

Date: 13 April 2015
 Opposition: Newcastle United
 Competition: League

Times	Telegraph	Mail
Guardian	Chronicle Live	Echo
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13 April 2015

THE TIMES

Sterling form proves more than smoke and mirrors

Liverpool Sterling 9, Allen Newcastle

No matter what else is happening, it is hard to escape the Raheem Sterling narrative at Anfield at the moment. In recent weeks we have had the Liverpool forward as contract rebel. Last night, against a dispirited Newcastle United, he was a match-winner even as he prepared for some unsavoury headlines in the morning newspapers. Days after being pictured appearing to smoke from a shisha pipe, footage emerged last night of Sterling appearing to inhale nitrous oxide at home last week. As with Luis Suarez, in times of controversy, it is just as well that the Liverpool forward is delivering on the pitch, having scored a wonderful early goal to put his team on course for a victory that keeps alive their faint hopes of Champions League qualification.

As for Newcastle, they started terribly, recovered for a brief period either side of half-time, and then seemed to give up after Moussa Sissoko was sent off in the closing stages. They look like a team and a club for whom the end of the season cannot come quickly enough. The game was in the ninth minute when Sterling opened the scoring. An interception from Emre Can was followed by a swift exchange between Lucas Leiva and Philippe Coutinho before Jordan Henderson swung a diagonal pass towards Sterling on the left-hand side of the penalty area. The England forward's control was accomplished, but what followed was even better as he shimmied between Ryan Taylor and Gabriel Obertan before curling a right-foot shot beyond Tim Krul for his 12th goal of the season.

As delightful a goal as it was, Newcastle's defending was simply dreadful. Neither Taylor nor Obertan got close enough to Sterling. Similar followed four minutes later when a routine forward pass from Dejan Lovren found its way beyond the Newcastle back four for Alberto Moreno to chase. The full back's shot was saved, but the visiting defence, which featured Daryl Janmaat at centre half and Vurnon Anita at left back, was all over the place. Some of Liverpool's forward play in the first half-hour was beguiling, albeit short of killer instinct. At one point in the first half, Coutinho received a throw-in from Jordan Ibe, swerved away from Jack Colback, stepped past Mike Williamson and then seemed to get caught in two minds between shooting and pulling the ball back for Sterling, who was not on the same wavelength. On another occasion Coutinho produced an outrageous back-heel to Moreno. Even if the endproduct does not always match what comes before, the young Brazilian is a joy to watch.

Liverpool will wonder how they failed to add to that lead during the first-half hour, in which they were so dominant. Coutinho and Sterling both tested Krul, who then made a fine save when Lucas was left unmarked from Henderson's free kick. From another Henderson free kick, the ball was rolled to Coutinho, in space, but he was crowded out just in time. Ibe was sent through by Henderson, but shot of the near post. A second Liverpool goal seemed only a matter of time. Then, without warning or explanation, Liverpool showed a little sloppiness and Newcastle found a way into this game. As half-time approached, an Obertan run down the right-hand side brought a chance for Mehdi Beid, whose shot was saved by Simon Mignolet.

A far more eye-catching save followed when Janmaat stepped forward to pick out Ayoze Perez, whose looping header was kept out by the Liverpool goalkeeper, diving high to his right. Beid also missed the target when picked out by Sissoko, who at last was making his presence felt. The incident that really aggrieved John Carver, the Newcastle head coach, came in first-half stoppage time when Colback seized on a mistake by Joe Allen and laid the ball into the path of Perez. The forward was felled by a wild, mistimed swing from Lovren, but, remarkably, Lee Mason, the referee, rejected the penalty appeals -- a decision that saw him harangued by Carver at half-time, when a policeman escorted him down the tunnel. Both teams continued where they had left off -- Liverpool carelessly, Newcastle with renewed vigour -- but still the better opportunities fell to the home team. Just before the hour mark, Ibe released Henderson, whose rightwing cross was sliced into Sterling's path by Taylor. It looked like the clearest of chances, but Sterling, on his left foot, shot tamely wide from close range -- a reminder that, for all his talents, he still has some rough edges.

The second goal arrived on 70 minutes. After a corner was only cleared by Taylor as far as Sterling, the ball was sent back into the danger area by Can. It was just too high for Allen, but, after a poor touch from Williamson, the Wales midfield player slammed a half-volley past Krul. Newcastle were down and out by the time Sissoko was sent off with seven minutes remaining. The midfielder player had already been booked for a flare-up with Glen Johnson, but his challenge on Lucas, just above the ankle, was so vile as to make his dismissal for a second yellow card, rather than a straight red, seem generous. The only other points of note concerned the crowd. A poignant prematch minute's silence, to mark the 24th anniversary of the Hillsborough tragedy, was followed in the second half by a touching reception from both sets of supporters for Jonas Gutierrez, the Newcastle substitute, who recently returned to action after overcoming testicular cancer. There were also some irreverent chants from the Newcastle fans towards Mike Ashley, the chairman. If they lacked some of the usual ferocity, it can only be because those fans are sick of voicing their displeasure.

Liverpool (4-3-3): S Mignolet -- G Johnson, E Can, D Lovren, A Moreno -- J Henderson, L Leiva, J Allen -- J Ibe (sub: F Borini, 58min), P Coutinho, R Sterling (sub: R Lambert, 89). Substitutes not used: B Jones, J Manquillo, K Toure, C Brannagan, L Markovic. Booked: Johnson, Moreno.

Newcastle United (4-1-4-1): T Krul -- R Taylor, D Janmaat, M Williamson, V Anita -- J Colback -- G Obertan (sub: J Gutierrez, 67), M Beid (sub: A Armstrong, 75), M Sissoko, R Cabella -- A Perez (sub: Y Gouffran, 86). Substitutes not used: R Elliot, J Sterry, E Riviere, S Ameobi. Booked: Sissoko. Sent off: Sissoko. Referee: L Mason.

the guardian

Liverpool's Raheem Sterling shows his worth in cruise past Newcastle Whatever Raheem Sterling is smoking, and it is quite a lot judging by pictures that have emerged of the Liverpool forward in recent days, it proved too much for Newcastle United to stomach as their malaise deepened at Anfield. The Champions League may not be a pipe-dream for Brendan Rodgers' team after all. Liverpool closed to within four points of fourth-placed Manchester City with an ultimately comfortable win courtesy of Sterling's seventh league goal of the campaign and Joe Allen's first. Footage of Sterling seeming to pass out having apparently taken nitrous oxide were a distraction to Rodgers in his post-match press conference but not his team's revived pursuit of Champions League qualification. Liverpool were often careless in possession but always dangerous in attack and Sterling should really have finished on a hat-trick.

