

Date: 13 April 2014

Opposition: Manchester City

Competition: League

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13 April 2014

THE TIMES

Gerrard in fresh call to arms after City Job is done

Liverpool 3 Sterling 6, Skrtel 26, Coutinho 78

Manchester City 2 Silva 57, Johnson (og) 62

Referee McClattenburg Attendance 44,601

At the end of this truly extraordinary match, as Anfield reverberated in raucous celebration, an emotional Steven Gerrard gathered his teammates in a huddle and, his voice hoarse, tried to make himself heard above the din. "Listen, this is gone," the Liverpool captain shouted. "We go Norwich. Exactly the same. We go together. Come on." It had been, Gerrard said afterwards, "the longest 90 minutes I've ever played in": 90 minutes in which Liverpool raced into a 2-0 lead, through Raheem Sterling and Martin Skrtel, with another of those Blitzkrieg assaults; 90 minutes in which gravity -- and Manchester City -- caught up with them, only for Philippe Coutinho's late goal to send them soaring to a tenth consecutive Barclays Premier League victory; 90 minutes that ended with Liverpool ever closer to their goal of becoming champions of England for the first time since 1990. Liverpool have four more matches to play: away to Norwich City, at home to Chelsea, away to Crystal Palace and at home to Newcastle United. Win all four, riding on the crest of the wave that has swept them to this almost unthinkable position, and Gerrard will finally have achieved his career-long aim, winning the trophy that he said looked beyond him and Liverpool last August. Chelsea's visit to Anfield on April 27 looms large, but, after a day like yesterday, Liverpool's players and supporters will approach that game with their sense of destiny heightened, particularly if they maintain their lead at the top by beating Norwich on Sunday. This was an afternoon on which Liverpool, perhaps for the first time in this ten-match run, were forced to confront the reality that they are a team flying higher, under Brendan Rodgers, than they had thought possible. For much of the second half, as City got hold of the game and levelled through David Silva and a Glen Johnson own goal, Liverpool looked like a team who had been found out, but Coutinho's 78th-minute goal secured a victory of potentially huge significance. City will wonder how it has come to this, now that even winning their six remaining games would not guarantee them the Premier League title. Their afternoon started badly and got worse when they lost Yaya Toure to a groin injury, but their fightback, led by Silva and James Milner, seemed likely to yield a winning goal until a Vincent Kompany error was seized upon by Coutinho, drilling a first-time shot beyond Joe Hart from the edge of the penalty area. City's recriminations will focus on two strong-looking penalty appeals -- one in the first half, when Mamadou Sakho swung at Edin Dzeko, the second late on when Martin Skrtel handled a cross -- and on Mark Clattenburg's leniency towards Luis Suarez, who, having been shown a yellow card, risked a second with one of those theatrical tumbles in the second half. Manuel Pellegrini accepted, though, that his team had contributed to their downfall by conceding those two early goals and again by presenting Coutinho with the third just when they seemed to be tightening their grip on the game. Everyone knows -- Arsenal, Everton and Tottenham Hotspur to their expense -- that Rodgers' Liverpool fly out of the traps at Anfield, yet City, with Kompany not fully fit, seemed remarkably unprepared for it. Liverpool struck within six minutes. Suarez, turning away from Martin Demichelis and allowing Gael Clichy to bounce off him, threaded a wonderful pass through the City defence for Sterling to chase. Kompany, Pablo Zabaleta and Joe Hart were in attendance, but, showing remarkable composure for a 19-year-old, he checked on to his left foot and then back on to his right before stroking a shot inside the near post. Cue bedlam. Suarez, Sterling, Coutinho and Daniel Sturridge were swarming everywhere while Gerrard pulled the strings in midfield. City were all over the place. Gerrard, inexplicably left unmarked, forced Hart into a save from a Coutinho corner. From the resulting corner, swung over by Gerrard, Skrtel escaped the City defence to make it 2-0 with a powerful header. City had been abject, but they rediscovered some poise before halftime. Fernandinho forced Simon Mignolet into a good save before Sakho's wild swipe seemed to upend Dzeko. No penalty, said Clattenburg. The second half saw City raise their game considerably, largely through Silva's creativity and vision and the intensity brought by Milner upon his introduction on the right-hand side. Within seven minutes of his arrival, Milner set up Silva to reduce the deficit to 2-1. For at least 20 minutes Silva, finding space where none seemed to exist, was posing questions Liverpool could not answer. On 62 minutes City equalised, Milner and Nasri combining before Silva's cross was deflected into his own net by Johnson. Now, it seemed, the tide had turned against Liverpool. City's momentum was growing. Johnson's mistake presented Dzeko with a chance, which was saved by Mignolet, before Sergio Aguero, on as a substitute, crossed for Silva, at full stretch, to prod a shot just wide. The introduction of Joe Allen in place of Sturridge at 2-2 seemed a conservative move from Rodgers, but it brought a slight improvement. Even so, Liverpool seemed to be hanging on until 12 minutes from time, when Johnson's throw-in was met with a poor touch from Clichy and an even worse one from Kompany before the loose ball was driven into the net by the excellent Coutinho. This time the celebrations were even more frenzied. It felt like a huge moment in the title race. Jordan Henderson was sent off in stoppage time for a wild challenge on Samir Nasri before Skrtel got away with handling the ball in the penalty area in the final minute. It is on days like this, when a supernatural force seems to be behind Liverpool, that their long-elusive nineteenth title seems to be fated, but, as Gerrard reminded his team-mates, even as the euphoria rained down from the Kop, there is an awful lot of work still to do.

the guardian

Coutinho finds something extra to send Anfield into dreamland

These are the moments when Liverpool, to borrow a line from the kaleidoscope of colours on the Kop's banners, are making their supporters dream. When it really mattered, when the heat of the battle was dangerously close to intolerable, they found something extra just as it seemed everything was threatening to unravel. They played like champions and in the next few weeks that is feasibly what they will be.

Manchester City will chase them hard judging by the strength of their second-half recovery, and Liverpool still have to play Chelsea, who will be aggrieved by any suggestion that the title is all but confirmed for Anfield. Yet all the momentum is with Brendan Rodgers's team after this epic, coruscating match in which they still had the competitive courage to record their 10th straight win despite the jolt of seeing a 2-0 half-time lead wiped out.

What a moment it was for this club, commemorating the 25th anniversary of Hillsborough, when Philippe Coutinho drew back his right foot 12 minutes from the end to fire his shot inside Joe Hart's post. Rodgers was on the pitch in all the euphoria, in a modern-day re-enactment of Brian Kidd's famous celebration at Manchester United for the first of Sir Alex Ferguson's titles. This time Kidd was in the opposite dugout and, for City, it was a moment of real sporting trauma bearing in mind everything that had preceded it in the second half.

