunday	Sunday Times	Observer		
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THE TIMES

Swansea provide value for money

Liverpool 0
Swansea City 0

Referee: P Dowd. Attendance: 45,013

TONY BARRETT

In May 2005 when Liverpool came from three goals down against AC Milan to win the Champions League, Swansea City were beginning a renaissance of their own with a 1-0 victory over Bury that earned them promotion to League One. While the former is singled out as one of the greatest comebacks in the history of the game, the latter went comparatively unheralded, but the evidence at Anfield on Saturday was that it is the Welsh club and not their English counterparts who have made the most of their new beginning.

A further two promotions have brought Swansea back to the top flight and far from being cowed by their new surroundings, they are revelling in them and the point they earned against Liverpool was the least they deserved for a compelling passing display that did great credit to Brendan Rodgers, their highly impressive manager.

Liverpool, by contrast, are back to where they were before the Champions League glory that should have been the harbinger of yet more success, scrambling around in an attempt to return to an elite that seems only to become more distant the greater their desperation becomes.

Since Rodgers took over at the Liberty Stadium almost 18 months ago, Swansea have spent in the region of [pounds sterling]10 million to achieve their dream objective of Barclays Premier League stability. In the same period, Liverpool have shelled out almost [pounds sterling]150 million. On this evidence, it is the upstarts who are getting a much greater return on their limited investment than the one-time superpower are from their lavish outlay.

While Leon Britton, who returned to Swansea from Sheffield United for [pounds sterling]400,000 last year, and Joe Allen, a youth-team product who performed with such style that he made his manager's prediction that he could play for a top-four club appear realistic, were the game's outstanding performers, Liverpool's expensively assembled cast fluffed their lines. Jordan Henderson was withdrawn at half-time, Andy Carroll lasted only 20 minutes longer and Stewart Downing can count himself fortunate to have completed the course of the game having delivered yet another sub-standard performance. Even Luis Suarez, an unquestioned success, was affected by the malaise among those around him, delivering comfortably his least effective display since signing.

One of the most telling statistics to emerge from Sir Alex Ferguson's silver jubilee is that in the 25 years he has been at Manchester United, Liverpool have spent more money. Whenever a weakness has emerged in their squad, they have splashed the cash, but rarely to the desired effect. They have spent much of the past two decades running to stand still and they have yet to give any clear signal that they are about to escape their treadmill of underachievement.

"Unacceptable" was Kenny Dalglish's assessment of Liverpool's latest showing. The Kop delivered an altogether harsher verdict with a smattering of boos greeting their third successive home draw. That it occurred in front of John W. Henry made the result even more untimely, particularly given that Liverpool's principal owner began the season with a declaration that he was targeting a return to the Champions League and that a failure to do so would be "a major disappointment".

Liverpool are only three points off fourth-placed Chelsea, so their target remains in sight, but improvement is required. A muddled tactical approach that set out to get the best out of Carroll and Suarez but ended up serving neither needs reassessment and a selection policy that gives expensive acquisitions precedence over previously solid citizens has yet to yield the kind of results that Dalglish or his demanding superiors are seeking. The potential for development remains, however, and the relative ease with which Swansea earned their point merely illustrated that the road to redemption is likely to be more arduous than expected.

"This wasn't a game where we were hanging on for long spells and have had to be incredibly defensive," Rodgers said. "We had good possession for long periods and created chances, and with a little bit more good fortune we might have put those away."

Liverpool also had their fair share of opportunities, notably when Carroll hit the crossbar in the early stages, but Dalglish refused to hide behind that miss. "Maybe if the chance goes in early doors, it would change the complexion," he said. "We give credit to Swansea but we have to look at ourselves. Anything we are good at we didn't do much of it today. That level of performance is not acceptable."

the guardian

Carroll gives Liverpool new kind of 'Tosh': Liverpool 0 Swansea City 0

The pre-match Remembrance silence here evoked all sorts of memories, of football's past, as well as the fallen. The last time these teams met at Anfield at top level, 28 years ago, Bill Shankly had just died and when the players lined up in an emotional demonstration of respect for the great man the Swansea City manager, John Toshack, stripped off his tracksuit top to reveal his old Liverpool shirt.

Halcyon days, for both clubs. Liverpool were champions that season, as they usually were in that era, and in trying to bring back the good times Kenny Dalglish has sought to replicate the old Toshack-Keegan spearhead with another little and large pairing, Andy Carroll and Luis Suarez.

Unfortunately for all concerned, whereas the excellent Suarez may be Keegan's equal, Carroll is "Tosh" only in the pejorative sense. The pounds 35m recruit from Newcastle United more closely resembles the white elephant that was Gerard Houllier's Erik Meijer (no league goals in 24 games).

Liverpool were poor - Dalglish's own description - on Saturday, outplayed for embarrassing periods by the Premier League newcomers whose entire team cost well under pounds 10m. The quality of the Swans' pacy passing game was such that the home crowd applauded them off at the end. Liverpool, in contrast, made their heads-down exit to desultory booing.

Dalglish's red army of supporters mostly accept that these are early days, that "King" Kenny is only 10 months into his reign, but many were expecting better progress from a squad reinforced at a gross cost of pounds 110m. Draws at home to Sunderland, Norwich City and now Swansea are not what they want.

Dalglish claimed he had not heard the booing, in which case he will have been in a minority of one. The fans made plain their displeasure at the shortcomings of Jordan Henderson and Carroll (combined cost pounds 53m), both of whom were substituted, and the way in which Swansea's unsung midfield outshone their own. Brendan Rodgers, Swansea's manager, felt this was the day his team arrived as fully fledged members of the elite. They had managed one point from six away games previously. "We're little old Swansea and the thought was that we would roll over but I think we've shown we're here to play good football and here to fight."

Man of the match Michel Vorm (Swansea City)

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The Mail

HEADLESS!

DANIEL AGGER delivered a withering assessment of **Liverpool's** latest wasteful Anfield performance and has warned their Champions League ambitions will evaporate with further repeats.

The Denmark defender is usually economical with his words but he did not hold back following a 0-0 draw with **Swansea**, a result which means **Liverpool** have already squandered eight points on home territory from six games this season. 'Sometimes we looked like headless chickens running around after the ball,' said Agger, before cryptically adding. 'I think everyone was angry and disappointed, some more than others, but that is the way it is.' Certainly there was no disguising Agger's fury. Kenny Dalglish selected the same side that had dismantled West Brom seven days earlier but the display was as far removed from the one they had produced in the Black Country as could be.

And therein lies a key point. Despite the significant overhaul that took place this summer, all the old problems that have stymied **Liverpool** in recent years remain. They fall down against sides they should beat, there is an over-reliance on certain individuals and consistency is frustratingly elusive.

Faces may change in the dugout and on the pitch but everything seems to stay the same at Anfield. The more **Liverpool** fail these type of examinations, the more restless the crowd becomes. Teams arrive at the fabled old ground sensing their hosts are vulnerable.

