

Date: 17 August 2015
 Opposition: Bournemouth
 Competition: League

Times	Telegraph	Echo
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17 August 2015

THE TIMES

Benteke cashes in on touch of fortune

Liverpool 1 Bournemouth West 0

It can be a cruel place, the Barclays Premier League. Once again Bournemouth came away with plenty of plaudits last night, as well as plenty of sympathy, but the outcome was another slightly harsh defeat, this time by a Liverpool team who will be happy to be following the opposite course.

For Liverpool, it is played two, scored two, won two. For Bournemouth, it is played two, conceded two, lost two. Eddie Howe's newly-promoted team performed confidently throughout, which must have made it all the more galling for them that Liverpool's winning goal, Christian Benteke's first for the club, came with the help of a linesman's interpretation of an offside rule that was supposed to have been revised to prevent such incidents.

Benteke will not care about the offside debate, since a PS32.5 million forward will take any assistance he can get in his home debut for a new club, but there is something peculiar about a rule that can, by any interpretation, allow a goal to stand when the latest revision was intended to remove the notion of a player interfering with play from an offside position and getting away with it, as Philippe Coutinho did. Bournemouth also had an early goal disallowed for a push by Tommy Elphick, their captain, but, if that was debatable, the award of the Benteke goal looked plain wrong.

No doubt Brendan Rodgers will seek to accentuate the positives -- and he is entitled to feel that this became the type of game in which his team would have dropped points last season -- but, as against Stoke City eight days earlier, there was a lack of fluency and real spark to Liverpool's play. As with Manchester United, Liverpool's two 1-0 wins to date look far better on paper than they did in the flesh. An hour and a half before kick-off, Bournemouth's players could be found in the centre circle, familiarising themselves with their surroundings.

Tellingly, perhaps, there were no camera phones or selfie sticks on display. They were at Anfield for business, not pleasure. There was certainly no sign of apprehension or stage fright in the way Bournemouth began the game. They were excellent for the first 20 minutes, hustling and hassling, pressing and passing, in a way that made Liverpool look very uncomfortable. In the fifth minute, Elphick thought he had scored, beating Dejan Lovren to a corner from Matt Ritchie and sending a downward header past Simon Mignolet. Bournemouth's players and supporters were in dreamland, only for Craig Pawson, the referee, to blow his whistle. Pawson felt that Ritchie had impeded Lovren. Television replays did not prohibit that view, since Elphick certainly put an arm on the Liverpool defender's shoulder as they contested a high ball, but it was a borderline decision, which seems so much harder to accept when it is an underdog goal that is ruled out.

More frustration was to follow for Bournemouth with that opening goal from Benteke, but for at least another 15 minutes they remained the more assertive, impressive team. The disallowed goal had stemmed from the way that Callum Wilson, dribbling down the right, tormented Lovren into conceding a corner. It was a similar story on the left wing, where Max Gradel was giving Nathaniel Clyne a tough time. Gradel forced another corner, from which Ritchie picked out Josh King, who headed over the crossbar. With Andrew Surman and Eunan O'Kane helping to keep Bournemouth moving, it looked like a thorough endorsement of Howe's decision to go with two centre forwards, but the flip side is that his 4-4-2 system left so much more space for Liverpool to exploit once they finally began to find some kind of rhythm. Little was seen of Benteke in the early stages, but a stray pass from Ritchie put Bournemouth in trouble and allowed the former Aston Villa player to drive forward and send a fierce right-foot shot that whistled past Artur Boruc's goal. That Benteke goal, the big talking point, came on 26 minutes after Liverpool won a corner on the left. From the corner, Jordan Henderson played a one-two that allowed him to cross from a more dangerous angle.

It was an excellent cross, the type defenders hate, but Coutinho was wandering back from an offside position when the ball was played. By trying to get a contact, and by distracting Boruc and his defence, Coutinho became "active" in refereeing parlance, but when the ball ran on to Benteke, who scored at the far post, the assistant referee kept his flag down and Liverpool were ahead.