They had looked the more probable winners after David Silva had initiated the comeback, turning in James Milner's cut-back for the first goal and then supplying the cross from which Glen Johnson unwittingly skewed the ball into his own net. Milner's arrival as a substitute had changed the complexion of the game and Silva was outstanding in those moments when for the first time there was a sudden, damp silence to break the din.

City will look back with anguish on the chances Silva and Edin Dzeko passed up when the score was 2-2. They will also harbour legitimate grievances about a penalty appeal in each half and the referee, Mark Clattenburg's, failure to show Luis Suarez a second yellow card. Jordan Henderson was sent off in stoppage time for a studs-up lunge on Samir Nasri but Suarez, already booked, should have gone for a blatant dive.

Yet Manuel Pellegrini's team suffered because of the way they played in the opening half an hour, when most of the damage was done, and the gamble they took on Vincent Kompany's fitness, when his jarred knee could probably be held up as exhibit A in trying to explain why they defended with this much generosity. Kompany was still being assessed in the pre-match warm-up and was simply unable to exert his usual influence. He was at fault to varying degrees for all of Liverpool's goals and the third of them, when his sliced clearance went straight to Coutinho, was a personal ordeal.

Pellegrini could cite other mitigating factors on a day when Sergio Aguero was restricted to a substitute's role and Yaya Toure lasted only 19 minutes before being forced off with a groin injury. All the same, Liverpool's quick, attacking football overwhelmed their opponents in the early exchanges and it was startling to see the way City crumpled.

Their manager had talked beforehand about the team with the "cold mind" winning the game. Yet Liverpool played as though filled with adrenaline and, again, Rodgers had assembled his team in a way to outfox one of their key rivals. Raheem Sterling's energy and directness, playing at the front of the midfield diamond, frequently exposed the absence of a classic defence-minded player in front of City's back four. Sterling's first instinct was to drive towards goal, playing as though absolutely immune to nerves, and it made him a constant menace for two centre-halves with the mobility of Martin Demichelis and a half-fit Kompany. The tone was set when Suarez brought down the ball, eluded Gael Clichy with a Dalglish-esque jutting out of his backside and read his team-mate's run. Sterling darted behind the City defence, then delayed, and in one movement to the right took himself away from Kompany, as well as the oncoming Hart, before turning the ball into an exposed goal.

The breakthrough came so early it invigorated Liverpool, bringing almost unremitting pressure on the City goal. After 26 minutes, Hart kept out Steven Gerrard's header after Liverpool's captain had been left in an absurd amount of space from Coutinho's corner. City had not taken their warning. Gerrard swung over the resultant corner and Martin

Skrtel was away from Kompany before flashing his header into the net. City did not clear their heads until late in the first half and they did at least show great togetherness from that point onwards. It was a second half of relentless drama and, for a while, there was the distinct possibility that City, inspired by Silva, could complete the recovery.

Instead, there was one mistake too many from Kompany. Coutinho's finish was wonderfully taken and, at the final whistle, Gerrard had his team-mates in a scrum, making it absolutely clear they had to do exactly the same at Norwich next weekend.

The din was incredible - "old Liverpool", to apply the phrase Rodgers used - and the words carried so much importance here. "We're going to win the league," they sang.

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The Mail

RODGERS HOMES IN ON GLORY

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THE myth about league titles is that they are won, or clinched, in a game or an afternoon. There may be a moment of pure mathematical certainty, but a title is delivered inch by inch, minute by minute, step by gruelling step. Liverpool probably thought they had it won here at half-time. Then they felt it slip away. And so they went out and won it all over again. Next week, slate clean, they must go to Carrow Road and win it there, too. They have four more games to go this season and in every one of them Liverpool must be prepared to win the league. The longest 90 minutes of my life, captain Steven Gerrard called this. He was in tears at the end, so it is pointless trying to play down the significance of the victory. Later, Gerrard tried nonchalance in his television interviews, but it was too late. Liverpool, on the back of 10 straight wins, can almost touch their first title of the modern era and if they succeed, it will be one of the greatest achievements in the history of the Premier League.

These days, to rise from seventh last season to become champions is the equivalent of Nottingham Forest winning promotion, then the championship a year later. To do so with a predominantly British XI is equally a feat from a bygone age. We had accepted champions were foreign entities. A title-winning team with an English spine? We thought its time had passed. And then there is Gerrard. Man of the match, he would not have started this season thinking of the title. At best, he might have hoped to be a bit-part player in a future triumph, as Bryan Robson was at Manchester United. Gerrard's manager, Brendan Rodgers, has brought that schedule forward. There are few fairytales in modern football, but Gerrard with the Premier League trophy in his hands would be one. So the emotion came pouring out of him after Liverpool reclaimed three points, a win that means destiny is in their hands. Even if City win their two spare games, they will be a point adrift of Liverpool. Manuel Pellegrini, the Manchester City manager, came up short again. He lost title deciders with Real Madrid, against Barcelona, and lost home and away to Chelsea this season; now this. He may curse rotten luck -- an injury to Yaya Toure that saw him limp off after 19 minutes, a trainingground knock to Vincent Kompany on Saturday that may have affected his play -- but City got back into the game here, and blew it. Most troublingly, they were 2-0 down after 26 minutes, so were always chasing, always vulnerable and at risk from a team as quick on the counter-attack as Liverpool. With greater resilience they could have been in command of the match when misfortune struck after 78 minutes. Instead, a rare mistake was enough to lose them the game, and perhaps the title, too. Kompany had suffered a collision in training and was considered a risk when named in the starting line-up. Did this play a part in his horrid sliced clearance after Gael Clichy had headed a Liverpool throw-in backwards? If so, the ramifications were brutal. The ball fell to Philippe Coutinho, who struck it past Joe Hart from 18 yards. Eighteen minutes later, including a tense period of injury time with a red card for Jordan Henderson, Liverpool players were celebrating in a tight huddle. The biggest danger from here is that beating City feels like journey's end but Rodgers has a week to address the dangers of complacency.