John Carver witnessed signs of much-needed improvement from the visitors in a purposeful spell either side of the interval but it was not enough to prevent a fifth successive Premier League defeat. Newcastle's defending continues to invite trouble, with Ryan Taylor, Gabriel Obertan and Mike Williamson found wanting for Liverpool's two goals, and they will be without Moussa Sissoko for the next two games after the influential midfielder was sent off for a dreadful foul on Lucas Leiva. Sissoko was dismissed for a second bookable offence by the referee, Lee Mason, who also denied Newcastle a clear penalty when Dejan Lovren impeded Ayoze Pérez in the first half, but the shin-high lunge was worthy of a straight red. Newcastle's captain headed for the tunnel before Mason had pulled out the card. "The sending-off could have been a straight red," admitted Carver. "I will be honest, I have said that to Moussa. I am quite straight and I won't defend anyone if it is indefensible.

"He got a two-match ban so we got away with one there but the pleasing thing is we have responded from that dreadful performance against Sunderland. We have got six cup finals because we need to get points."

Rodgers had filed his programme notes before Manchester City's defeat at Old Trafford offered unexpected opportunity to Liverpool. In them he cautioned that "the teams above us are not dropping points" but he was more emboldened about a Champions League place after this result. Liverpool were quick to establish a foothold over a brittle Newcastle. The performances of Philippe Coutinho and Sterling, forming a three-pronged attack alongside Jordan Ibe, ensured the injured Daniel Sturridge was not missed.

Carver had pledged a reaction from Newcastle following their lame defeat in the Tyne-Wear derby last weekend and initially the "hurt" visitors delivered. Yet it underlined Newcastle's weakness that they conceded when under pressure for the first time. The breakthrough was a moment to savour for the scrutinised Sterling.

Jordan Henderson instigated the ninth-minute goal with a crossfield pass that his England international colleague trapped with an exquisite first touch on the left of the visitors' penalty area. Sterling stepped inside one weak challenge from Taylor, a second from Obertan and swept a fine right-footed finish beyond Tim Krul. It was the 20-year-old's first goal since inviting criticism with his admission to the BBC that he had rejected a £100,000-a-week contract offer from Liverpool. Any concerns Sterling might have had over the Kop's reaction were misplaced although the home supporters were quick to express an unflattering opinion of the player's agent, Aidy Ward. Liverpool, wearing black armbands before the 26th anniversary of the Hillsborough disaster on Wednesday, appeared on course for a comfortable victory in the immediate aftermath of Sterling's goal as Newcastle's resistance evaporated.

But the home side's dominance proved deceptive. Having spent most of the first half justifying recent accusations of a lack of quality and fight, the visitors ended it in the ascendancy and rightly enraged by Mason's refusal to award a penalty when Lovren fouled Pérez inside the Liverpool area.

Carver, who continued his protest as the officials left the field at half-time, said: "The game hinged on a huge decision. I don't want to be seen to be a moaner but it is a fact we don't get big decisions for whatever reason. I have spoken to the referee but it doesn't help me. Contracts, jobs and livelihoods rest on decisions like that."

Pérez almost levelled with a flying header from Daryl Janmaat's cross, only for Simon Mignolet to produce a fine save. Sterling should have scored his second when Taylor completely missed Henderson's cross from the right and allowed the ball to reach the winger standing six yards in front of goal. Somehow Sterling side-footed his effort horribly wide. His blushes were spared by Allen of all people.

Newcastle dealt comfortably with a Henderson corner from the right but not with the return ball back into their box by Emre Can. Can's cross bounced off Williamson and, before the Newcastle central defender could react, Allen dispatched a snap-shot past Krul from close range.

The Wales international became the 18th different player to score for Liverpool this season with his first of the campaign, equalling a club record.

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The Mail

STERLING'S HIGHS AND LOWS FOR LIVERPOOL; Allen's goal eases Anfield anxiety

ONE THING that has gone largely unnoticed during Raheem Sterling's recent occupancy of the back pages is that the young Liverpool forward has not been playing terribly well.

This morning Sterling faces another awkward conversation with his manager Brendan Rodgers and can reflect on a night on the field that saw him at his very best and indeed his worst.

Sterling's goal to set up victory in a game that Liverpool dominated for 35 minutes but then threatened to throw away was a belter. Receiving possession on the left side of the penalty area in the ninth minute, he stepped inside two defenders and found the far corner rather majestically.

In the second half, however, the 20-year-old endured a moment he would rather forget but probably won't be allowed to.

With his team wobbling a little having missed earlier chances, Liverpool broke down the right with Jordan Henderson and when the ball reached Sterling unmarked at the far post it appeared he couldn't possibly miss.

He did, however, contributing a feeble shot wide from six yards that on another day would have prompted Newcastle goalkeeper Tim Krul to offer him a high five in the tunnel.

Fortunately for Sterling his error didn't ultimately matter. Liverpool's impressive early work, and Joe Allen's goal on 70 minutes, were enough to see off a Newcastle team whose improvement saw them create and fail to take a smattering of chances either side of half-time.

Brendan Rodgers and his team now face an FA Cup semi-final with Aston Villa on Sunday and will approach it knowing that their Barclays Premier League season is still not necessarily dead.

A team who actually made one of the league's worst current teams -- Sunderland -- look decent just nine days ago, Newcastle have grown ever more compliant the longer their time with John Carver at the helm has gone on. As such, it was no surprise to see Liverpool take the lead so early.

It has, it must be said, been a while since we have seen something as lovely to watch at Anfield as this. Since Liverpool beat City with two superb Philippe Coutinho goals here on March 1, their football has been relatively sluggish. Here they swarmed all over Newcastle and were ahead in the ninth minute.