For a time, that goal seemed to knock Bournemouth out of their stride -- or at very least to galvanise their opponents. Liverpool could certainly have extended their lead by half-time. From one James Milner free kick, Henderson shot just over the crossbar. From another he picked out Henderson again, but the Liverpool captain, losing either his footing or his nerve, failed to make the most of it. Just before the interval Coutinho pounced on Charlie Daniels's indecision, but, with the goal gaping, he shot wide. Daniels got forward down the left side and played the ball across the 18-yard line to Ritchie, whose fierce leftfoot shot went just the wrong side of the near post. Ritchie was having an excellent game, combining with Wilson to set up O'Kane, who shot into the sidenetting. Liverpool were living dangerously.

That was about as tense as it got for Liverpool, though. Howe sent on Lee Tomlin, Adam Smith and Dan Gosling in search of an equaliser, but the closest either team came in the closing stages was when Benteke hit the crossbar from Clyne's cross. Two-nil would have been harsh on Bournemouth. So too, arguably, was 1-0.

Liverpool (4-1-4-1): S Mignolet -- N Clyne, M Skrtel, D Lovren, J Gomez -- J Henderson (sub: E Can, 52min) -- P Coutinho (sub: A Moreno, 81), J Milner, A Lallana, J Ibe (sub: R Firmino, 70) -- C Benteke. Substitutes not used: A Bogdan, K Toure, D Ings, D Origi. Booked: Gomez.

Bournemouth (4-4-2): A Boruc -- S Francis, T Elphick, S Cook, C Daniels -- M Ritchie, E O'Kane (sub: D Gosling, 87), A Surman, M Gradel (sub: A Smith, 81) -- J King (sub: L Tomlin, 61), C Wilson. Substitutes not used: A Federici, S Distin, T Mings, M Pugh. Booked: O'Kane, Ritchie, Tomlin, Cook. Referee: C Pawson.

the guardian

Christian Benteke's disputed goal helps Liverpool beat Bournemouth Life in the Premier League is unforgiving, wrote Brendan Rodgers in his programme notes. Two matches into the experience and Eddie Howe knows exactly what he means after a goal that never was and a goal that should never have stood condemned Bournemouth to a second successive defeat. Liverpool were relieved beneficiaries. Christian Benteke marked his Anfield debut with a winning goal that will massage his confidence and that of a Liverpool team understandably lacking fluidity, with four new faces in the starting line-up and a recently acquired, powerful centre-forward to integrate into the side. But his close-range conversion from Jordan Henderson's inviting cross should have been disallowed with Philippe Coutinho clearly infringing every aspect of the offside rule.

The Brazilian is known as the "little magician" in these parts and his disappearing act in the eyes of the referee, Craig Pawson, and his assistants proved the defining moment. Bournemouth's captain, Tommy Elphick, also had a goal harshly ruled out during a vibrant start from the visitors. Argument over Pawson's two crucial decisions flowed back and forth but all that matters to Rodgers at the start of a crucial season in his Anfield tenure is a 100% record matched only by the two Manchester clubs and Leicester City. Two goals, two clean sheets and two victories suggest a Liverpool side that is both economical and efficient. Dominance of the ball and a genuine goal threat, Rodgers insists, will arrive in time. The encouragement for Bournemouth, by contrast, was laced with frustration. Howe headed on to the pitch to shake hands with all the match officials after the final whistle, went to have a word and thought better of it.

The Bournemouth manager went for the more diplomatic option and applauded the travelling support from the south coast instead. They had seen evidence of the big calls favouring the big clubs at first hand.

John W Henry and Tom Werner, Liverpool's principal owner and chairman respectively, were at Anfield to check on the redevelopment of the colossal £114m main stand and Rodgers' more expensively assembled team. It would not have taken them long to realise both remain a work in progress as Liverpool initially struggled to match Bournemouth's vibrancy and accuracy on the ball, before improving in time for their contentious winner.