For a time it seemed as if they would walk it. For the majority of the first half Liverpool were on a different plane, with Raheem Sterling in exceptional form. In front of England manager Roy Hodgson, he took the game to City with the abandon of youth. That attitude might work in a World Cup, too. Just six minutes had elapsed when Luis Suarez held the ball up well against Martin Demichelis, shrugged off Clichy and struck a through-pass to Sterling in the City area. He went left at first, didn't fancy the view, so took a turn right, sending City's back line the wrong way before sizing up what was now an open goal and finishing the job. Sterling set up Daniel Sturridge nine minutes later, but he missed, then from a 26thminute corner, Gerrard was unmarked and forced a brilliant save from Joe Hart. It made no difference. Another corner resulted and, from it, Liverpool scored. Gerrard was the taker, Martin Skrtel first to meet it, having got away from Kompany at the near post. Liverpool were running riot. Yet somehow City finished the first half stronger. In a furious spell, David Silva had a header deflect just wide, Fernan-dinho forced a fine save from Simon Mignolet and Sterling cleared from Kompany off the line. Five minutes into the second half, Pellegrini introduced James Milner for Jesus Navas -- he should have used Milner instead of Garcia when Toure was injured -- and he changed the match.

In the 57th minute, Milner played a superb one-two with Ferdinandinho and cut a cross back for Silva, who left Mignolet with no chance. Dzeko then fell inches short of turning in a Silva cross before City levelled. Milner again fed Samir Nasri, whose cross pinballed off Glen Johnson plus Mignolet before creeping in at the near post. At this point, all the momentum was with City. Rodgers had promised the emotional fillip of the fans as 12th man but, briefly, the locals fell silent. The collapse was so sudden, so unexpected. Momentarily, they forgot their supporting role. Yet champions are forged in their reaction to such moments. Ahead again, Anfield was raucous and Liverpool's players like dervishes defending that lead. Only Henderson took it too far -- despairing and studs up in his determination to win the ball from Nasri in injury time, he was shown a red card. The tackle was not malicious, yet left referee Mark Clattenburg no option. Henderson will next play for Liverpool on the final day of the season against Newcastle, by which time the title may be won, lost or thrillingly in the balance. Won is most likely, on this evidence. Yes, it took a slice of luck for Liverpool to

triumph, but the title will not turn on Kompany's misfortune alone. There will be other twists between now and the end of the season, just as random, just as significant. Yet Liverpool look ready for whatever the Premier League throws at them, including, it would appear, the trophy on May 11.

The Daily Telegraph

Sparkling Liverpool can dare to dream

Liverpool 3 Sterling 6, Skrtel 26, Coutinho 78
Manchester City 2

Liverpool have the look of champions and the look on Steven Gerrard's face at the final whistle of this tumultuous victory told a powerful story. The tears in the eyes of the Liverpool captain signalled the deep significance of this result. It meant that Gerrard and his exciting team were closer to the title, closer to a first league championship in 24 years. It meant everything. His team had given everything, first technically and then physically and mentally. For a half, they were a storm in red, blowing Manchester City to pieces, scoring through Raheem Sterling and Martin Skrtel. After demonstrating their thrilling qualities, their pace and poise, Liverpool then faltered, conceding to David Silva's strike and a Glen Johnson own goal, before demonstrating their other traits, their resilience, their belief. Philippe Coutinho scored the winner and Liverpool are climbing back on their perch. This was Liverpool's 10th win on the spin and their ability to do it the hard way, to stand up to such formidable opponents as City, bore the hallmarks of champions. The momentum is with Liverpool. Their fans' emotion, their manager's tactics and captain's commitment are sweeping them towards the Premier League trophy. "Dare to dream" read the banner in the Kop and they do. If they defeat Norwich (away), Chelsea (home), Crystal Palace (away) and Newcastle (home), they are guaranteed to be crowned champions.

They know there is work to be done, obstacles to overcome. Jordan Henderson's late red card rules him out of three of the games, while Jose Mourinho's Chelsea must never be discounted, but this felt pivotal for Liverpool. City will not give up the chase, not with Silva as good as this, with James Milner showing why he should start, with Vincent Kompany such a leader and Joe Hart such a keeper. Even if Yaya Toure's groin injury has ruled him out for the season, City still have plenty of class, such as Sergio Aguero returning from a hamstring problem. Pablo Zabaleta, that embodiment of determination, will not let City give up. But they left Anfield vanquished and frustrated. This game meant so much. It was also more than a game for Gerrard and his team. Emotion also flowed because of the powerful, special nature of the occasion, because of the moving tributes paid to the 96 Liverpool supporters who went to a game 25 years ago this weekend and never came home. Gerrard's cousin died at Hillsborough and the mid-fielder always looks for Jon-Paul Gilhooley's name by the Shankly Gates. Liverpool's manager, Brendan Rodgers, spoke afterwards of how energised his squad had been driving into Anfield, seeing all the fans who were beseeching them to defeat their closest rivals. The bond between dressing room and support is always strong here and the players were undoubtedly motivated by that reception. They want this trophy as badly as their captain. The last time Liverpool won the league, Gerrard was a nine-year-old kicking about on the scrap of Tarmac outside his house on Ironside Road in nearby Huyton. Since then, he has lived with the sounds of jubilation along the East Lancs Road. He watched Roy Evans's title-chasers tail off, played for Gerard Houllier's side who faltered when "10 games from greatness", and then suffered further, deeper disappointment when going so close under Rafael Benitez. Gerrard has lived these years in the shadow of others, constantly reported for England duty in the summer to be met by those from other clubs turning up as title winners. He has endured years of opposing fans chanting "have you ever seen Gerrard win the league". So that is why Gerrard so stirred his team-mates before kick-off, why he was so determined in covering back to stop Edin Dzeko getting a clean shot on goal, why he helped create Liverpool's second and then rallied and organised the team late on. It was why he gathered the players in a huddle at the end, his eyes reddening with emotion as Jon Flanagan, Mamadou Sakho and Skrtel first gathered around him, hugging him, then Simon Mignolet, and the rest. It was why Gerrard felt it was the longest 90 minutes he had ever been involved in. It was why the Kop so passionately backed the team from the moment Gerrard had run out to warm up. The part played by Liverpool fans here cannot be overstated. They played a central role, joining Gerrard in urging the team on. They chanted Kenny Dalglish's name as he emerged before kick-off with Ian Rush to receive a floral, red-and-blue "96" tribute from City legends Joe Corrigan, Mike Summerbee and Tony Book. City showed their class. The visiting fans, doing their club proud, held up along banner of "YNWA 96" in the away end and then joined in the immaculate observation of the minute's silence. The Kop was transformed into a mosaic, highlighting "96" and "25 YEARS". The emotions were pouring from the terraces, and the adrenalin was running through Rodgers's players but there was intelligence in their movement and ice in the veins. Luis Suarez had a hot-headed moment, catching Martin Demichelis, and being deservedly cautioned by Mark Clattenburg before parading his more composed side, slipping Sterling through. The teenager slowed, revealing superb poise, turning and then stroking the ball past Hart. City's horrendous start soon worsened. Toure tweaked his right adductor wafting a shot into the Anfield Road End, carried on for a couple of minutes but eventually limped off. It deteriorated further after 26 minutes. Gerrard's header from a Coutinho corner was athletically pushed over by Hart but Liverpool went for the