Captain Henderson supplied the ammunition for Sterling with a crossfield pass struck arrow straight to his team-mate over 40 yards. Sterling's first touch was perfect but then we expect that in the Premier League these days.

What followed was even better, though, as he eased inside Ryan Taylor and Daryl Janmaat before striking a perfect right-foot shot to Krul's left with his instep.

With centre forward Daniel Sturridge injured again last night, Sterling once again was crucial to Liverpool's attacking play. This time he was stationed on the left of a front three that featured Jordan Ibe on the right and Coutinho through the middle. As he often is, Coutinho was terrific early on. Newcastle couldn't cope with his dexterity or his movement and intelligence. On this occasion, all that was missing was a finish in front of goal.

The excellent Krul was busy in the early stages. His save at the near post from an Alberto Moreno shot was routine in the 13th minute but 10 minutes later he was no doubt relieved to see Coutinho's low cross evade everybody in red when his turn on the right had actually been good enough and timely enough to place him in a position to shoot. Soon after a Sterling cross-shot from the other side was gathered by the Newcastle keeper and then Henderson's quick free-kick caught Newcastle asleep, only for Coutinho's effort to come back from a defender.

AT this stage, with almost half an hour gone, Liverpool were in complete control. It had been their most assertive 30 minutes of football for a while.

All teams are vulnerable if they don't turn possession and chances into goals, however, and sure enough Newcastle began to find their way into the game towards the end of the half.

The Algerian midfielder Mehdi Abeid marked his first appearance since early March with a smart volley from 18 yards that brought a save from Simon Mignolet.

Then, with some confidence restored, Ayoze Perez should have been awarded a penalty following a clear foul by Dejan Lovren and the same player then brought a first-class save from the Liverpool goalkeeper with a header towards the top corner.

Indeed, the half ended with a shot over the bar from Abeid. The 22-year-old probably should have scored and a half that had been one-sided for so long actually ended with a slightly different feel to it.

The shift was noticeable after the restart too. Mignolet did well to punch clear from a corner, Lovren threatened to put his colleague Emre Can out of the game by landing on his foot before Abeid drove another low shot towards goal.

Sterling, of course, could have settled the whole thing when Henderson and a failed clearance from Ryan Taylor presented him with the easiest chance of his career in the 57th minute. One day he may be able to tell us exactly how he managed to miss.

Allen's drive into the roof of Krul's net on 70 minutes finally eased the anxiety spreading around Anfield.

Newcastle's hopes took a further decline when Moussa Sissoko was sent off for a second yellow received for a desperate challenge on Lucas.

The Daily Telegraph

Sterling sparks victory with magical strike

Liverpool 2

Sterling 9, Allen 70

Newcastle United 0

Att: 44,611

The question "what is Raheem Sterling smoking?" has been posed for various reasons in recent weeks.

While contract demands and snatched photographs of him, firstly, appearing to smoke a shisha pipe and then inhaling laughing gas from a balloon leave him scrambling for a new PR team, the Kop will be happy for him to indulge in whatever takes his fancy if he continues to produce moments like the first goal in his side's win over Newcastle.

Sterling offered a glimpse of why some believe Liverpool should ask "how high?" every time his agent tells them to jump when he instantly controlled Jordan Henderson's diagonal pass and danced past Ryan Taylor before delicately picking his spot past Tim Krul.

He was even granted the Kop chant he craved prior to kick-off - although it was not printable as it contained a swipe at his agent as much as a tribute to the winger.

Whether Sterling's contribution will be enough to salvage a Champions League spot is matter of debate, but a victory that was sealed when Joe Allen eased nerves in the second half means Manchester City will not feel secure about holding on to fourth place.

When Brendan Rodgers' side left the Emirates with their heads bowed last weekend they imagined they would be heading into this fixture at least 10 points off the top four. That they had the opportunity to reduce the gap to City to four points says more about Manuel Pellegrini's powers of demotivation than the promise of a red revival. Nevertheless Liverpool knew they had to take it.

Sterling started in a three-man attack because Daniel Sturridge's hokey-cokey routine since his comeback from injury continued, the forward absent with a hip problem. Rodgers, still without the suspended Steven Gerrard and Martin Skrtel, requested Henderson play further forward and recalled teenager Jordan Ibe after injury.

Apart from missing a sitter in the second half, Sterling was at his best. For a while the rampaging midfield threatened to overwhelm the visitors.

According to the saying, it is one magpie for sorrow. There have been 11 causing grief at St James' Park in recent times and, having fallen behind after nine minutes, it looked like it would become an evening of damage limitation.

Had Philippe Coutinho and Ibe not wasted chances to double the lead, the game would have been over within half an hour. Liverpool were dominant all over the pitch at that point as a game of attack versus defence developed.

It did not last. Instead the visitors offered some of the fight so lacking at the Stadium of Light and should have equalised before half-time. Lee Mason lost his nerve with the whistle edging to his lips after 37 minutes when Dejan Lovren tripped Ayoze Perez. The replay was conclusive enough, while few in the stadium could believe the official had missed it in real time.

John Carver, the manager looked as if he was about to combust on the touchline as he protested. He continued interrogating the official down the tunnel at half-time. Futile as it was, you had to sympathise.

Perez also forced Simon Mignolet into a save on the stroke of half-time, and Mehdi Abeid stroked over the bar from inside the penalty area as Newcastle ended the half on top.

They started the second half as the better side too, with Liverpool's back four increasingly vulnerable as Lovren and Emre Can tried to form a partnership.

Lovren's clumsy challenge on his defensive partner just after the break summed up the unease. Carver would have been encouraged by how much his side had improved on the North East derby, but Sterling should have doubled the lead and claimed his second in the 56th minutes. The chance seemed harder to miss.

Henderson was again the creator, galloping down the right flank and delivering a cross that Steven Taylor miskicked. With the net gaping Sterling somehow dragged his shot wide.