'We were really, really bad,' said Agger. 'When we got the ball we lost it straight away. We were not sharp enough. We did not press well enough. There were so many things that were really disappointing, especially after we played okay last week.

'We have to win these types of games, no matter which kind of team we put out. 'If we play like this, we won't [get back into the top four]. We have got to move up a level or two. I won't say it is not possible, because it is but it is up to the players. We are the only ones who can make a difference. We definitely have to do a lot better.' While **Liverpool** were poor, it would be wrong to overlook a terrific effort from **Swansea**. They played the better football, should have won the game had Mark Gower shown some composure when he had the Kop goal at his mercy and never flinched in the face of a late rally.

'This is a difficult place to come, so for us to play how we played, get a clean sheet and a point was a fantastic,' enthused **Swansea's** impressive manager Brendan Rodgers. 'I like my teams to be technical and tactically organised and understand their job, but psychologically this was important.' Saturday's draw, coupled with Anfield stalemates against Sunderland and Manchester United at home, means the Reds have dropped eight points at home already this season and manager Kenny Dalglish knows that is not good enough.

'You are better drawing one, losing one and winning one because you get more points than three draws,' admitted the Scot.

'But my perspective has never changed. We look forward to the next game, take each one as it comes and eventually add up the points and see where we are.' It is not as if Dalglish's side have not been creating chances. Even against the Swans -- whose own performance earned them many plaudits -- they could have won comfortably.

The tone was set when Andy Carroll blasted Stewart Downing's left-wing cross at the crossbar from six yards with less than 10 minutes on the clock.

They also found visiting goalkeeper Michel Vorm in great form, denying Luis Suarez with one low save in the first half before producing two brilliant efforts to keep out the Uruguay striker and a fierce Glen Johnson volley moments before the final whistle.

That aspect does not concern Dalglish as much as the way his team allowed themselves to be dominated and occasionally outplayed by the Barclays Premier League newcomers.

'The most important thing is to create the chances and the next thing is to put them away,' he added.

'We go through this nearly after every game.

'But the problems that are there are problems that we can solve ourselves.'

The Daily Telegraph

Carroll fails to strike the right chord with fans

Liverpool 0 Swansea City 0

Att: 45,013

Andy Carroll's number was up after 75 minutes. As he headed for the tunnel, he received a verbal volley from one of his own fans which was plainly more accurate than the one with which he had hit the bar earlier. It was a prickly afternoon at Anfield. Kenny Dalglish described his team's performance as "unacceptable".

Defender Daniel Agger said Liverpool played like headless chickens and would have "no chance" of qualifying for the Champions League on the basis of such miserable form. Swansea manager Brendan Rodgers left Merseyside having left a dent on the bodywork of Dalglish's stalling bandwagon. No one is talking about the concept of a 'feelgood factor' at Liverpool anymore, and the sense of perplexity at how the bulk of [pounds sterling]110million has been spent is spilling over into pockets of irritation.

Carroll is the easiest target because of his [pounds sterling]35million fee, his lack of mobility, the tactical disruption his presence alongside Luis Suarez causes and because the sheer will to see him succeed makes dreadful displays like this infuriating. He has scored some goals recently, but this arrangement does not look right.

Carroll would surely admit it himself. It is not entirely the former Newcastle striker's fault. Ever since Carroll signed, there have been muf-fled whispers of "Stan Collymore". That was the last time Liverpool broke the club's transfer record on a striker who looked the business elsewhere, only to discover they didn't have a clue how to make him fit into their own system.

Their failure to beat yet another newly-promoted side was not solely due to Carroll's eighth-minute miss, when he struck the woodwork from six yards. Stewart Downing is capable of more than he is showing and Jordan Henderson was removed from another painful outing at half-time. His lack of confidence is excruciating to witness. The youngster appears to be adhering to rugby union rules whereby he fears a penalty if he makes a forward pass. There is more sympathy than despair with Henderson, given how little opportunity he has had in his favoured central midfield role.

Charlie Adam and Lucas Leiva are too slow, unable to track runners when they lose possession and expecting too much time on the ball when they have it. Swansea's Leon Britton ran the centre of the park for long periods. "You are better drawing one, losing one and winning one because you get more points than three draws," admitted Dalglish.

With Wayne Routledge a persistent threat, Rodgers's side created enough opportunities to win, so his pride at getting a draw seemed a little surprising. Midfielder Mark Gower, who shot over with the goal at his mercy with seven minutes remaining, did not sound like a man in the mood to celebrate.

"It was horrible really. I snatched at it and I reckon I'm going to be thinking about that chance for a long, long time to come," he said. "In that one moment I have to confess the Kop suddenly got a lot bigger and the goal got a lot smaller.

"How often am I going to get a chance like that at the Kop end, a chance to become a bit of a hero? I'm devastated, but I'm going to have to make sure I don't dwell on it."

It will be Dalglish doing most of the pondering during the international break, especially with Chelsea and Manchester City on the horizon.

THE INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

Vorm exposes old Liverpool failing

It was the new faces in the Premier League that were Liverpool's undoing last season, when they were beaten four times by newly promoted teams, thereby failing to gather points that, in their manager's estimation, might have cost them a Champions' League place.

On the evidence of this season, it is a malaise that still afflicts them. After Swansea followed the example of Norwich two weeks ago by leaving Anfield with a point, Liverpool's recent record against teams just up from the Championship stands at three wins in 11 matches.

Swansea, picking up only their second point in six away matches, were under the cosh for a considerable proportion of the action and Michel Vorm, their Dutch goalkeeper, had to make saves of the highest quality to keep a clean sheet, two of them inside the last two minutes of regulation time as even Glen Johnson, the right-back, threw himself into Liverpool's efforts to break the deadlock.

Yet their opponents, who played some good football, might on the other hand have gone away with a win had Mark Gower, set up by a deft header by Danny Graham with six minutes left, not blazed the ball into the Kop.

"We took a real step forward today," the Swansea manager, Brendan Rodgers, said. "It was a performance that shows we are growing into this League and it fills me with great pride. At Wolves in our last away game we were outstanding but we had a two-goal lead and did not manage to close out the game. We had a bit of luck but we proved we could come to a ground like this and withstand the pressure."

And pressure there was. Liverpool, without the injured Steven Gerrard, had 17 attempts on goal. Luis Suarez was twice foiled by Vorm, who saved his most spectacular intervention until last, bending his back to tip Johnson's volley over the bar.

But, as Kenny Dalglish emphasised, it was not good enough. The Liverpool manager took off both the striker Andy Carroll and midfielder Jordan Henderson - collectively worth [pounds sterling]51 million - in the second half and concluded that it was a performance that was "not acceptable".