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jugular again. Gerrard drove the corner to the near post, where Skrtel flicked a header home. There were flickers of hope for City before the break and Mignolet denied Fernandinho. Manuel Pellegrini clearly delivered some inspiring words at the interval. There was a new mood to City, a new enterprise, particularly when Milner came on. And so this became one of the classic Premier League games, full of attacks and occasional controversy, not least when Suarez dived in proximity to Demichelis, enraging City, who were expecting a second yellow card for Suarez. None arrived. Channelling their anger, City pulled a goal back after 57 minutes. Milner created the chance, finding Silva, whose finish flew past Mignolet. Game on. Attacking the Kop, City were a team transformed, spreading nerves through the hosts. They equalised within five minutes.

This time it was Samir Nasri providing the opportunity for Silva, whose shot deflected in off Johnson. Still City hunted another goal. Aguero came on and slid a ball across for Silva, whose effort just went wide. But then Kompany made a poor clearance, and Coutinho met the ball, sweeping it past Hart, and Liverpool dared to dream again. There were still moments of concern. Henderson was sent off for going in studs raised on Nasri. Skrtel was fortunate that Clattenburg did not spot his handball. Liverpool held on. If they stay strong, Gerrard and company may soon be holding on to the Premier League trophy.

THE INDEPENDENT

Coutinho's strike puts Liverpool in pole position to clinch title

Every league season features great games and every league season features decisive games, but it is rare indeed for them to be both. If Liverpool are to win their first league championship in 24 years next month, and even if they don't, they will always have this beautiful specimen of a football match to remember their season by. And what a season it has been and still promises to be for Liverpool, having established themselves as the leaders of the Premier League with four games left to play. They have beaten their most credible rivals in the title race and now have just four wins between them and a historic first Premier League title. What, they might ask, is four games when you have already won 10 league matches in a row? In the emotional post-match huddle that Steven Gerrard convened on the pitch, the Liverpool captain called upon his team-mates to do the same at Norwich on Sunday, where the run-in resumes. It used to be only Alan Partridge who thought matters of great importance were settled in Norwich, but now the nation's gaze turns to Carrow Road to see where this improbable pursuit of the title will take Brendan Rodgers' team next.

What Gerrard did not mention when he pulled his team-mates together was the opponent whom Liverpool face when they next return to Anfield on 27 April. Chelsea's visit is set up perfectly by this result, even before one considers the other factors: master against apprentice in Jose Mourinho versus Rodgers, an attacking unit against the masters of the bespoke defensive game. This has been a brilliant Premier League season and it is building towards one hell of a finish. Rodgers' team took a thrilling path to victory, although not always as their manager would have preferred it. They established a two-goal lead within 26 minutes - and quite frankly, it could have been more. Then in City's best period, the 20 minutes after the break when James Milner's introduction changed the game, David Silva scored, City equalised and Liverpool were obliged to win it all over again. They did so with a glorious goal from Philippe Coutinho, taken first time on his right foot after another error from Vincent Kompany, who was at fault for the first two as well, had presented him with the ball. By then Liverpool were no longer the dominant team and goalscoring chances were much thinner on the ground. The game was not without the controversial refereeing decisions that feel inevitable when there is so much at stake. Jordan Henderson was sent off in injury-time at the end of the game when a loose touch tempted him to lunge with his studs raised at Samir Nasri and, rolling over the ball and into the opponent, he paid the price. That was "a bit harsh", Rodgers said, the only complaint he had about referee Mark Clattenburg. The City manager, Manuel Pellegrini, had more issues to raise with the referee but even he did not seek to blame Clattenburg. Chief among them was a handball against Martin Skrtel, the scorer of Liverpool's second goal, in the second half that did not yield a penalty for City. Pellegrini declined the opportunity to talk about Luis Suarez, although he might have wondered how the striker escaped a second booking; not least for a dive designed to incriminate Martin Demichelis. Suarez could argue that his original booking, the first of the game in the fifth minute, was somewhat disproportionate. In fact, one could spend the rest of the day arguing over the details, but the big picture was another compelling game. Liverpool's momentum carried them forward, City's edge was dulled by the demands of a long season. They fought each other to a standstill at times. Two days ahead of the 25th anniversary of Hillsborough, there were flowers presented by City before kick-off and a minute's silence in which the only sounds were the whirring of photographers' camera shutters and the distant clatter of a police helicopter. It was an emphatic start from Liverpool just moments later and after six minutes they were a goal up. Within 20 minutes City were a big man down. That was Yaya Touré, who came off on 19 minutes having landed awkwardly after hitting a shot. His was a huge absence for City, who replaced him with Javi Garcia and conceded again within seven minutes.

Raheem Sterling's opening goal for Liverpool was symbolic of his composure and confidence and, although he faded in the second half, before the break he was the best player on the pitch. His finish was the work of a much more experienced

footballer. Put simply, while the City defence went one way, he went the other and slotted the ball into an empty goal. Suarez did good work to create the chance. With his back to goal, he turned and slipped the ball to Sterling. The teenage winger had Joe Hart and Kompany between him and the goal and stopped, put the ball on his left foot, waited until the pair had committed, turned back to his right and rolled the ball into the goal. Kompany was also at fault for the second from Skrtel, who pulled away from him at a corner after a fine save from Hart had denied Gerrard. The Liverpool captain's corner glanced off the top of Skrtel's head into the net. City had chances to score at the end of the first half with defender Mamadou Sakho fortunate that Clattenburg was very forgiving after his rash challenge on Edin Dzeko. Milner made the first of City's goals, exchanging passes with Fernandinho and driving down the right to cross for David Silva to score on 57 minutes with his left boot. Five minutes later they were level. City were afforded too much time in the area and Silva's shot ricocheted off Glen Johnson and then Simon Mignolet before going in. Yet the goal was "credited" to Johnson. Silva should have scored again just moments before Coutinho got the winner. "We've won nothing yet," Gerrard said. True, although they have won pole position in this absorbing race, which is quite enough for now.



Rebirth of Liverpool, the kings forgotten by modern football

THEY began to line the pavements on the Anfield Road, a few hundred yards from the Shankly Gates, more than two hours before kick-off.