Newcastle were more of a threat than many had predicted, however. Remy Cabella and Perez were enjoying themselves, and there was a commitment in midfield that forced Rodgers into a reshuffle after an hour. Ibe, whose lack of match fitness showed, was replaced by Fabio Borini as Liverpool sought to regain control.

As usual, they were at their flowing best whenever Coutinho was in possession, his trickery often dumbfounding his own players as much as the opposition.

Taylor's miserable night continued in the 70th minute as Allen added the second. Taylor's poor headed clearance enabled Sterling to flick the ball back into danger, where at the second attempt, Allen volleyed past Krul.

Carver would have considered it cruel, but the tactical switch had helped Liverpool.

The game ended on a sour note when Moussa Sissoko was sent off for a horrific challenge on Lucas, with a second yellow card surprisingly shown rather than a straight red.

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THE INDEPENDENT

Sterling reminds Liverpool all the trouble could be worth it

The two faces of Raheem Sterling were on display last night. The first was of the striker wheeling away, smiling in wild innocence at the loveliest of goals that showed the full extent of his talent.

The second was a rather guiltier grin posted on The Sun's website, embarrassingly close to the anniversary of the Hillsborough disaster. It was a video that purported to show the forward inhaling "laughing gas", a legal but dangerous high. It came hard on the heels of him trying out a shisha pipe on a night out. Neither are recommended as ideal preparation for a Premier League footballer, especially one determined to prove he should be paid the annual salary of five nurses every week. The talent is obvious but sometimes the thinking is not.

Sterling, heckled during Liverpool's kit launch last Friday, must have wondered what kind of reception he would receive. Liverpool is a club that rarely turns on its own, at least while they are wearing a red shirt. Steve McManaman was jeered during his desultory final season on Merseyside when he was obviously saving himself for Real Madrid but the chants of "there's only one greedy bastard" came from the travelling fans last night.

Those who came from Tyneside saw rather more resistance than they might have expected but were once more betrayed by the kind of shoddy defending that always seems to have accompanied them through the Premier League years. When Mike Williamson dozily delayed his clearance in the 70th minute, Joe Allen had the presence of mind to shoot past goalkeeper Tim Krul.

Liverpool's second ensured their manager, Brendan Rodgers, would succeed in his aim of cutting Manchester City's lead in the fourth and final Champions League position to four points.

It was virtually guaranteed when the Newcastle captain, Moussa Sissoko, launched a wretched tackle on Lucas Leiva and turned without waiting for the second yellow card. The night for Newcastle was also done.

Just before kick-off, there was a moment of perfect stillness as Anfield remembered Hillsborough. On that day in April 1989, Newcastle were at Highbury, on their way to being relegated and losing 1-0, as teams so often did there.

It is depicted in the film Fever Pitch as a passing tragedy. "Even that game will be replayed," says the Nick Hornby character, played by Colin Firth standing on the North Bank, listening to reports filtering through on a transistor radio. It is a tribute to the people of Merseyside that the disaster has remained alive.

But for their run of five straight wins in the autumn that included a victory over Liverpool at St James' Park, Newcastle would now be stone-cold certainties to repeat the feat.

For John Carver, who despite his admirable passion for all things black and white looks like being a very interim manager, the wounds of the abject defeat in the Tyne-Wear derby on Easter Sunday were still visible: "It will define my spell in charge," he had said. "I will suffer for weeks, for months, maybe for years."

All Carver could hope for was a better display than the one they had delivered on Wearside. For that Newcastle would be required to aim two shots at goal. They managed two in the final minutes of the first half with Ayoze Perez forcing a full-length save from Simon Mignolet before Mehdi Abeid shot loosely into the crowd. Shortly after the interval, Newcastle, who had not won at Anfield since Kevin Keegan's first spell in charge, looked the better side.

More significantly, the visitors should have had a penalty when Dejan Lovren, still horribly out of form, appeared to bring Perez down. At half time Carver went to confront the referee, Lee Mason, turned and bumped into a policeman.

Jordan Henderson had once been part of a Sunderland side that had been thrashed 5-1 by Newcastle and, as a Wearsider who had travelled to Wembley to support them in last year's League Cup final, overcoming the enemy would have meant a lot.

It was his fabulous crossfield pass that opened up Newcastle's paper-thin defence for Sterling to break through. There was still plenty for the forward to do as he took the ball first past Ryan Taylor and then Gabriel Obertan before curling it deliciously past Krul. There were four black-and-white shirts around him when he took the shot on goal.

Henderson is a vastly better footballer than the one who arrived on Merseyside struggling to answer questions as to how Kenny Dalglish thought him worth [pounds sterling]20m.

Now there was a cleverly-taken short free-kick when Newcastle's defence was expecting something altogether more spectacular that almost sent Philippe Coutinho through. Another, headed on by Lucas, was fabulously parried by Krul. It was judged offside, though the keeper would have no inkling of the flag when he made the save.

Henderson ought to have produced a second for Sterling with a low cross in front of the Kop that Ryan Taylor missed completely. It fell to the forward six yards out with Krul committed and he somehow managed to screw the shot wide.

Rodgers had already turned to celebrate with one arm raised and turned again to find the score was still 1-0. It was not the only thing about Sterling the Liverpool manager would have difficulty believing last night.

DAILY MIRROR

STERLING'S A HIGH FLIER; Raheem lifts the gloom and keeps top-4 hopes alive

LIVERPOOL 2 NEWCASTLE 0 Sterling 9, Allen 70 PREMIER LEAGUE FROM ANFIELD NOW we can remember what all the fuss is about.

Raheem Sterling lit up Anfield with a stunning goal which came as a timely reminder of the talent surrounded by all the controversy.

That includes the contract stand-off with Liverpool and pictures of him smoking a shisha pipe, while last night a video emerged of the 20-year-old taking deadly nitrous oxide almost at the same time as kickoff.

Sterling is a young man growing up in the public glare and yet his goal was out of the top drawer. The England starlet put the Kop on a high with his ninth-minute opener and he may just have given Liverpool hope of still catching Manchester City in the battle for a top-four slot.

It is why boss Brendan Rodgers has called him the best young player in Europe and why Sterling feels he is worth more than the cash on offer - and why his ambitions are at the very top of the game.