"I was disappointed with the way we played," he said. "The things that we do well we did not do today. We are usually good at passing and moving but there was not a lot of that and when we did get the ball we gave it away. We have to realise that that level of performance is not acceptable."

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Liverpool ought to have been ahead in the eighth minute. A one-two with Charlie Adam sent Stewart Downing into space on the left and the England winger's low cross found Carroll but the [pounds sterling]35 million striker crashed the ball against the crossbar.

Yet when they were able to venture forward, Swansea looked dangerous themselves, with Gower and Joe Allen working the ball confidently in central midfield and the wide players, Wayne Routledge and Nathan Dyer, threatening with their pace on the flanks. It was from a clever pass from Routledge that Graham almost beat Jose Reina to the ball midway through the first half. Liverpool did have the ball in the net once but Dirk Kuyt was correctly flagged offside. The last time Swansea were here, in 1990, they conceded eight in an FA Cup tie. On this showing, Liverpool might have needed another 90 minutes just to get one.

Liverpool (4-4-2): Reina; Johnson, Skrtel, Agger, Jose Enrique; Henderson (Kuyt, h-t), Lucas, Adam, Downing; Suarez, Carroll (Bellamy, 75).

Swansea City (4-1-4-1): Vorm; Rangel, Monk, Williams, Taylor; Britton; Dyer, Gower (Agustien, 90), Allen, Routledge (Sinclair, 74); Graham.

Referee: Phil Dowd

Man of the match: Vorm (Swansea)

Match rating: 7/10



Agger reveals home truths about 'headless' Liverpool

Squandered opportunities continue to haunt Liverpool. They may be unbeaten in six Premier League matches since the sending-off of Charlie Adam prefaced a 4-0 thumping at Tottenham but that sequence includes six points dropped at home, of which only the two surrendered to Manchester United can be excused.

Swansea joined Norwich as the second promoted club to hold them at Anfield after a Liverpool performance that leaves a number of questions still unanswered, not least those relating to the premium prices paid for Andy Carroll and Jordan Henderson, neither of whom completed the 90 minutes.

Henderson lasted only one half before giving way to Dirk Kuyt, and while Carroll at least survived until the final 16 minutes it was the memory of the miss of the afternoon that accompanied his departure.

Kenny Dalglish, frustrated by the failure of his [pounds sterling]100m team, again missing the injured Steven Gerrard, called the performance "unacceptable" but you suspected he was suppressing his real thoughts. Daniel Agger, though, clearly was not, branding Liverpool "headless chickens".

"We were really, really bad," the Danish centre-half admitted. "When we got the ball we lost it straight away. We were not sharp enough, we did not press well enough. There were so many things that were really disappointing, especially after we played OK last week.

"Sometimes we looked like headless chickens running around after the ball.

Winning two games out of six at home is a record that speaks for itself. It is far from good enough. It is not an excuse [to say the team is still gelling]. We have to win these type of games, no matter which kind of team we put out.

"If we are to make the top four, we have got to move up a level or two. I won't say it is not possible, because it is. But it is up to the players. We definitely have to do a lot better."

While it is true that Carroll - who managed to hit the crossbar from just four yards out after Stewart Downing had set him up to give Liverpool an eighth-minute lead - is facing a task almost as steep as the former Sunderland midfielder Henderson to ever look value for money, there are some reasons to believe that Liverpool, collectively, are closer to becoming a power than some would accept.

The measure of a team's ability is often to be found in the number of goal chances it creates and, by that reckoning, Liverpool, with former Blackpool captain Adam increasingly pulling the strings, are already in the leading group.

Only Manchester City and Chelsea, marginally, have mustered more shots on target this season. No individual, meanwhile, has had more goal attempts than Luis Suarez, who would have added to his tally of seven goals so far had Swansea's Michel Vorm not been in brilliant form.

The Dutch goalkeeper saved twice from the Uruguayan and once, superbly, from a last-minute volley by Glen Johnson that almost stole the game.

Swansea looked a dangerously creative force themselves when Joe Allen, a fine central midfielder, and the wide players Nathan Dyer and Wayne Routledge were involved. They performed very well and probably deserved their point. But the margin between that and a Liverpool win, in fact, was a narrow one.

LIVERPOOL 0-0 SWANSEA

Substitutes: Liverpool Kuyt 7 (Henderson, h-t), Bellamy (Carroll, 75). Swansea City Sinclair 6 (Routledge, 72), Agustien (Gower, 90).

Booked: Liverpool Adam, Agger.

Swansea Taylor, Williams..

Man of the match Vorm. Match rating 7/10.

Possession Liverpool 44% Swansea 54%.

Attempts on target Liverpool 10 Swansea 3.

Referee P Dowd (Staffordshire).

Attendance 45,013.



HEADLESS CHICKENS; Agger sticks a dagger into Kenny's men as they suffer another bout of home sickness

SWANSEA 0 PREMIER LEAGUE: LIVERPOOL 0

JUST two wins from six home games means Liverpool may be already out of the title race.

More pertinently, in a season of transition, that statistic suggests they will struggle to finish in the top four, given that Arsenal and Spurs are both showing much improved form.

That may sound harsh, given the campaign is barely a third gone, but these are the views of Liverpool defender Daniel Agger, whose brutally honest assessment after this draw with Swansea illuminated the disappointment within their ranks. Players stormed out of Anfield after dropping yet more points to a newly-promoted team, others raged at their omission from the starting line-up or early substitution.

Agger chose to express his frustration differently. He held his hands up and admitted the result simply was not good enough for a team with the aspirations of Liverpool.

"Sometimes we looked like headless chickens running around after the ball," he conceded with a bitter shrug.

"It was far from good enough and I don't know how we can drop that far in one week.

"We were really, really bad, and our record at home so far speaks for itself. It is nowhere near good enough. We have to win these types of games, no matter which kind of team we put out. We are Liverpool. We have to win our home games.

"If we play like this, we won't finish in the top four. We have got to move up a level or two. I won't say it's impossible, because it still is possible but it is up to the players.

We are the only ones who can make a difference. We definitely have to do a lot better."

Liverpool have already dropped home points this season to Sunderland, Norwich and now Swansea, as well as Manchester United. They were also lucky to get all three from the visit of Wolves.

Contrast that with United's title-winning run at Old Trafford last season, where they only dropped two points all campaign.

It is easy to see where Liverpool are suffering, and if it is hardly a new problem, given it has afflicted them for much of the past decade and beyond.

These are different players from those of Hodgson, Benitez and Houllier, who routinely dropped points to apparently inferior sides on home turf, and yet they have swiftly developed the same affliction.

Is it because they have similar mental weaknesses, or because the Anfield crowd expect too much from them? Are visiting sides emboldened by a glimpse of that famous sign in the tunnel, or is it a question of collective temperament?