At the bend in the street near the Stanley Park Hotel, where they knew the Liverpool team coach would have to slow, they were seven or eight deep. Many carried the banners they would later take with them on to the Kop where so many glories were celebrated in the past. "Make Us Dream", one said. "There is a light that never goes out", read another. It felt like a Saint's Day parade. For icons, they carried flags emblazoned with the chiselled face of Bill Shankly and the avuncular features of Bob Paisley. And when the bus passed on its way to what would turn into the most thrilling, most emotionally-charged game of the season, the fans lost themselves in visceral roars of encouragement and clenched-fist entreaties. Something is happening here on Merseyside that has unleashed a fervour thrilling in its intensity. It is the kind of fervour that is a beautiful, passionate, raw antidote to the prawn sandwich era that is threatening to emasculate the Premier League. It is the kind of fervour that can unsettle those who are not used to it. It is the kind of fervour that so bewildered Manchester City yesterday they seemed incapable of thought in the first half.

It is the kind of fervour that makes Liverpool's players feel as if they are superhuman and which left their veteran captain, Steven Gerrard, in tears at the end of the match. Shankly, the man who built the modern Liverpool, once talked about football and life and death. The emotional epic that was played out at Anfield two days before the 25th anniversary of the Hillsborough tragedy was heavy with those themes. But if you want to know why there is so much joy attached to what is happening at this football club, you have to understand this is about rebirth. Liverpool's improbable march on the title is part of a stirring coalescence of events unique to this city and to this club.

The families of the 96 Liverpool supporters who were killed on the Leppings Lane terraces in April 1989 are edging closer and closer to achieving justice for their loved ones after an agonising struggle that has lasted a quarter of a century. And as bereaved fathers, mothers, sons and daughters stand up in a Warrington courtroom to read out heartbreaking tributes to the ones they lost, their club is rising again. It has been 24 years since this great club last won the league and many had begun to wonder if the glory days would ever return.

The Premier League era has been about Manchester United, mainly, but also Arsenal, Chelsea and Manchester City. Liverpool were the kings that modern football forgot. Now, at last, they are close to reclaiming their place among the elite. Something lost for so long, the tribal pride, the claim to be the greatest club in England even, is on the verge of being reclaimed.

The day began with the presentation of a wreath from white-haired City heroes of yesteryear, Tony Book, Mike Summerbee and Joe Corrigan, to Anfield legends Kenny Dalglish and Ian Rush, to commemorate Hillsborough.

City played their part, too. They took out a full page in the programme to pay their respects and their fans held up a banner that read "YNWA 96". And in the moments before kick-off as the Liverpool players urged each other on, a deafening rendition of You'll Never Walk Alone rent the air. These are hardly forgotten rituals but are being sung with renewed passion now Liverpool are so close to claiming their 19th league title.

In the first half, City were swept away. Liverpool's new breed, Raheem Sterling, Philippe Coutinho and Daniel Sturridge were too quick for them. Steven Gerrard and Luis Suarez were just too good. Gerrard played like he knew this was the game of his life, the key to fulfilling his last great remaining ambition in club football. At one end, he curled in the corner from which Martin Skrtel scored past Joe Hart (right) for Liverpool's second goal. At the other, the Anfield captain hurled himself into a challenge which denied Edin Dzeko a goal.

And even when City forced their way back into the game, even when they made the Reds look alarmingly vulnerable at the back, even when they levelled the score, Liverpool still found a way to win. When it was over, Gerrard could not hold back his emotions. He put a hand to his face to try to conceal his tears. He said later the final few minutes had gone so slowly it felt as if time was going

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backwards. As the clock ticked down, his thoughts strayed to the great sweep of his career and the biggest games he had played in. None, he said, had felt bigger than this. There are four games left, including a titanic clash with Chelsea at Anfield. Four games between Liverpool and the title. A great force is mobilising again. There is a tide in the affairs of men and Liverpool are taking it at the flood.



It was the enduring image of a momentous afternoon which will take its place in Anfield folklore. There was Steven Gerrard, soaked in sweat and overcome with emotion, delivering a rallying cry as Liverpool's triumphant players huddled together in front of the adoring Kop. As a wall of noise rocked Anfield to its foundations, Gerrard addressed Brendan Rodgers' shattered troops.

"This is gone, we go to Norwich, and do exactly the same," he bellowed above the din. Within seconds of inspiring Liverpool's most cherished league victory for more than two decades, the captain's thoughts had already turned to the next assignment. The message was clear – the dream is still some way from becoming a reality. Now is not the time to be basking in the glory of their remarkable achievements. Yet Gerrard will know better than anyone the significance of such a cherished victory over title rivals Manchester City. This was a giant step towards landing the Holy Grail. The one major prize which has eluded Gerrard over the past 16 years is now within sight. Beat Norwich City, Chelsea, Crystal Palace and Newcastle United and Liverpool's 24-year wait for a 19th crown will be over. Having already instigated one miracle on the banks of the Bosphorus nine years ago, Gerrard is on the brink of repeating the trick. There would be no more fitting recipient of that coveted trophy on May 11. No wonder tears filled the skipper's eyes at the final whistle. The enormity of the occasion was mixed with sadness on the day Anfield fell silent to remember the 96. Gerrard's cousin Jon-Paul Gilhooley was just 10 when he died at Hillsborough. "I play for Jon-Paul," Gerrard wrote in his autobiography. A title triumph would be the most fitting of tributes.

Rodgers had insisted his players would be inspired by the 25th anniversary commemorations and so it proved. All the raw emotion which contributed to a spine-tingling atmosphere was channelled into a performance brimming with quality, desire, courage and character. This was Liverpool's date with destiny and they delivered with a 10th successive league win – the club's best run since 2005. The ruthless, relentless Red machine Rodgers has assembled continues to hit new heights. 'Now you're gonna believe us,' chanted the Kop and there can be few remaining outside of Anfield who have any doubts. Liverpool have shown all the hallmarks of champions. The Reds stunned Manuel Pellegrini's men with a blistering start as goals from Raheem Sterling and Martin Skrtel put them firmly in control. However, City launched a classy second-half fightback with David Silva halving the deficit before Glen Johnson's own goal restored parity. Liverpool were on the ropes but the backbone Rodgers has installed came to the fore. They retained their composure and simply picked themselves up and went again. When the outstanding Philippe Coutinho rifled the winner past Joe Hart 12 minutes from time, Anfield was engulfed by euphoria.