Jordan Henderson's sweeping diagonal ball picked out Sterling on the left edge of the box, the Liverpool forward ghosted past Ryan Taylor and Gabriel Obertan before unleashing a brilliant rightfoot shot into the top corner. It was enough to get the whole of Anfield off their seats. Forget any thoughts of booing or jeers because of the contract row.

They just stood and cheered in appreciation of Sterling's genius. No wonder he is such a hot property. He was restored to his favoured advanced role and he and Philippe Coutinho's pace and g movement was mesmerising at times. Newcastle's patched-up defence was run ragged and only keeper Tim Krul kept the visitors in the game as England striker Daniel Sturridge, absent after yet another injury setback, was barely missed. Krul made super first-half saves from Alberto Moreno at his near post and then made an even better stop from a Lucas close-range header after 36 minutes.

Newcastle were lucky to still be in the contest and, having ridden the storm in the face of not having won at Anfield for 21 years, came back just before the break. Liverpool centre-back Dejan Lovren, hardly inspiring as a PS20million defender, made a clumsy challenge which Newcastle striker Ayoze Perez sprawling and Anfield held its breath.

But referee Lee Mason waved away penalty appeals.

Then in the 45th minute, Liverpool had even closer shave when keeper Simon Mignolet made a stunning save from Perez's header which was bound for the top corner. Sterling should have put the game to bed after 56 minutes but was guilty of one of the misses of the season.

Henderson's low cross was missed by Taylor and Sterling somehow fired wide with the goal at his mercy.

But Liverpool's nerves were finally eased after 70 minutes when Joe Allen scored a second.

Sterling fed Emre Can and his pass deflected off Newcastle's Mike Williamson which allowed Allen to hook home from 15 yards.

Just to compound Newcastle's misery, Moussa Sissoko was sent off for a second yellow card after a bad challenge on Lucas seven minutes from time Liverpool deserved their win, Sterling's goal stole the show and fourth place looks on for them again.

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Raheem Sterling delivers the only legal high Liverpool fans are interested in as Reds close on fourth

Raheem Sterling delivered the only legal high Liverpool fans are interested in as Liverpool breathed new life into their bid for Champions League qualification. Forget your shisha pipes and your laughing gas, supporters have been crying out for goals and the youngster provided one of true quality to ensure Brendan Rodgers' side will go into Sunday's Wembley showdown with Aston Villa in buoyant mood. Controversy continues to dog Sterling in the wake of his ill-advised interview about his future. Skeletons are being tossed from his closet to cause maximum embarrassment. He has some big lessons to learn, including the kind of people he associates himself with.

But this was a night which proved to him that Anfield can still provide some solace. The standing ovation he received when he was substituted late on when recognition for another eye-catching shift. There was a clear message from the Kop that their anger over the current contract stand-off is directed at his agent rather than Sterling himself. His 11th goal of the season made him Liverpool's outright top scorer this season but in truth he should have been walking away with the matchball. The chances he spurned merely underlined that he remains an exciting work in progress rather than the finished article.

On the night when Anfield fell silent to mark the Hillsborough anniversary, Liverpool turned up the heat on stuttering Manchester City.

The gap to fourth place is down to four points with six games remaining. Pressure has been exerted on Manuel Pellegrini's under-fire side but there is no margin for error during the run-in if the Reds are going to gatecrash the Champions League spots. With a FA Cup semi-final just six days away, Newcastle United were the perfect guests. John Carver's mid-table side have long since had the flip-flops on and for long periods they were abject.

The chant of "You're nothing special, we lose every week" formed part of the gallows humour from the away end. The only frustration for Rodgers was that it took Liverpool until 20 minutes from time to finally put them out of their misery when Joe Allen grabbed his first goal of the season. The Welshman became the Reds' 18th different scorer this term – equalling a club record.

Liverpool started and finished in style but in between there was a worrying slump which would have been punished by a better side.

Yet Simon Mignolet stood firm with a 12th league clean sheet taking him a step closer to winning the Golden Glove. There is much for Rodgers to ponder with Steven Gerrard and Martin Skrtel both available for Wembley after serving their three-match bans. The manager kept faith with the 4-3-3 formation which had done the job at Blackburn in the FA Cup. Emre Can returned from suspension to replace the injured Mamadou Sakho at the back.

With Daniel Sturridge having aggravated a hip problem, Jordan Ibe was handed a start after six weeks out with knee ligament damage.

If Sturridge had been operating anywhere near the peak of his powers his absence from the teamsheet would have been greeted with a collective groan.

However, such has been the striker's struggles in recent weeks Liverpool are arguably a more menacing threat at the moment without him.

With Philippe Coutinho operating through the centre as a false No 9 with Ibe right and Sterling on the left, Rodgers had a front three packed full of pace and trickery. Newcastle simply couldn't live with them and Liverpool led inside nine minutes.

Jordan Henderson's cross-field pass found Sterling, whose control was instant. He darted past Ryan Taylor and Gabriel Obertan and expertly fired beyond Tim Krul. It was a significant moment for Sterling, who had endured a two-month drought amid all the speculation regarding his future. Rodgers' decision to put Sterling on the left paid off as his duel with Taylor was a mismatch.

On the opposite flank, Ibe showed few signs of rustiness as he caused Vurnon Anita a stack of problems. The teenager slotted back in effortlessly with Newcastle were reduced to kicking lumps out of him. How Rodgers will be cursing the decision to grant Derby County permission for Ibe to play for them in the FA Cup. That 28-minute run-out in the third round against Southport means Liverpool will be denied his services at Wembley on Sunday. He would have been a certain starter. Liverpool should have been out of sight before the half-hour mark but the lack of a ruthless streak kept Newcastle in the game.

Alberto Moreno's effort was beaten away by Krul and then the outstanding Coutinho waltzed past Jack Colback and Mike Williamson but rather than shoot looked to pass and the chance went begging.

Lucas Leiva ran the show in the centre of midfield and the Reds' slick one-touch passing repeatedly carved Newcastle apart. Coutinho was operating on a different level to anyone else sharing the same turf. The little Brazilian has improved his end product but there is still so much more to come. If his finishing matched his dazzling approach play he would be a 20-goal per season wonder.