Rodgers picked the same side and bench as opened the season at Stoke City last weekend, which meant summer signing Roberto Firmino bidding his time among the substitutes again and no place in the match-day squad for Lucas Leiva or Mamadou Sakho. The Brazilian midfielder and France international defender, who could both exit before the close of the transfer window, were to be found sat with fellow outcasts Mario Balotelli, Fabio Borini and Jose Enrique in the back row of the directors box. They would have noted the murmurs prompted by Liverpool's display inside ten minutes. Howe refused to be over-critical of his side's Premier League debut last weekend, a home defeat by Aston Villa, and had fewer complaints here. Max Gradel and Matt Ritchie offered energy and invention down either flank while Callum Wilson's movement and strength proved a constant distraction to Dejan Lovren. Bournemouth thought they had the lead after five minutes when Elphick climbed above Lovren and headed Ritchie's corner beyond the suspect grasp of Simon Mignolet. Their celebrations were curtailed when Pawson decided the central defender had leaned on the Croatia international as the pair closed in on the corner. Liverpool had begun to stifle the visitors' counter-attacks and offer more invention, inevitably through Coutinho, when the breakthrough arrived. Henderson caught out the Bournemouth defence with a corner played back to Nathaniel Clyne, then swept the full-back's return pass into the box with a right-footed, in-swinging delivery. Bournemouth held their defensive line and caught Coutinho in their offside trap. Liverpool's No10 attempted to connect but missed the ball by a fraction and, with Artur Boruc stranded, Benteke arrived from an inside position to convert at the back post. In terms of intent, proximity to the ball and impact on an opponent, Liverpool's No10 was offside under the new interpretation of the rule but, to Bournemouth's dismay, the £32.5m striker's goal stood.

Benteke hit the Bournemouth bar in stoppage time, Coutinho wasted a fine chance moments before the interval and had a goal-bound drive superbly blocked by Charlie Daniels but the visitors, and the powerful left foot of Ritchie in particular, proved a constant test for Liverpool. Only the final whistle and Pawson's decision-making brought Anfield respite.

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The Mail

CHRISTIAN AID FOR RODGERS; But Benteke's offside strike is so cruel for Howe's luckless men

BOURNEMOUTH now know what that 'This Is Anfield' sign signifies. It isn't about the club, or even the mighty stadium. Not solely. The history and legend, well yes, a bit of that, too. But there's more. What 'This Is Anfield' represents is the whole package: the famous red shirt, and The Kop, those spintingling European nights, but also the other obstacles, the random factors that line up against Premier League virgins. Referees who refuse to believe Bournemouth can score a legitimate goal after five minutes at Anfield; that one mistake costs three points; that every chance must be taken. If it felt daunting going out there, it must have felt doubly so returning to the dressing-room after 90 minutes. Bournemouth gave it everything and came away with nothing. They didn't play badly but lost, 1-0, for a second time this season.

And they've got this, every week, for a season. Not Anfield, obviously, but the demands of one of the most punishing leagues in world football. Bournemouth had the same back four here that started their last game in League One against Tranmere Rovers two seasons ago. It is testament to those players, and manager Eddie Howe, that nobody would have been any the wiser.

Liverpool had the better of the first half after a bright Bournemouth spell, but far from brushing their opponents aside after halftime as expected, if anything, they were hanging on. Matt Ritchie (right) hit a post and a lot of Liverpool's rhythm went with the disappearance of Jordan Henderson seven minutes after half-time and losing him would be a significant blow.