A jubilant Rodgers charged on to the pitch before turning and raising a clenched fist in the direction of principal owner John W Henry and chairman Tom Werner. When the American duo saved the club from the brink of administration with Fenway Sports Group's takeover in October 2010, Liverpool were a point off the bottom of the Premier League. Now they look down on the rest and boast a team four wins away from footballing immortality. That rapid rise has been as thrilling as it was unexpected. Eyebrows were raised when Henry and Werner plucked Rodgers from Swansea in the summer of 2012 but their faith in him has been richly rewarded. Without the blank chequebook available to Pellegrini, the bold Northern Irishman has found another route to the summit. He has put in place a style and a team ethic which has ensured the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Rodgers has put his faith in youth and his coaching acumen has fast tracked their development. The perfect example of that is Sterling, who tormented City throughout. Flourishing at the tip of the midfield diamond, the visitors simply couldn't handle his pace and intelligent movement.

Inside six minutes, Luis Suarez had shrugged off the attentions of Gael Clichy and set Sterling clear with a perfectly weighted pass. The teenager kept his cool and finished in style. Liverpool were better in all departments and City, rocked by the sight of Yaya Toure limping off, couldn't live with the hosts' tempo and intensity. Daniel Sturridge failed to convert Sterling's inviting cross before Gerrard's bullet header was expertly tipped over by Hart. The second goal Liverpool's dominance merited arrived in the 26th minute. Skrtel latched on to Gerrard's corner and sent a glancing header into the far corner. When the tireless Coutinho then sent Clichy crashing to the ground with a crunching challenge, all four sides of Anfield roared their approval. That show of desire was replicated by his team-mates. Fearless youngster Jon Flanagan expertly shackled Jesus Navas, while Skrtel barely gave Edin Dzeko a kick. The big Bosnian briefly flickered into life but Gerrard got back to make a vital challenge. City finished the first half with a flourish. First, Sterling and then Glen Johnson cleared off the line from Vincent Kompany before Simon Mignolet parried away Ferdinandinho's strike. Mignolet, whose blunder handed Man City victory at the Etihad back in December, successfully exercised the ghosts of that night. The Belgian made a significant contribution as he punched well and

commanded his box. City showed their class with the floral tribute from Joe Corrigan, Mike Summerbee and Tony Book, along with the 'YNWA 96' banner in the away end. And in the second half they demonstrated why they were widely expected to run away with the title this term.

Silva spearheaded their revival as he tucked away a pass from substitute James Milner 12 minutes after the interval. The Reds' nerves began to jangle and when Johnson directed Silva's cross into his own net soon after, the Kopites' title dream appeared to be slipping away. Rodgers responded by introducing Joe Allen for Sturridge, who had been hampered by a hamstring problem. The momentum remained with City. They were assisted by the arrival of Sergio Aguero but Silva squandered a golden chance as he fired wide.

It proved to be a pivotal moment as Liverpool countered and landed the decisive blow. Coutinho latched on to Kompany's scuffed clearance and unleashed an unstoppable first-time finish into the bottom corner from 16 yards. It was a special strike from the Brazilian magician, who departed late on to a rapturous ovation. The drama was far from over as, in stoppage time, Jordan Henderson snared for his over-eager challenge on Samir Nasri and Skrtel's handball in the box went unnoticed. The final whistle was greeted with a heady mix of joy and relief. Now to finish the job.



Ear-splitting Anfield harks back to football days gone by

If City, United and other clubs across the country could bottle some of the ingredients that created the deafening atmosphere at Anfield on Sunday the teams - and match-going fans - would love it. In a day of emotional extremes, Sunday's clash between Liverpool and City was crystallised between 1.36pm and 1.38pm. An impeccably observed minute's silence, only punctured by the dull thump of police helicopter blades overhead, gave way to an ear-splitting roar from the 44,601 fans in the stadium when the whistle was blown.

That moment, the quiet contemplation of the death of 96 fans at the Hillsborough tragedy 25 years ago, followed by what felt like a wall of sound tumbling down the Kop, supercharged the Liverpool players. They tore into lissless City from all angles. Despite all the talk of SAS duo Daniel Sturridge and Luis Suarez, it was Raheem Sterling who shone brightest, drilling holes into City at will from the tip of a midfield diamond. Twenty six minutes later and Liverpool were two up, it could have been four. The Liverpool players and fans had done their job.

But although that short spell summed the day up, the spirit of Liverpool football and its fans was evident all around the famous old stadium from early in the morning. Thousands of supporters were gathered around the ground - awkwardly hemmed in as it is between terraced streets - and the Hillsborough memorial hours before kick-off. When the City team coach drew in, hundreds more were packed in behind barriers to heckle the Blues players for the fraction of a second they could be seen. During the match almost every City touch was booed as if a pantomime villain was on the ball.

After the game local hero Steven Gerrard was introduced on the microphone to the VIP bar to huge cheers. It all felt so tight, so closely bonded.

There are many reasons for that - not least because this was such a special game - but what City, United and every other club in the land should be sure to do is identify them. For if they can bottle more of what Anfield has, it would be worth an extra five points a season and the match-going fans would love it.

Hillsborough sets Liverpool apart of course and there is thankfully no replicating that in these days of all seater stadia. Another edge Liverpool have is the history and architecture of Anfield. The place generates an unbelievable atmosphere.

Sitting in the press box on Sunday, the noise level at kick-off was genuinely disorientating. This was Premier League football at its best; a raw, excoriating experience. At City the Etihad Stadium is brilliant and tailor made for a modern day fan experience and it is set to get even better. But at times it lacks the authentic emotion of the old grounds. The Blues cannot really do anything about this, unless the Sheikh fancies resurrecting the old Kippax over summer.

The fan zone at City is superb, supporters love it and it is a really enjoyable extension to the match day experience. But when everyone goes into the stadium, more often than not they witness brilliance on the pitch with appreciation and applause rather than wild celebration.

This, it should be pointed out strongly, is not exclusive to City and it is no way the fault of the fans - it's just a product of the conditions they watch the game in.

United and Arsenal to pick two have a similar effect. The incredible loyalty, humour and humility of the City fans is well documented, especially the way they dealt with plumbing the depths of third tier football in the late 90s.

Their conduct in relation to the Hillsborough tribute smacked of class. The fans held a banner up, the club took out a page in the match programme and scarves were held aloft. City does have a strong community feel and looks after its fans excellently. It's a similar story at United. They have a huge number of hardcore fans but the atmosphere is often criticised there. Perhaps it is because the stadium is so vast that the old faithful's voice that is strong in some areas is swallowed up by the whole. It should be said that on big European nights especially, Old Trafford really does rock, as does City. But is the atmosphere at United an issue? There would not have been a move to introduce a singing section next season if it wasn't.