Despite having barely out of their own half, Newcastle were still in contention and they were given further encouragement as the Reds got sloppy before the break. Dejan Lovren somehow got away with a reckless challenge on Perez as penalty appeals were waved away. Glen Johnson was then caught napping but Mignolet came to the rescue as he clawed behind Perez's header.

Suddenly, it was a contest with the hosts sloppy in possession. When Mehdi Abeid

lashed over Liverpool were relieved to hear the half-time whistle.

The early stages of the second half brought more of the same. Lovren and Glen Johnson were both guilty of basic errors and there were howls of disapproval from the stands.

Sterling should have settled the nerves after Taylor made a mess of dealing with Henderson's cross but somehow he poked wide.

Fabio Borini replaced the tiring Ibe with the Italian handed his first taste of Premier League football since mid-January.

With 20 minutes to go Liverpool belatedly deliver the killer blow. Sterling and Can combined after Coutinho's corner had only been half cleared and Williamson's blunder was ruthlessly punished as Allen hammered home.

Lovren and Sterling should have increased the Reds' tally before Moussa Sissoko was dismissed late on. Referee Lee Mason only seemed his X-rated challenge on Lucas worthy of a second yellow when it was crying out for a straight red.

Next stop Wembley.

MATCH FACTS

Liverpool (4-3-3): Mignolet, Johnson, Can, Lovren, Moreno, Allen, Lucas, Henderson, Ibe (Borini 58), Coutinho, Sterling (Lambert 88).

Not used: Jones, Toure, Lambert, Manquillo, Brannagan, Markovic.

Newcastle (4-2-3-1): Krul, Taylor, Janmaat, Williamson, Anita, Colback, Abeid (Armstrong 75), Cabella, Obertan (Gutierrez 67), Perez (Gouffran 86), Sissoko.

Not used: Elliot, Ameobi, Riviere, Sterry.

Referee: Lee Mason

Attendance: 44,611

Goals: Sterling 9, Allen 70.

Bookings: Johnson, Sissoko.

Red cards: Sissoko (second yellow)

Man of the match: Philippe Coutinho. Another masterclass from the little Brazilian, who tormented Newcastle throughout.

Date: 13 April 2015
 Opposition: Newcastle United
 Competition: League

Times	Telegraph	Mail
Guardian	Chronicle Live	Echo
Independent	Mirror	BBC

13 April 2015

CHRONICLE LIVE

More misery as Magpies slide to a fifth straight defeat

There have been some poor Newcastle United teams down the years.

This lot are easily one of the worst. Worryingly, it isn't just down to lack of ability either. The problem runs deeper than that at Newcastle these days. Too many in black and white shirts don't know how to represent the club properly. Moussa Sissoko was the perfect example of that at Anfield. Already on a silly yellow card for arguing after clashing with Glen Johnson, Sissoko lunged in on Lucas with a ridiculous challenge that could have broken his leg.

The worst part about it was Sissoko knew fine well he'd already been booked and just like Fabricio Coloccini a few weeks earlier across Stanley Park at Everton, another so-called leader of the club set off for a walk of shame.

Just like the gutless showing at Sunderland, only a handful of Newcastle players deserve some credit. A massive clear-out is required at Newcastle.

But some fans believe that a change of ownership must happen.

Yet no potential buyer means no sale. And no sale means United fans are lumbered with a regime that prefer to chase healthy balance sheets rather than put a team on the pitch that reflects their passionate fans. Newcastle have not won at Anfield since 1994 in the Premier League and it could be a long time until they do so again when players display such a poor attitude. The most striking thing about the current Newcastle team is how they aren't struggling further down the table. They lie rooted to the bottom of the form table in the Premier League and that's where they'll stay at this rate.

John Carver made three changes to the starting line-up that served up a pathetic showing in the Wear-Tyne derby. Mehdi Abeid, Gabriel Obertan and Vurnon Anita came in while Jonas Gutierrez was surprisingly dropped while Yoan Gouffran and Sammy Ameobi were deservedly axed. The Magpies players who lined up for the clash had something to prove after the appalling derby defeat at the Stadium of Light and they made a much better start to the game.

Indeed, with just a couple of minutes on the clock Gabriel Obertan made a powerful run from right to left before picking out Remy Cabella who saw his shot deflected over in front of the Kop. However, Liverpool took full control on nine minutes after allowing Raheem Sterling plenty of room to weave through the defence and curl home past Tim Krul. It was goal that did little to prove those who feel Newcastle are already on their summer holidays wrong.

The Sterling strike resulted in delight for home fans but Newcastle fans responded with a chant of: "You're not that special - we lose every week."

Liverpool looked like a team that sensed they could rack up the goals at Anfield. And Geordies feared the worst as Philippe Coutinho's audacious back heel had Liverpool fans off their feet. Sterling had Ryan Taylor running scared at times and without ample cover from Colback he could have caused more damage. But they failed to make the most of their spell on top.

Newcastle offered very little going forward in the opening exchanges either. Their first shot on target took 29 minutes to arrive.

And that only happened after Daryl Janmaat pushed himself from centre-back to the final third of the Liverpool half to set up Obertan who then crossed before Abeid shot tamely at Simon Mignolet. But Newcastle had Tim Krul to thank nine minutes before the break after he pushed away Lucas' header with a superb block to push the ball to his left. Moments later United were denied what looked like a clear penalty when Dejan Lovren upended Ayoze Perez.

It was a moment in which even the Liverpool fans around the Press box felt it was a clear spot-kick but ref Lee Mason waved protests.

Newcastle actually ended the first half showing a tiny bit of fight.

Janmaat played a direct ball towards the box for Perez whose header was clawed away by Mignolet. Then just before the whistle, Sissoko crossed from the right for Abeid but he sent his shot over the bar.

As the players left the field Jack Colback made his point about the penalty appeal to Mason. And an angry Carver was waiting on the sidelines to show his disgust.

Newcastle started the second half in the same way they'd ended the first but the lack of quality that has affected their season so badly again seeped back in.