The best news for Brendan Rodgers was a goal for Christian Benteke on his home debut, and at the Kop end. The frustration for Howe was that it should have been disallowed for offside. A legitimate goal for Tommy Elphick should have stood, too. If Bournemouth looked Premier League quality, the same cannot be said for referee Craig Pawson. Still, six points from six takes the pressure of Rodgers, short-term at least. Handed Stoke away as his opening game, and the equivalent of a banana skin at home in his second, this could have been a very tricky start. Instead, Liverpool have steered a path with maximum points and no goals conceded. He'll take that. They need to step up from here, though. Both games were close and bigger and better awaits. Put simply, Bournemouth got absolutely stiffed by Pawson. They had what appeared to be a perfectly good goal disallowed and went behind to one that seemed to have a clear offside at a crucial point in the build-up. Supporters of small clubs in the Premier League instantly welcomed them to union of the hard-done-by on social media. Referees favour the big teams and they had better get used to it, was the general wisdom. It isn't strictly true, but it is easy to see how it can be perceived this way.

This was Bournemouth, at Anfield. The chances are, then, that they are not going to get a whole heap of opportunities to score and Liverpool will have plenty. So a goal falsely chalked off for Bournemouth might be their one opening of the game, while for Liverpool it is probably going to get lost among a number.

So here, and at Old Trafford or the Etihad, Stamford Bridge or the Emirates, it will often seem that the small clubs are gyped. So it proved for Bournemouth. They got the ball into the net after five minutes, their only real chance despite some good possession football. Pawson ruled it out, harshly. Who knows the tension it would have caused had it stood? It was a corner from the right, met by Elphick, the Bournemouth captain. Pawson claimed he had manhandled Dejan Lovren to win the header, but it didn't look much of an offence on playback. Elphick brushed him, little more, and Lovren should have been far stronger. What a moment it would have been for Bournemouth. Pawson decided it was not to be. If he saw what wasn't for Bournemouth's goal, he missed what was for Liverpool's -- an offside against Philippe Coutinho as the cross came in that would have been of no significance last season, but is most certainly an infringement under the rule changes. The move began with Henderson's shortish corner to Nathaniel Clyne, changing the angle and returned to his feet. Henderson whipped in a superb inswinger, which caught Bournemouth's defence square and unprepared. So far, so good. What wasn't good, however, was Coutinho's positioning, or Pawson's reading of it. He was offside and tried to get a touch, but couldn't reach. The rules changed this season. An offside player no longer has to touch the ball, merely display obvious active movement towards the ball. Unless Pawson thought Coutinho was about to nip off for a half-time cup of Bovril, it is hard to see what else he thought he was trying to do. Without doubt he would have caught the attention of goalkeeper Artur Boruc -- and that type of distraction is the whole point of the rule change. Still, no whistle, no flag and up popped Benteke at the far post to knock the ball over the line from no more than three yards. A goal on his home debut, and in front of The Kop. It was the sort of moment that can inspire a proud career here: but it shouldn't have stood.

It settled Liverpool, though, and they grew stronger as the half wore on. Benteke had already signalled his danger, picking up a loose pass from Ritchie and shooting powerfully, but wide, from 25 yards.

A goal up, Liverpool came close to a second when James Milner's square free-kick found Henderson, whose clever side-footed shot clipped the top of the bar. It was a useful half from Henderson, passing not as accurate as it could be, but plenty of it and always involved. Indeed, the match could have been as good as over a minute before half-time when Coutinho played a lovely one-two only to steer his finish wide. It was a stroke of luck for Bournemouth, but then again they deserved one.

The Daily Telegraph

Christian Benteke scores as Eddie Howe bemoans no offside call

Two games, two wins and two clean sheets. But this was far from perfect for Liverpool and far from unblemished for referee Craig Pawson and his assistant Harry Lennard. Bournemouth left with a burning sense of pride in their impressive, tails-up performance but an even fiercer sense of justified grievance after Christian Benteke's first goal for Liverpool -- on his home debut following his £32.5million move from Aston Villa -- should have been ruled out for offside.