It is probably a combination of these things and in the case of this latest disappointment, also because Swansea played very well. Indeed, things could have been worse for Liverpool, because they were lucky not to lose in the end. Liverpool did create chances, most notably for Andy Carroll and Lucas, who both missed the target from close range.

But so did Swansea, who by the letter of the law should have been awarded a penalty, and had a glorious chance right at the end to snatch the winner.

It fell to midfielder Mark Gower and "snatch" is certainly the appropriate word, because in his panicked hurry he missed the goal by a country mile.

Gower said: "In that moment the Kop suddenly got a lot bigger and the goal got a lot smaller.

"It was horrible really. I snatched at it and I reckon I'm going to be thinking about that chance for a long, long time.

"Let's face it, how often am I going to get a chance like that at the Kop end, a chance to become a hero? I'm devastated, but it shouldn't detract from our performance.

"We honestly came here with some confidence, with the belief we could get something from the game and the way we played, we deserved to get something from the game.

"This has given us even more belief and none of us can wait to play Manchester United at home in the next game.

It's a shame it is two weeks away - we're all counting down the hours."

GRIM VIEWING, KENNY ROY HODGSON'S HOME RECORD Premier League August 2010 to January 2011 Played: 10 Won: 6 Drawn: 2 Lost: 2 Points dropped: 10 % of points dropped: 33% KENNY DALGLISH'S HOME RECORD Premier League January 2011 onwards. Played: 15 Won: 8 Drawn: 6 Lost: 1 Points dropped: 15 % of points dropped: 33%

LIVERPOOL: Reina 6, Johnson 6, Skrtel 6, Agger 6?, Enrique 7, Henderson 5 (Kuyt 46, 6), Lucas 5, Adam 7?, Downing 7, Suarez 6, Carroll 6 (Bellamy 70, 6). Goal: Watson 21pen SWANSEA: Vorm 8, Rangel 7, Monk 8, Williams 8, Taylor 7?, Dyer 8, Gower 6 (Agustien 90), Britton 7, Allen 6, Routledge 6 (Sinclair 70, 6), Graham 7. REFEREE: Phil Dowd ATTENDANCE: 45,013

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Reds run out of excuses as more Anfield points are dropped
 THEY walked off to a standing ovation from all four sides of Anfield.
 It was a warm tribute to a performance brimming with the slick pass and move philosophy supporters had paid good money to watch.
 Sadly, Liverpool's players were nowhere in sight. As Swansea City took a deserved bow, the inquest began in the Reds' dressing room into another underwhelming home result. For the third time in succession, Kenny Dalglish's side had to settle for a share of the spoils at Anfield.
 The newly-promoted Swans joined Sunderland, Manchester United and Norwich on the growing list of clubs to depart with something to show for their efforts. Alarmingly, Liverpool have won just two of their six home league games. Eight points have been carelessly squandered. So much for Fortress Anfield.
 On previous occasions this season the Reds have had good reason to feel aggrieved. Big decisions haven't gone their way and they've dominated matches but failed to make it count. Saturday was different. This was no hard luck story. There was no moral victory or a stack of positives to take away.
 Swansea fully deserved their point and would have taken all three but for some slack finishing. Brendan Rodgers' side added to their army of admirers with a gutsy display. Well organised defensively and creative in midfield, they deserve great credit but the fact is they were allowed to shine by Liverpool's acute failure to impose themselves on the contest. This is the same Swansea team who have already been hammered 4-0 at Manchester City and 4-1 at Chelsea.
 The Reds' principal owner John Henry would have anticipated a similar outcome when he took his seat in the Anfield directors box on Saturday.
 But if the American was hoping to see the fruits of this year's £110million spending spree he was left feeling short-changed.
 Dalglish's post-match assessment was refreshingly honest. No excuses were made.
 "We have to look at ourselves and realise that level of performance is not acceptable," he said.
 "We'll sort it behind closed doors. We can pass it a lot better than that. There's things to work on."
 Frustratingly, most of that work will have to wait until a week on Wednesday when his squad reassembles after the international break.
 A swift improvement is required as Liverpool face a crunch nine days at the end of this month with two trips to Stamford Bridge sandwiched by a home league clash with leaders Manchester City. Liverpool's home form is cause for concern and so is a poor return of just 14 goals from 11 league matches.
 But the fact remains they are only three points adrift of fourth place and Champions League qualification is still an attainable aim. Anyone with any loftier targets for this season is dreaming.
 It was hard to believe on Saturday this was the same eleven who had comprehensively outplayed West Brom a week earlier.
 The passing was slack and the movement virtually non-existent. Possession was carelessly and repeatedly tossed away.
 How Liverpool missed the drive, energy and invention of skipper Steven Gerrard, whose return in midfield can't come soon enough.
 Of course things could have panned out very differently had Andy Carroll not spurned a glorious chance to put the Reds in front early on.
 The big frontman inexplicably fired Stewart Downing's cross against the bar from six yards out. It was an awful miss and Carroll, who headed straight down the tunnel after being brought off for Craig Bellamy in the second half, failed to build on his eye-catching performances at Stoke and West Brom.
 Luis Suarez also struggled to reach the heights he's been at recently but the service to him was virtually non-existent.
 The Uruguayan still looked the most likely to provide a moment of inspiration.
 One thumping 25-yarder flew narrowly wide before Michel Vorm denied him with a fine low save. However, Liverpool were never in control and as the first half wore on the Swans grew in confidence.
 Wingers Wayne Routledge and Nathan Dyer cost a combined total of just £2.5million but they gave so much more than either Jordan Henderson or Downing. It was Routledge's cross-shot which Pepe Reina had to parry away and then Joe Allen went close before the break.
 The atmosphere was flat from the start and as frustration levels grew in the stands it seemed to transmit to the players. There was an edginess to Liverpool and the mistakes just kept on coming.
 Dalglish responded by replacing the ineffective Henderson with Dirk Kuyt at the start of the second half but he couldn't kick-start the Reds.
 Swansea, who had been hammered 8-0 on their previous visit to Anfield 21 years earlier, smelt blood. They not only contained the hosts but pressed in search of a famous victory which wouldn't have flattered them.
 Pepe Reina joined an exclusive club on Saturday. He now boasts 150 clean sheets for Liverpool and only legends Ray Clemence and Bruce Grobbelaar have achieved that feat.