Four corners in the first eight minutes of the second period were wasted and even when Sissoko did hold off his man and get a shot in it was a tame effort that was easy for the keeper. Newcastle then offered Liverpool a gift wrapped opportunity when Ryan Taylor's poor clearance fell perfectly for Sterling.

Yet he somehow screwed it wide with the goal yawning in front of the Kop.

Just before the hour mark and the Magpies created another chance when Abeid sent one wide of the post. Liverpool did make it 2-0 with 21 minutes to go.

The Kop side teased United down the left hand side when Emre Can's cross fell kindly for Joe Allen following Williamson's nervous defending.

Allen wasn't going to turn down one of the easiest goals of his career and the Kop rose to applaud the second strike. Newcastle spluttered through the closing stages with 10 men after Sissoko's stupid tackle.

The Magpies couldn't even manage a consolation after Ryan Taylor sent a free-kick over the top. A 2-1 scoreline would have been flattering.

Newcastle slip to their fifth defeat in a row and will level the run of six losses on the spin last season under Alan Pardew if they lose to Spurs.

It's almost as if avoiding relegation this term would paper over the some of the deep cracks at St James' Park. And unless there's a major change in attitude on and off the field that's the likely outcome for Newcastle.



Liverpool moved to within four points of the top four as Raheem Sterling and Joe Allen's goals condemned Newcastle to a fifth straight defeat.

Sterling, at odds with the club over a new contract, cut inside Ryan Taylor and dispatched a smart finish past Tim Krul to open the scoring.

Newcastle had a strong penalty appeal turned down before the break, but Allen's shot put paid to any comeback.

A miserable night for the visitors ended with Moussa Sissoko's red card.

The midfielder was fortunate to receive a second yellow - rather than a straight red - for a studs-up challenge on Lucas Leiva, who was uninjured.

The result leaves Liverpool fifth in the Premier League table on 57 points with six games of the season to go, one point ahead of Southampton in sixth. Manchester City sit in fourth, on 61 points, with third-placed Manchester United a further four points ahead.

This win against a disjointed Newcastle was far from a return to the fluid form that the Reds discovered at the start of 2015.

Yet with Manchester City stalling above them, and three fixtures against teams in the bottom seven to follow, it was a result to fuel optimism after back-to-back league defeats against Manchester United and Arsenal.

That may be tempered by a closer look at the league table and City's vastly superior goal difference - +31 compared to +11.

For Newcastle, a fifth successive league defeat continues an end-of-season malaise that is unlikely to end in relegation, but will add to supporters' frustrations.

Liverpool were lacking the injured Daniel Sturridge and 39 goals down on the tally they had amassed at the same stage last year.

But they started well, continually catching out Newcastle as Sterling, Philippe Coutinho, Jordan Ibe and Alberto Moreno swapped positions, taking it in turns to surge into the area.

Sterling at least partially repaired some bruised relations with the home fans while simultaneously strengthening his bargaining position with an excellently taken goal.

Isolated one on one with Taylor by Jordan Henderson's driven pass, he cut inside the full-back, dodged a half-hearted challenge from Gabriel Obertan and, with minimal back-lift, guided a curling shot into the far corner.

The winger could have easily had a hat-trick, with an open goal miss particularly glaring, but his profligacy ultimately did not cost his side and he departed to warm applause when substituted late on.

Newcastle's best hope of getting back into the game came when Ayoze Perez was chopped down by Dejan Lovren as Liverpool freewheeled towards half-time.

But referee Lee Mason decided the Croatian's challenge did not warrant a penalty.

John Carver's side continued to improve after the break but Allen's sharp half-volley, as the ball came back off Mike Williamson, snuffed out their hopes.

Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers: "I thought we showed attacking intent, won the ball back quickly and controlled the game until the last five or six minutes in the first half.

"I think we were fortunate not to give away a penalty, but thankfully it didn't go against us.

"Philippe Coutinho was incredible, sensational. He played in that hole between the midfield and their defence and was outstanding. He showed why he is one of the best players in the best league in the world."

Newcastle manager John Carver: "Everyone out there has seen it is a penalty.

Even Brendan said straight away it is a penalty.

"I will phone referees' chief Mike Riley tomorrow, he will probably agree, but it gets us nothing.

"We have six cup finals and we need to pick up some points by hook or by crook.

"That is why our fans are going to be important to us. I have enough belief in this group of lads and if we see anything near what I saw tonight there won't be a problem."