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Another aspect to the Liverpool experience is the connection the fans have with the players - and this is something City and United can do something about. Gerrard is the obvious figure-head on Merseyside but Daniel Sturridge, Sterling, Jordan Henderson, Glen Johnson and Jon Flanagan are all energetic English lads that local fans respond to.

City by contrast, started with one Englishman on Sunday, goalkeeper Joe Hart. This isn't just about Englishness. It's about players who the fans identify with. Vincent Kompany and Pablo Zabaleta - a Belgian and an Argentinian - do have a strong bond with the fans due to their long service and high performance. But everyone loves a local lad done good and the last one of those at City, Micah Richards, looks to be heading out of the door.

United do better on this front, with Longsight lad Danny Welbeck, Phil Jones and Wayne Rooney, but it could become an issue there when Rio Ferdinand and last of the class of 92 Ryan Giggs hang up their boots.

So when Txiki Begiristain and Ferran Soriano, who were both at Anfield on Sunday, launch their summer transfer strategy in earnest, they should strongly consider what they saw on Merseyside. United chief executive Ed Woodward and other deal-makers should do likewise.

Raheem Sterling could have been a City or United player, Liverpool picked him up for £600,000 from QPR in 2010. Daniel Sturridge was a City player.

As it happens, I've a feeling that the title race could yet turn in City's favour. Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho is a master of shutting supposedly more expansive teams down, if he achieves that again then it plays into the Blues' hands. But you have to hand it to Anfield. Wherever the team finishes this season, the match atmosphere is top of the league.



Liverpool took a huge step towards winning the Premier League title by beating Manchester City as Anfield marked the 25th anniversary of the Hillsborough disaster.

The Reds looked like sweeping City aside in a dazzling opening half as goals from Raheem Sterling and Martin Skrtel put Brendan Rodgers's team in complete command.

City, who lost Yaya Toure to injury early on, mounted a superb recovery and David Silva pulled one back early in the second half before his cross was deflected in off Glen Johnson and Liverpool keeper Simon Mignolet to draw them level five minutes later.

A gripping spectacle was decided 12 minutes from time when City captain Vincent Kompany - an injury doubt before the game and clearly lacking some of his familiar authority - sliced a clearance straight to Philippe Coutinho, who shot low and unerringly past Joe Hart to put Liverpool in control of the title race.

It set up a nail-biting finish in which Liverpool's Jordan Henderson was shown a straight red card for a late challenge on Samir Nasri, one which means he will miss three of the last four games, and referee Mark Clattenburg missed Skrtel's clear handball in the closing seconds.

The final whistle sounded seconds later and a wall of noise surrounded Anfield as Reds players gathered in a huddle in front of the Kop, four wins away from their first title since 1990.

If Liverpool win those games they will be champions, but Chelsea also have to visit Liverpool and there is every chance they will still be harbouring Premier League title ambitions of their own.

City's impressive second-half showing demonstrated they must not be ruled out and they left Anfield nursing a sense of injustice, also believing Luis Suarez should have been sent off when Clattenburg declined to give him a second yellow card for diving.

None of this will matter to the Reds, who were simply breathtaking in the opening 45 minutes as they made it 10 league wins in succession.

City had an injury doubt surrounding captain Kompany before kick-off after he limped out of training on Saturday. He underwent a lengthy warm-up on his own after being named on the team sheet and was fit to play.

Liverpool's lightning starts have become their trademark and they were at it again as Sterling gave them the lead after six minutes.

Suarez, who had already been booked for a late challenge on Martin Demichelis, played a perfect pass into Sterling, who showed commendable coolness to wait and wrong-foot Kompany and Hart before scoring in front of an ecstatic Kop.

And to make matters worse, Toure pulled up sharply with a muscle injury after attempting a long-range shot, struggling for a few minutes before accepting the inevitable and being replaced by Javi Garcia.

The hosts were overwhelming City with their pace, pressing and movement and should have extended their lead when Sterling set up Daniel Sturridge, only for the striker to glide a finish wide from eight yards.

The only complaint Rodgers could have had was that his team were not further ahead - but that situation was remedied as they scored a second after 26 minutes. City's suspect marking at set-pieces allowed Gerrard a free header, which forced a magnificent one-handed save from Hart. It kept Liverpool at bay for a matter of seconds as Gerrard swung over the resulting corner and Skrtel rose at the near post to head in.

Finally, City showed signs of life as half-time approached and Mamadou Sakho was very fortunate to escape with a reckless lunge on Edin Dzeko in the area.

As Liverpool's pace relented briefly, the tiny figure of Sterling rose to head Kompany's header off the line before Mignolet did very well to plunge and turn away a snapshot from Fernandinho.

There was a very contentious moment early in the second half when Suarez went down theatrically with, at best, minimal contact from Demichelis. Referee Clattenburg gave no foul and City immediately questioned why Suarez had not been given a second yellow card for diving.

City were a team transformed after the break, with the introduction of James Milner for Jesus Navas a contributing factor. He helped Silva pull one back when his run and cross gave the Spaniard a close-range finish.

And as the Merseysiders suddenly rocked, matters were level five minutes later when Silva's cross went in via a touch off Johnson and the legs of Mignolet.

Sensing the shift in momentum, City manager Manuel Pellegrini introduced Sergio Aguero for Dzeko and he almost set up a third for Silva, who just had to stretch too far to reach the pass and shot just wide.

Liverpool made City pay with 12 minutes left when Kompany's sliced clearance fell to Coutinho, who sent a low finish past the stretching Hart.

In a frantic finish, Henderson was sent off and Skrtel escaped with a handball - but nothing could dampen the celebrations that swept around Anfield.

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Full time Match ends, Liverpool 3, Manchester City 2.

90:00+5:31 Full time Second Half ends, Liverpool 3, Manchester City 2.

90:00+4:31 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Liverpool. Lucas Leiva replaces Raheem Sterling.

90:00+3:15 Hand ball by Pablo Zabaleta (Manchester City).

90:00+2:34 Dismissal Dismissal Jordan Henderson (Liverpool is shown the red card).

90:00+2:25 Samir Nasri (Manchester City wins a free kick in the attacking half).

90:00+2:25 Foul by Jordan Henderson (Liverpool).

90:00+1:25 Foul by Samir Nasri (Manchester City).

90:00+1:25 Raheem Sterling (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing).

90:00+0:06 Corner, Manchester City. Conceded by Martin Skrtel.