This was also the first time he hadn't been beaten on home soil this season but the Spaniard didn't look like someone in the mood to celebrate.
 Reina was hardly any more convincing than the team-mates who struggled in front of him.
 He allowed Agger's backpass to slip under his boot and across the face of goal but recovered just in time to deny Danny Graham and spare his blushes.
 The keeper made life difficult for himself again when he spilled Dyer's shot and then smothered Graham's attempt to net the rebound.
 Reina should have been taken out of the equation with six minutes to go but Mark Gower's composure deserted him and he lashed his shot into the Kop.
 Liverpool summoned a late flourish with Kuyt's header correctly ruled out for offside before Vorm pulled off two stunning saves from Suarez and Glen Johnson. A winner would have been undeserved.
 Reds fans showed their class by burying their disappointment to salute Swansea after the final whistle. They are getting used to seeing inferior teams walk away from Anfield undefeated.
 It's a habit Liverpool need to kick and fast because it's undermining their season. "I was disappointed with the way we played. The things that we do well we did not do today. We are usually good at passing and moving but there was not a lot of that and when we did get the ball we gave it away. We have to realise that that level of performance is not acceptable," KENNY DALGLISH reflects on a poor Liverpool performance.
 "Today was a chance to show we have now grown into the league. To put in a performance like that at a big club with top players fills me with great pride. I thought we were outstanding. We got a bit of fortune early on but I don't think there was anything lucky about the result or the performance," BRENDAN RODGERS hails his Swansea players' display.
 LIVERPOOL (4-4-2): Reina, Johnson, Skrtel, Agger, Enrique, Henderson (Kuyt 46), Lucas, Adam, Downing, Carroll (Bellamy 75), Suarez. Not used: Doni, Maxi, Coates, Spearing, Kelly.
 SWANSEA (4-5-1): Vorm, Rangel, Monk, Williams, Taylor, Gower (Agustien 90), Britton, Allen, Routledge (Sinclair 74), Dyer, Graham. Not used: Tremmel, Lita, Moore, Richards, Moras.
 CARDS: Booked – Adam, Agger (Liverpool); Williams, Taylor (Swansea).
 REFEREE: Phil Dowd (Staffordshire).
 ATTENDANCE: 45,013.



BRENDAN Rodgers had tears in his eyes before a ball had been kicked at Anfield this weekend. But there was nothing to cry about at the final whistle after Swansea City notched up perhaps the finest result yet in their thrilling Premier League adventure. The club who were 92nd in the land a mere eight years ago had drawn against the one crowned best in Europe a couple of seasons later. A team built on around £10 million — and featuring a clutch of players who did not cost a penny — had just matched a side whose right-back alone cost about around twice that sum.
 Oh, and it was in the big club's back yard, which happens to be one of the most revered football grounds of all. For some to suggest that this result was no big deal — and any Swans fan listening to Stan Collymore on the way home knows that happened — was bordering on the absurd. Liverpool, they of 18 league championships and five European Cups, may not be the force they were a couple of decades back. But in the deep blue sea of English football, they are a whale compared to the minnows from Wales, whose trophy cabinet features a couple of lower-league titles and two Football League trophies.
 Rodgers's reaction just to being on Merseyside, standing toe to toe with Kenny Dalglish and Co, illustrated the chasm between this weekend's competitors.
 "There was a real excitement for me and for our club about coming here," the Swansea manager said. "I was standing there when You'll Never Walk Alone was going round the ground before kick-off, and it was a real tear-jerker for me and my staff. "But we had a job to do, and I think psychologically this was a really good point for us."
 Through nearly 20 years in coaching, Rodgers conceded, there have not been many matches where he has been close to a blub even before the first whistle. "I've never cried before kick-off," he said through a grin, "but maybe there have been a few where I cried during the game or afterwards."
 No wonder Rodgers was smiling. Swansea are still without an away win this season and, despite this point, have the worst record on the road in the division. But of their six league games away from SA1, only Norwich City goes down as a real off day.
 Defeats at Manchester City, Arsenal and Chelsea are entirely understandable, while Swansea emerged from Wolves with a point when they should have had all three. Another reverse at Liverpool would have been par for the course given the contrast between the clubs, but Swansea competed so admirably with their hosts that the locals clapped them off at the end. Many Scousers had already exited, but thousands remained in the stadium and, almost to a man, they applauded Rodgers's charges.

Date: 5 November 2011 Opposition: Swansea City Competition: League	Mail	Telegraph	Times	Guardian	Sunday Mirror		5 November 2011
	Echo	Independent	Mail on Sunday	Sunday Times	Observer		
		Mirror	Sun Telegraph	Sun Independent	Evening Post		

"I'd like to thank the Liverpool supporters for their class," the Northern Irishman said. "They know a team who can play football, and I don't think there are many who will come here and get that reaction. That was a mark of our performance." Swansea might have been beaten, for Andy Carroll should have netted but hit the bar early on and Michel Vorm made a handful of key saves.

But then the visitors might have won it, with Danny Graham threatening on a couple of occasions before teeing up Mark Gower for Swansea's best opportunity of the day six minutes from the end.

Under pressure from Daniel Agger, the midfielder slashed his left-foot half-volley over the top and the chance to chalk up one of the great Swansea victories had gone. But Welsh heads were not down, for the draw was rousing enough.

"Psychologically it's just as big as any of the wins we have had at home," reckoned Rodgers. "I like my team to be tactically and technically organised, but being right psychologically is very important too.

"When you come to a fantastic club like Liverpool, with the history they have got, and perform like we did, it gives you great belief." And it should help when Swansea return to action after the international break, against Manchester United. In the Premier League, the mouthwatering fixtures come thick and fast. There were some who said Swansea would not be able to cope, that they would sink without trace at this level like the lead weights of Derby County a few years back. It remains early in the season — only 11 of the 38 league games have been played — but Rodgers's men are doing a good impression of a top-flight side so far. Key to their early-season success? Undoubtedly the passing style which makes them a different proposition from so many other sides on these shores.

"A lot of these players are League Two players," Rodgers pointed out.

"But they play in a system that I have 150 per cent inherent belief in and they know what they have to do and what they can bring to that system.

"Someone like Leon (Britton) just shows you that there's lots of talent in this country if you are playing the right system.

"He went to Sheffield United, who play a certain way, and that probably didn't suit him. But he came back to us and you can see his calmness and his intelligence. "He controlled the game alongside Mark Gower, who was playing for Barnet and Southend earlier in his career, and Joe Allen, who is a top talent."

Allen might ask for an umbrella this Christmas, for not a week seems to go by right now without the young Welshman getting caught in a shower of plaudits.

"He can play for a top-four team," Rodgers boomed. "I have been fortunate to work with big players in my career, and Joe has got the lot.

"He can pass, he can run, he can deal with the ball, he's physically strong, tough mentally and he doesn't do stupid things. For a player of 21, he's a massive talent."

Watched by Gary Speed on Saturday, Allen heads off with his country this week on the back of another high-class performance.

Wales's manager would also have been impressed by the efforts of Neil Taylor and Ashley Williams, for this was a day when Swansea produced all across the pitch.

As was the case against Bolton a week earlier, Rodgers could analyse each department of his team and conclude that each delivered.

Vorm was excellent when required, with saves from Luis Suarez — who Swansea contained expertly on the whole — and, in the final minute, Glen Johnson sticking in the memory.

The £1.5 million summer signing from Utrecht looks a shrewder purchase with each week that goes by.