Date: 13 April 2015
 Opposition: Newcastle United
 Competition: League

Times	Telegraph	Mail
Guardian	Chronicle Live	Echo
Independent	Mirror	BBC

13 April 2015



Full time Match ends, Liverpool 2, Newcastle United 0.
 90:00+4:07 Full time Second Half ends, Liverpool 2, Newcastle United 0.
 90:00+3:03 Attempt missed. Ryan Taylor (Newcastle United right footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses the top left corner from a direct free kick.
 90:00+2:10 Foul by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool).
 90:00+2:10 Rémy Cabella (Newcastle United wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 89:40 Booking Alberto Moreno (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
 89:35 Foul by Alberto Moreno (Liverpool).
 89:35 Yoan Gouffran (Newcastle United wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 88:07 Substitution Substitution, Liverpool. Rickie Lambert replaces Raheem Sterling.
 87:25 Foul by Joe Allen (Liverpool).
 87:25 Rémy Cabella (Newcastle United wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 86:58 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Michael Williamson.
 86:00 Substitution Substitution, Newcastle United. Yoan Gouffran replaces Ayoze Pérez.
 83:54 Attempt missed. Raheem Sterling (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is high and wide to the left. Assisted by Jordan Henderson following a set piece situation.
 82:46 Dismissal Dismissal, Newcastle United for a bad foul.
 82:37 Lucas Leiva (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 82:37 Foul by Moussa Sissoko (Newcastle United).
 82:04 Lucas Leiva (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 82:04 Foul by Jack Colback (Newcastle United).
 80:34 Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool).
 80:34 Tim Krul (Newcastle United wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 80:31 Attempt blocked. Joe Allen (Liverpool right footed shot from very close range is blocked.
 80:04 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Daryl Janmaat.
 79:59 Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box misses to the left following a corner.
 79:27 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Moussa Sissoko.
 79:00 Alberto Moreno (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 79:00 Foul by Jonás Gutiérrez (Newcastle United).
 77:49 Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 77:49 Foul by Vurnon Anita (Newcastle United).
 77:25 Booking Moussa Sissoko (Newcastle United is shown the yellow card.
 77:07 Booking Glen Johnson (Liverpool is shown the yellow card.
 75:01 Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool).
 75:01 Adam Armstrong (Newcastle United wins a free kick on the left wing.
 74:33 Substitution Substitution, Newcastle United. Adam Armstrong replaces Mehdi Abeid.
 72:00 Attempt missed. Dejan Lovren (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is just a bit too high. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho with a cross following a corner.
 71:35 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Jack Colback.
 69:27 Goal scored Goal! Liverpool 2, Newcastle United 0. Joe Allen (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box to the top left corner following a corner.
 68:43 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Michael Williamson.
 67:26 Fabio Borini (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.
 67:26 Foul by Mehdi Abeid (Newcastle United).
 66:53 Attempt missed. Ryan Taylor (Newcastle United right footed shot from a difficult angle and long range on the right misses to the right. Assisted by Rémy Cabella following a corner.
 66:30 Substitution Substitution, Newcastle United. Jonás Gutiérrez replaces Gabriel Obertan.
 65:46 Corner, Newcastle United. Conceded by Dejan Lovren.
 65:00 Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked.
 60:49 Attempt saved. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from the left side of the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Raheem Sterling.
 60:12 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Ryan Taylor.
 58:26 Alberto Moreno (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 58:26 Foul by Ayoze Pérez (Newcastle United).
 58:00 Substitution Substitution, Liverpool. Fabio Borini replaces Jordan Ibe.
 57:18 Attempt missed. Mehdi Abeid (Newcastle United right footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by Jack Colback.
 55:57 Attempt missed. Raheem Sterling (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is close, but misses to the left.
 53:15 Jordan Ibe (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 53:15 Foul by Vurnon Anita (Newcastle United).
 52:32 Attempt saved. Moussa Sissoko (Newcastle United right footed shot from the left side of the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Gabriel Obertan.
 50:41 Corner, Newcastle United. Conceded by Dejan Lovren.
 50:15 Attempt blocked. Mehdi Abeid (Newcastle United right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked.
 49:50 Corner, Newcastle United. Conceded by Glen Johnson.
 49:19 Delay over. They are ready to continue.
 48:02 Delay in match Emre Can (Liverpool because of an injury).
 47:32 Attempt missed. Gabriel Obertan (Newcastle United header from the centre of the box misses to the right. Assisted by Ayoze Pérez with a cross following a corner.
 47:06 Corner, Newcastle United. Conceded by Lucas Leiva.
 45:44 Offside, Liverpool. Jordan Henderson tries a through ball, but Raheem Sterling is caught offside.
 45:00 Second Half begins Liverpool 1, Newcastle United 0.

45:00+1:08 Half time First Half ends, Liverpool 1, Newcastle United 0.
 45:00+0:53 Attempt missed. Mehdi Abeid (Newcastle United right footed shot from the centre of the box is too high. Assisted by Moussa Sissoko.
 44:54 Corner, Newcastle United. Conceded by Simon Mignolet.
 44:50 Attempt saved. Ayoze Pérez (Newcastle United header from the centre of the box is saved in the top left corner. Assisted by Daryl Janmaat.
 41:58 Glen Johnson (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 41:58 Foul by Ayoze Pérez (Newcastle United).
 41:33 Offside, Liverpool. Jordan Henderson tries a through ball, but Philippe Coutinho is caught offside.
 41:02 Jordan Ibe (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.
 41:02 Foul by Vurnon Anita (Newcastle United).
 40:23 Hand ball by Ayoze Pérez (Newcastle United).
 38:47 Attempt missed. Jordan Ibe (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box misses to the right. Assisted by Jordan Henderson.
 37:37 Raheem Sterling (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 37:37 Foul by Daryl Janmaat (Newcastle United).
 36:13 Foul by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool).
 36:13 Rémy Cabella (Newcastle United wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 35:13 Offside, Liverpool. Jordan Henderson tries a through ball, but Lucas Leiva is caught offside.
 34:41 Jordan Ibe (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.
 34:41 Foul by Vurnon Anita (Newcastle United).
 31:15 Dejan Lovren (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 31:15 Dangerous play by Ayoze Pérez (Newcastle United).
 28:22 Glen Johnson (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.
 28:22 Foul by Rémy Cabella (Newcastle United).
 27:37 Attempt saved. Mehdi Abeid (Newcastle United left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Ayoze Pérez.
 26:18 Joe Allen (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 26:18 Foul by Moussa Sissoko (Newcastle United).
 25:39 Attempt saved. Raheem Sterling (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.
 25:25 Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Jordan Henderson.
 24:33 Jordan Ibe (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 24:33 Foul by Michael Williamson (Newcastle United).
 18:12 Raheem Sterling (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.
 18:12 Foul by Mehdi Abeid (Newcastle United).
 15:52 Attempt saved. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the centre of the goal.
 14:17 Offside, Newcastle United. Gabriel Obertan tries a through ball, but Ayoze Pérez is caught offside.
 13:37 Offside, Newcastle United. Moussa Sissoko tries a through ball, but Ayoze Pérez is caught offside.
 13:15 Foul by Raheem Sterling (Liverpool).
 13:15 Ryan Taylor (Newcastle United wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 12:07 Attempt saved. Alberto Moreno (Liverpool left footed shot from the left side of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Dejan Lovren with a through ball.
 8:49 Goal scored Goal! Liverpool 1, Newcastle United 0. Raheem Sterling (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom right corner. Assisted by Jordan Henderson.
 4:20 Corner, Newcastle United. Conceded by Lucas Leiva.
 4:17 Attempt blocked. Rémy Cabella (Newcastle United right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Gabriel Obertan.
 1:04 Foul by Raheem Sterling (Liverpool).
 1:04 Ryan Taylor (Newcastle United wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 0:00 First Half begins.
 0:00 Lineups are announced and players are warming up.