88:57 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Liverpool. Victor Moses replaces Philippe Coutinho.

88:00 Offside, Liverpool. Raheem Sterling tries a through ball, but Luis Suarez is caught offside.

85:41 Pablo Zabaleta (Manchester City wins a free kick on the right wing).

85:41 Foul by Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool).

83:43 Offside, Manchester City. Vincent Kompany tries a through ball, but Samir Nasri is caught offside.

82:34 Offside, Liverpool. Joe Allen tries a through ball, but Luis Suarez is caught offside.

81:38 Attempt saved. Martin Demichelis (Manchester City header from the centre of the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by James Milner with a cross.

81:18 Corner, Manchester City. Conceded by Steven Gerrard.

80:51 Corner, Manchester City. Conceded by Jon Flanagan.

77:30 Goal scored Goal! Liverpool 3, Manchester City 2. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom right corner.

77:00 Booking Pablo Zabaleta (Manchester City is shown the yellow card.

75:58 Offside, Liverpool. Luis Suarez tries a through ball, but Raheem Sterling is caught offside.

74:51 Attempt missed. David Silva (Manchester City right footed shot from the centre of the box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by Sergio Agüero with a through ball.

71:58 Offside, Liverpool. Jon Flanagan tries a through ball, but Jordan Henderson is caught offside.

70:36 Offside, Liverpool. Glen Johnson tries a through ball, but Luis Suarez is caught offside.

67:30 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Manchester City. Sergio Agüero replaces Edin Dzeko.

66:37 Attempt missed. Samir Nasri (Manchester City right footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by David Silva.

65:59 Attempt saved. Edin Dzeko (Manchester City left footed shot from the left side of the box is saved in the centre of the goal.

65:15 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Liverpool. Joe Allen replaces Daniel Sturridge because of an injury.

63:14 Delay over. They are ready to continue.

62:30 Delay in match Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool because of an injury).

61:53 Goal scored Goal! Own Goal by Glen Johnson, Liverpool. Liverpool 2, Manchester City 2.

60:31 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Joe Hart.

59:54 Corner, Manchester City. Conceded by Jon Flanagan.

59:23 Attempt blocked. David Silva (Manchester City left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Martin Demichelis.

56:45 Goal scored Goal! Liverpool 2, Manchester City 1. David Silva (Manchester City left footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom left corner. Assisted by James Milner.

54:09 Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing).

54:09 Foul by Pablo Zabaleta (Manchester City).

53:03 Foul by Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool).

53:03 Pablo Zabaleta (Manchester City wins a free kick in the defensive half).

50:03 Foul by Raheem Sterling (Liverpool).

50:03 Fernandinho (Manchester City wins a free kick in the defensive half).

49:50 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Manchester City. James Milner replaces Jesús Navas.

47:57 Attempt missed. Raheem Sterling (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box misses to the right. Assisted by Jon Flanagan.

45:00 Second Half begins Liverpool 2, Manchester City 0.

45:00+2:16 Half time First Half ends, Liverpool 2, Manchester City 0.

45:00+1:50 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Vincent Kompany.

45:00+0:30 Booking Fernandinho (Manchester City is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

45:00+0:28 Luis Suarez (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half).

45:00+0:28 Foul by Fernandinho (Manchester City).

45:00+0:01 Attempt saved. Fernandinho (Manchester City right footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Jesús Navas with a cross.

43:44 Attempt blocked. Vincent Kompany (Manchester City header from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Samir Nasri with a cross.

43:21 Corner, Manchester City. Conceded by Mamadou Sakho.

43:16 Attempt missed. David Silva (Manchester City header from the centre of the box misses to the left. Assisted by Jesús Navas with a cross.

41:19 Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box misses to the left.

40:30 Attempt missed. Luis Suarez (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by Glen Johnson.

37:42 Attempt blocked. David Silva (Manchester City left footed shot from outside the box is blocked.

36:33 Foul by Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool).

36:33 Edin Dzeko (Manchester City wins a free kick in the attacking half).

35:09 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Fernandinho.

34:02 Raheem Sterling (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half).

34:02 Foul by Samir Nasri (Manchester City).

30:59 Corner, Manchester City. Conceded by Steven Gerrard.

30:57 Attempt blocked. Edin Dzeko (Manchester City right footed shot from the right side of the box is blocked. Assisted by David Silva with a through ball.

29:22 Attempt missed. Luis Suarez (Liverpool header from the centre of the box misses to the right. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho with a cross following a corner.

28:53 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Pablo Zabaleta.

28:36 Attempt blocked. Edin Dzeko (Manchester City right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Jesús Navas.

25:59 Goal scored Goal! Liverpool 2, Manchester City 0. Martin Skrtel (Liverpool header from the left side of the six yard box to the bottom right corner. Assisted by Steven Gerrard with a cross following a corner.

25:27 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Joe Hart.

25:24 Attempt saved. Steven Gerrard (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is saved in the top centre of the goal. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho with a cross.

24:53 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Martin Demichelis.

22:01 Luis Suarez (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half).

22:01 Foul by David Silva (Manchester City).

21:29 Corner, Manchester City. Conceded by Jordan Henderson.

20:30 Booking Javi García (Manchester City is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

20:23 Jordan Henderson (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing).

20:23 Foul by Javi García (Manchester City).

19:15 Glen Johnson (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half).

19:15 Foul by Edin Dzeko (Manchester City).

18:43 Delay over. They are ready to continue.

18:40 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Manchester City. Javi García replaces Yaya Touré because of an injury.

17:30 Delay in match Yaya Touré (Manchester City because of an injury).

14:36 Attempt missed. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box misses to the left. Assisted by Raheem Sterling with a cross.

13:35 Attempt missed. Yaya Touré (Manchester City right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Samir Nasri.

13:04 Foul by Luis Suarez (Liverpool).

13:04 Pablo Zabaleta (Manchester City wins a free kick in the defensive half).

12:08 Glen Johnson (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half).

12:08 Foul by Yaya Touré (Manchester City).

7:11 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Martin Demichelis.

5:47 Goal scored Goal! Liverpool 1, Manchester City 0. Raheem Sterling (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom right corner. Assisted by Luis Suarez with a through ball.

4:58 Booking Luis Suarez (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul).

4:45 Foul by Luis Suarez (Liverpool).

4:45 Martin Demichelis (Manchester City wins a free kick in the defensive half).

3:36 Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box misses to the left. Assisted by Raheem Sterling.

0:00 First Half begins.

0:00 Lineups are announced and players are warming up.