It was not the only controversial moment. Bournemouth had the ball in the net after just five minutes only for captain Tommy Elphick's header from a corner to be ruled out for a foul on Dejan Lovren. The contact was marginal, his hands were close to Lovren, but both players were competing for the ball and it was an even challenge. For Pawson to disallow it seemed a very harsh decision.

If that was tough on Bournemouth then permitting the Liverpool goal wronged them. There is a new interpretation of offside this season. A player no longer has to touch the ball to be deemed offside, he merely has to show an obvious movement towards it which distracts an opponent. And Philippe Coutinho did just that as he tried to reach Jordan Henderson's cross before Benteke poked the ball home from close range in front of an approving Kop, who believe they have a new goalscorer hero to hang their hopes on. He certainly gave the impression that he will provide the team with a cutting edge. Lennard did not flag. The incident will cue debate over an interpretation that leaves things even more open to interpretation and puts even more pressure on officials who are also denied the technology necessary to make judgments on such incidents. Even so, no TV replay was needed to divine that Coutinho was clearly offside under the new rules.

Cue also the renewed complaint that smaller clubs are unfairly treated; that their voices are not heard. The big decisions go with the big boys. The evidence here was indisputable but hopefully the intent was innocent.

So instead of being a goal up, Bournemouth were one down - "a two-goal swing against us" as their manager Eddie Howe described it - but they never let their heads go down. They were outstanding, from their defence, with all four players having also started the club's last League One encounter against Tranmere Rovers, through their relentless midfield and pacy attack. Matt Ritchie was particularly impressive, sharp and positive and should score in this division. He went agonisingly close. But Bournemouth have played two games and lost both without scoring. They have been the best team in both matches, having outplayed Aston Villa, but the Premier League has been unforgiving for them so far, which is all the more cruel given how they brim with belief and intent.

Hopefully it will not be knocked out of them but results need to turn quickly in their favour. Bournemouth pushed and pushed right to the end with Liverpool defending ever deeper. Their manager Brendan Rodgers will have suffered frayed nerves with the club's principal owner, John W Henry, watching from the directors' box -- along with chairman Tom Werner -- on his first visit to Anfield since February. The Americans were here to inspect the club's huge rebuilding work, with a vast main stand being constructed to envelope the existing structure. But it is not the only extensive rebuilding being undertaken as, for the second successive summer, Rodgers has worked hard to reconstitute his team and create a far stronger structure. There were four home debutants in the starting XI, including Nathaniel Clyne, Liverpool's most eye-catching performer, Joe Gomez and James Milner, who ended the game with the captain's armband after Jordan Henderson limped off injured.

Rodgers also eventually introduced Roberto Firmino, the exciting creator carrying so many hopes, but that other Brazilian, Coutinho, continues to provide evidence that he is the attacking hub who can provide for Benteke.

The Belgian striker gives Liverpool a different dimension, as Rodgers acknowledged. Along with his goal, he struck the crossbar late on as he met a cross from Clyne. By then Bournemouth had also hit the frame of the goal as Ritchie's instinctive, powerful shot from the area's edge clipped a post. Bournemouth quickly settled into an attacking rhythm that their positive 4-4-2 formation demanded, making Liverpool nervous. There was so much change to digest in their line-up and here were the league's latest arrivals taking the contest to them even if the home side went closest after the goal when Coutinho shot wastefully wide as space opened up for him.

Callum Wilson and Joshua King continually preoccupied the Liverpool defence while Ritchie carried the main threat, but midfielder Eunan O'Kane also went close, finding the side-netting from close range.

By then Liverpool were living dangerously. As impressive as Clyne and Benteke had been there were problems, especially down the left flank where the youthful combination of Gomez and Jordan Ibe appeared increasingly more vulnerable, forcing Rodgers to shore it up.

Coutinho and then Milner were denied, with Charlie Daniels charging down both of their goal-bound shots, before Benteke went close.