His back four smothered Liverpool's considerable threats, while the midfield three left the natives to lament the absence of Steven Gerrard.

And though they could not find a breakthrough, Swansea's front three also impressed, with Wayne Routledge enjoying his finest day since arriving from Newcastle after getting a chance out wide.

"He played in his best position, out wide, and there's no doubt that was his best game for us," Rodgers said.

Swansea's wealth of options on the wings means Routledge may be back on the bench when United come to town, because by then Scott Sinclair will be over the hamstring problem which saw him start on the bench here.

Neither man will want to miss out, for Rodgers's players are enjoying life right now.

They will line up against Wayne Rooney and the rest with respect but not fear, believing their approach can bring another remarkable result.

"I think the Jack Army will be very proud of the performance we produced against Liverpool," Rodgers added. "And I'm sure they will be looking forward to seeing us take on Manchester United."

Looking forward? More like counting down the days.

The Sunday Telegraph

Rodgers delighted as Kop's frustration grows

Liverpool 0

Swansea 0

Att: 45,013

It is becoming an all too familiar sight at Anfield. Opposing managers marching triumphantly clenching their fist with one hand and clutching a point in the other. Brendan Rodgers joined Steve Bruce and Paul Lambert in a not too exclusive club. Throw in Sir Alex Ferguson and Liverpool have squandered eight home points already.

The difference for Swansea is that there was no fortune in their 0-0 draw. If anything, they could be cursing their own luck as they squandered several opportunities and were controversially denied a penalty by Phil Dowd.

When Daniel Agger fouled Leon Britton on 67 minutes, Dowd adjudged the indiscretion to be outside the box. Television replays suggested otherwise. Nathan Dyer and Mark Gower still should have made amends late, the latter blasting over wastefully.

"We have made a big step forward today. Psychologically it gives us a massive boost going forward," said Rodgers. "To put on a performance like that fills me with pride. We were outstanding and showed incredible belief in our style and philosophy."

The more Swansea adapted to their surroundings, the more they looked like winning. Wayne Routledge and Brittan were outstanding and Pepe Reina was as busy as his opposite number, Michel Vorm.

Liverpool have developed a habit of starting home games well enough, ending them in a frantic finale, but inflicting misery on their fans in the intervening minutes. Their relationship with the woodwork this season has verged on the indecent, and they were reacquainted again after eight minutes.

Charlie Adam and Stewart Downing linked well down the left, and the winger's cross found Andy Carroll six yards out.

Somehow the striker crashed his effort against the woodwork for Liverpool's 11th time this season.

Carroll was subbed for Craig Bellamy 15 minutes from the end but he was not the only new boy who struggled. Jordan Henderson did not last beyond half-time.

Although Luis Suarez was lively, Jose Enrique, the clear triumph of last summer's transfer business, posed the greatest attacking threat apart from the South American. It has been like that all season.

Suarez forced Vorm into two excellent saves and Glen Johnson provoked similar acrobatics in injury time. The rally was too late and a winner would have been harsh on the Swans.

"We have to say that level of performance is not acceptable," said Kenny Dalglish. The mood of disquiet exposed the Kop's frustration, but there was also generous applause for the visitors. Liverpool's supporters, like Dalglish, know they had as much cause to be relieved with a draw as concerned by it.

Liverpool (4-4-2): Reina; Johnson, Agger, Skrtel, Enrique; Henderson (Kuyt 45), Lucas, Adam, Downing; Suarez, Carroll (Bellamy 74). Subs: Doni, Coates, Kelly, Maxi, Spearing.

Booked: Adam, Agger. Swansea (4-1-4-1): Vorm; Taylor, Monk, Williams, Rangel; Britton; Routledge (Sinclair 74), Allen, Gower (Agustien 90), Dyer; Graham. Subs: Tremmel, Moras, Richards, Lita, Moore. Booked: Taylor.

Referee: Phil Dowd (Staffs)

Date: 5 November 2011
 Opposition: Swansea City
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5 November
2011

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Swans outplay Dalglish's damp squibs

LIVERPOOL 0 SWANSEA 0 LEON BRITTON apparently achieved a 100% successful passing record in his previous game. There's a good chance that the midfielder repeated the performance on a day when Swansea City outpassed and even outplayed Liverpool for long parts of this game.

"Anything that we were good at we certainly didn't do too much of today," Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish admitted. "We usually are good at passing and moving - there wasn't a great deal of that. When we got it back, we gave it away quickly. Most of the time when we gave it back to them, they got up the pitch quite well. We have to look at ourselves and accept that that level of performance is not acceptable."

This was a proud day for Brendan Rodgers. The Swans' manager has the bearing of a geography teacher (and was equally obscure until a few seasons ago). But yesterday he got the better of one of the most celebrated figures in British football standing next to him on the touchline. The last time Swansea had been to Anfield, they were beaten 8-0 in an FA Cup third-round replay in 1990.

They would have come away with all three points yesterday had Mark Gower not spurned a great opportunity in the 84th minute, when he was put clean through by a sweet downward header by Danny Graham but blasted over with the goal at his mercy. Still, Swansea were clapped off the field at the end by the Liverpool fans, who appreciated what they had seen from the visitors while watching in growing frustration as their side again fell short. This was their third draw in a row at home.

Liverpool started as though they were ready to tear apart a side who had won plaudits from fans around the country but few points. On seven minutes, a clever through ball from Charlie Adam found Jose Enrique in space down the left. His perfect low cross should have been buried by Andy Carroll, but the centre-forward thumped the ball against the crossbar from 10 yards, with an open goal gaping. In the next 15 minutes, Liverpool created a series of chances, mainly through the work of Enrique and Stewart Downing down the left, but Lucas and Luis Suarez wastefully headed wide and Swansea began to play their way into the game.

In particular Glen Johnson and Jordan Henderson were struggling to cope with Wayne Routledge. It was hardly surprising that Henderson was replaced at half-time by Dirk Kuyt, much to the delight of the crowd, but anxiety quickly began to grow around Anfield. Swansea strung together lengthy passing moves that were far more effective than long clearances in relieving the pressure, and, driven on by Routledge and Sian Britton, they began to wrestle the ascendancy from their more celebrated opponents. Pepe Reina almost let Graham in when he miscontrolled a back pass, then Joe Allen shot wide on 60 minutes.

With Liverpool struggling to cope with Swansea's movement, the Welsh side carved out two excellent chances. The first fell to Nathan Dyer. He was cleverly played through by Routledge but Reina was perfectly positioned to stop his shot. A cameo by Ashley Williams a minute later typified their performance. The big centre-half, built like a Ospreys second row, played a delightful cross ball to Dyer, whose shot was spilled by Reina. But the goalkeeper did well to recover and block the follow-up from Graham. At the other end, Williams recovered to clear out Suarez with an excellent tackle.

Then came Gower's chance, before Liverpool produced a late onslaught that saw Dirk Kuyt put the ball in the goal, only to be correctly ruled offside by referee's assistant Sian Massey offside. Michel Vorm in the Swansea goal then did superbly in coming off his line to relieve the pressure. With substitute Craig Bellamy starting to make inroads, Vorm also produced an excellent save from Johnson on 90 minutes. After that, Swansea held out comfortably enough, giving their supporters a point that they celebrated as though they had just been promoted again.

"We made a big step forward today," said Rodgers. "You come to Anfield and there is big pressure, so for our players who have just been promoted to come and show that confidence and belief in our style and philosophy was incredible. There aren't too many teams who walk off here and get a round of applause from the Anfield support, and that marked the level of our performance today."

Star man: Wayne Routledge (Swansea) Yellow cards: Liverpool: Adam, Agger Swansea: Taylor Referee: P Dowd Attendance: 45,013 Liverpool: Reina 6, Johnson 5, Jose Enrique 7, Agger 6, Skrtel 6, Henderson 4 (Kuyt h-t, 6), Downing 6, Lucas 5, Adam 6, Suarez 5, Carroll 5 (Bellamy 74min) Swansea City: Vorm 8, Williams 7, Taylor 7, Monk 7, Rangel 7, Britton 7, Dyer 7, Routledge 8 (Sinclair 74min), Allen 7, Gower 7 (Agustien 90+2min), Graham 7 SWANSEA'S LAST VISIT TO ANFIELD Swansea left Anfield last night with their heads held high, but it was a different story on their last visit almost 22 years ago. On January 9, 1990, Swans slunk away with their feathers in tatters after being hammered 8-0 by Liverpool's championselect.

Swansea, then in the old Third Division, were destroyed in an FA Cup third-round replay as Ian Rush scored a hat-trick. The Reds completed the rout with a double from John Barnes and further strikes from Ronnie Whelan, Steve Nicol and Peter Beardsley. Times have changed, however. Liverpool haven't won the title since and Swansea now take the field as Premier League equals

TheObserver

Swansea pass with flying colours

LIVERPOOL 0
SWANSEA 0

The last time these two teams met Liverpool won 8-0, but times have changed for Swansea, who were good value for what was only their second away point in the Premier League - even if they did end up heavily indebted to Michel Vorm, who pulled off two outstanding saves in the last two minutes.

Holland's No2 goalkeeper therefore earned the accolades ahead of Pepe Reina, who equalled a record held jointly by Bruce Grobbelaar and Ray Clemence with his 150th clean sheet for Liverpool.

The Swans, to their credit, are going from strength to strength in their debut season in the Premier League, playing football of a quality which is bringing them new admirers everywhere they go. The Anfield cognoscenti, who know a good passing style when they see it, applauded them off at the end.

The Welsh club's manager, Brendan Rodgers, said: "To come to a big club like this and play that well fills me with great pride. I don't think there are too many teams will come and get a round of applause from their supporters at the final whistle. We were outstanding and I don't think there was any luck about the result. My players deserve every plaudit they get."

The home crowd were less impressed by their own team, loudly expressing dissatisfaction in the second half, and it will not have been lost on them that two of Kenny Dalglish's expensive recruits, Jordan Henderson and Andy Carroll, were substituted, to inevitable Welsh choruses of "What a waste of money."

Carroll now has two goals from 10 Premier League appearances and, at pounds 35m, is hardly representing value for money. He should have scored in the seventh minute when he smacked Stewart Downing's cross against the bar from the edge of the six-yard box. This latest haunting miss costing his team two points and a consequent lack of momentum.

"Our performance was disappointing", Dalglish said. "If that chance had gone in early doors it might have changed the way the game went, but anything we're normally good at, there wasn't too much of today. We knew what to expect from them, but we didn't play how I expect us to."

Liverpool were held 1-1 by Norwich in their last home game, and successive draws against promoted teams is not what the fans were anticipating after expenditure of pounds 110m on reinforcements.

Both sides started without influential individuals in Steven Gerrard and Scott Sinclair. Gerrard is now back in training after recovering from the infection in his cut ankle and will be available again when Liverpool resume, at Chelsea, after the international break.

A tweaked hamstring forced Sinclair to drop down to the bench, from where he had a late cameo, but he had hardly been missed. His replacement, Wayne Routledge, was one of the Swans' best performers, quick and incisive on the left flank.

The admirable way in which Wales's finest are settling in at the elite level is reflected in the fact that their midfielder Leon Britton is the only player in the division with 100% pass completion and Mark Gower is the most creative player in Europe's elite leagues, based on chances created.

After Carroll's early miss, the visitors might have taken a first-half lead themselves when Routledge's cross found Danny Graham, whose instinctive, first-time shot was kept out by Reina at full stretch. Most of the excitement, however, was reserved for a frenetic finale, which saw Gower blast over from 10 yards, substitute Dirk Kuyt head home from an offside position, and Vorm repel shots from first Luis Suarez and then Glen Johnson in the last two minutes.

Will Swansea stay up? Dalglish said: "They'll have no trouble, playing like that."

Will Liverpool get back into the Champions League? Not on yesterday's showing.

THEN AND NOW

1990

Liverpool demolish Third Division Swansea 8-0, Ian Rush scores a hat-trick and the visitors slink back to Wales with their record defeat

2011

Liverpool cannot find a way past the Welsh side, the home crowd show dismay and proud visitors head home with a second away point

LIVERPOOL

Reina; Johnson, Agger (Booked), Skrtel, Enrique; Henderson (Kuyt h-t), Lucas, Adam (Booked), Downing; Carroll (Bellamy 74), Suarez. Subs not used Doni, Maxi Rodriguez, Coates, Spearing, Kelly

SWANSEA

Vorm; Rangel, Monk, Williams, Taylor (Booked); Gower (Agustien 90), Britton; Dyer, Allen, Routledge (Sinclair 74), Graham. Subs not used Lita, Moore, Tremmell, Richards, Moras

Anfield 45,013

Game rating 7/10

Referee Phil Dowd

Date: 5 November 2011 Opposition: Swansea City Competition: League	Mail	Telegraph	Times	Guardian	Sunday Mirror		5 November 2011
	Echo	Independent	Mail on Sunday	Sunday Times	Observer		
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Dalglish ignores the Liverpool boo boys

LIVERPOOL 0
SWANSEA 0

LIVERPOOL manager Kenny Dalglish seemed unconcerned that some home fans booed their own team on the final whistle, preferring to reserve their applause for their slick-passing guests from Wales.

Three home draws in succession were too many for a significant number of irate fans. And although Dalglish can play down the crowd's reaction all he likes, the nonsense Scotsman knows this is not Champions League form.

'How many booed? Two? Three? I didn't hear it. I bet less booted than never booted. So there you go. If you're in government, you're out.'

Yet Dalglish could not ignore Liverpool's uncharacteristic performance. 'It was disappointing. Anything we usually do well, we didn't do much of it today. We usually pass well but today we gave it back to them. We've got to look at ourselves and realise that this level of performance isn't acceptable.'

At least Pepe Reina had something to celebrate. He joined Anfield legends Ray Clemence and Bruce Grobbelaar to form an exclusive trio of Liverpool goalkeepers who can boast 150 clean sheets.

Allen (Swansea) Data courtesy of the EA SPORTS Player Performance rating index of the Even that consolation could have disappeared towards the end. Mark Gower blasted over when it looked easier to score, Danny Graham having headed Nathan Dyer's cross into his path. Graham went close late on, when Reina had trouble with Dyer's speculative shot.

At the other end, Michel Vorm produced a spectacular save from a delicious Luis Suarez drive, the inward curl created by the outside of the Uruguayan's boot. And the Dutchman indulged in more acrobatics when Glen Johnson was close to stealing late victory.

But the knowledgeable Anfield supporters knew that would have been rough justice on Swansea, and that is why many stayed to applaud the visitors for sticking to their football principles of neat passing and sweet movement. Visiting manager Brendan Rodgers was more than grateful. He said: 'They know their football and they know when a team can play, so that was a mark of our performance. They showed a touch of class to give us that round of applause at the end, I want to thank them.'

'We made a big step forward today, we've been growing into the Premier League away from home and today we were outstanding. It fills me with pride.' Liverpool should have been ahead as early as the seventh minute, when Stewart Downing's cross found Andy Carroll less than six yards out. Somehow the England striker could only hit the bar.

'If we'd scored that one it might have changed the complexion of the game,' said Dalglish.

Swansea should have gone ahead when Wayne Routledge's curling cross found Graham, but his technique let him down when it mattered. Reina still had to pull off a spectacular save to prevent Routledge's cross from finding the net on its own.

Lucas should have headed home Index, the official player Barclays Premier League an enticing cross from Jose Enrique, but the Brazilian directed his effort wide. The brilliant Routledge made a fool of Jordan Henderson in the 35th minute and casually set up Joe Allen, whose shot skimmed narrowly wide.

Graham was wrongly given offside by the assistant Sian Massey, but the Swansea striker was relieved by her error, so poor was his header in front of goal.

Reina nearly spoiled his big day by taking too long to clear a backpass from Enrique. Graham was only fractions of a second away from making him pay.

Massey made amends for her previous decision by calling Dirk Kuyt narrowly offside as he headed home Daniel Agger's cross. The goal was correctly disallowed, and those generous Liverpool fans knew Swansea deserved a point.

LIVERPOOL (4-2-2-2): Reina; Johnson, Skrtel, Agger, Enrique; Lucas, Adam; Henderson (Kuyt 46min), Downing; Carroll (Bellamy 74), Suarez. Subs (not used): Doni, Maxi, Coates, Spearing, Kelly. Booked: Adam, Agger.

SWANSEA (4-1-4-1): Vorm; Rangel, Monk, Williams, Taylor; Britton; Dyer, Gower (Agustien 90), Allen, Routledge (Sinclair 74); Graham. Subs (not used): Tremmel, Lita, Moore, Richards, Moras. Booked: Taylor.

Referee: P Dowd (Staffordshire).

WHO RAN THE FURTHEST?

Adam (Liverpool) 6.47miles

Allen (Swansea) 6.33miles



Cleless Reds hit buffers; KENNY BLASTS KOP FLOPS AS SWANS TAKE PLAUDITS

LIVERPOOL 0 SWANSEA 0 LIVERPOOL boss Kenny Dalglish tore into his players after Liverpool squandered more home points.

Three consecutive draws at Anfield is scarcely the stuff of a club ready to climb back to the summit of club football and Dalglish made it clear to players their performance was "unacceptable".

Dalglish said: "Our performance was disappointing. Swansea played the way we expected but we certainly didn't play the way we expected.

We've got to look at ourselves. That level of performance is not acceptable.

Everything we're good at, we didn't show it today.

"If we'd scored early on it might have changed the way the game went, but we didn't get in their box often enough. If Swansea play like that they won't have a problem staying up."

Swansea manager Brendan Rodgers hailed his players for matching Liverpool - and the Anfield crowd for showing their appreciation.

Rodgers said: "We've made a big step forward today. We've grown into it and showed we were equipped to come to a big club and put on a big performance.

"We had a little luck early on when they missed a chance, but we created chances and could have nicked it. Credit to the Liverpool fans for showing a bit of class and applauding our players at the end."

Swansea may have given a let off when Andy Carroll hit the bar, yet by the end Liverpool were also relieved to come out of the match unscathed.

Mark Gower blasted over with a winning goal and a place in Swansea folklore beckoning six minutes from time.

Carroll's miss encapsulated Liverpool's inadequate display.

Luis Suarez offered constant danger, but too many of those around him lacked the guile to support him.

As for Swansea, Wayne Routledge was a constant pest for the Liverpool defence and Nathan Dyer was little more sympathetic to Kenny Dalglish's cause on the other flank. The two wide men helped banish the club's last visit to Anfield - an 8-0 FA Cup drubbing in 1990.

Liverpool ought to have heightened Swansea's fears as early as the seventh minute. Stewart Downing's low cross from the left found Carroll, who smashed his shot against the bar from just six yards.

Just when it seemed Swansea had doused the Liverpool fire, Suarez raised Kop voices with a long-range drive that fizzed just wide.

Downing forced Swansea on to the back foot again with a shot deflected behind for a corner. Lucas and Suarez had no more joy with headers.

Swansea survived the bombardment and almost took the lead.

Routledge, already a thorn in Liverpool's right side, wriggled away from three defenders and his intended pass to Danny Graham would have found the net but for Pepe Reina's judgement and agility.

Back came Liverpool and Michel Vorm, in Swansea's goal, matched Reina's brilliance to defy the evermenacing Suarez. Again Swansea responded and Reina was relieved to see Joe Allen's shot skid just beyond the far post.

Dalglish sent on Dirk Kuyt for Jordan Henderson at the start of the second half but Suarez remained the biggest threat to Swansea's goal.

Fortunately for the Welsh side, Vorm remained equally alert, gathering a glancing header by the Uruguayan.

Reina's unusually sloppy touch gave Graham a glimpse of glory before the Spaniard recovered to spare his blushes.

The Liverpool keeper saved twice from Nathan Dyer and from Graham as the home side struggled to contain Rodgers' energised team.

Gower's miss prompted a late Liverpool rally but Kuyt was frustrated by an offside flag after beating Vorm and the keeper continued to produced superb late saves to deny the home side.

ALLSOP'S VERDICT ANOTHER sub-standard home performance by Liverpool that seriously undermines their League ambitions. Swansea stuck to their footballing philosophy and deservedly left Anfield with a share of the points.