However, Liverpool did not finish in the ascendancy. The home fans did not welcome the announcement of four minutes of added time. They wanted that final whistle as Bournemouth were pushing hard to claim the point they deserved. Not until October last season did Liverpool claim back-to-back victories and now they have started their season with them. There are grounds for hope as their new ground takes shape. But there is also a foundation for Bournemouth to build on.

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THE INDEPENDENT

Things look up for Liverpool as Benteke makes his mark

The Anfield Main Stand was a metaphor for what we saw in the Liverpool team assembled to play beneath it. A work in progress, still a full season from completion, with shiny new steel in position but jagged remnants of the old parts, too - yet to be dismembered. Their six points are the monumentally significant part for the home team, relieving pressure from the manager, Brendan Rodgers. With Arsenal up next, that certainly helps. Rodgers can also reflect on early signs of a genuine attacking partnership, in Christian Benteke and Philippe Coutinho, which offers the threat and synchronicity which have been so painfully absent since Luis Suarez left. But the less-than-emphatic scoreline told the story. The game turned on two refereeing decisions which could have gone either way. Liverpool take maximum points forwards and Bournemouth are yet to register one. It would be no injustice on the evidence of their first two matches if each had collected two from two. There was the view of an emerging new world on offer, the roof trusses of a half-built stand in place, a new captain's programme notes, four new players and a corresponding sense of anticipation. Even Liverpool's principal owner had put in one of his occasional appearances. The early-evening sunshine helped. But like so many new beginnings here it was an insubstantial pageant. The sense of anticipation was punctured in the five minutes it took to appreciate that new beginnings are not quite as easy as that, that Dejan Lovren does not become an accomplished defender because of a collective will, and that a team does not necessarily add up to the sum of the parts if it does not know to operate as a collective.

Jordan Henderson's notes were full of the promise of how it will be, no problems speaking up if players step out of line, no guarantees of a place in the team, though the look on his face did not seem to bear that out when he was withdrawn after 52 minutes. None of this was material to Liverpool's need for mutual understanding, which is what Eddie Howe's Bournemouth possessed and their hosts did not when the sides went about their work.

Nathaniel Clyne struggled - turned twice by Max Gradel - Lovren was stretched to what looked the limit of his ability and within five minutes Bournemouth had the ball in the net, Tommy Elphick rising above Lovren to deposit a header that Simon Mignolet floundered around. You could have heard a pin drop in the moment before the reality dawned that Elphick had his right hand over the defender's shoulder and that the effort would be struck out.

The busy note taking of Rodgers belied the elementary fault at the heart of their struggle to mount anything as determined and effective as Howe's players. It was the failure to see the value that Benteke was adding by winning virtually every aerial ball. You fancied that it was in blind frustration that Benteke decided to take matters into his own hands halfway through the first period, dropping deep to collect a loose ball 25 yards from goal, driving into open space and dispatching it narrowly over Artur Boric's bar. James Milner was looking for him, yet struggling to distribute well, working sideways when something forward was in order. It is hard to overstate the importance to Rodgers of all this beginning to work.

Liverpool's owners believe they have offered him much more certainty by spending at the top end of market valuations this summer, paying Hoffenheim for Roberto Firmino and then Aston Villa for Benteke, despite all the private protestations about his buyout clause. The signs are that Coutinho may become an even more valuable player than the one Rodgers thought priceless last season. It was the absence of a heartbeat which made you wonder how this Liverpool side would fare as the season began, though that was what the Brazilian provided.

It was he who began to intuit the danger Benteke would bring and he who sought him out. It was he who did the hard yards, box to box, and began to galvanise the side. It was he who assumed the role of leader, subtly shifting the momentum in a way that bought Liverpool their goal, albeit more by good luck than judgement.

Henderson exchanged a short corner pass and whipped in a low, sharp cross with pace which missed the Bournemouth defence, the outstretched leg of Coutinho - who had still been in an offside position after he retreated - and reached Benteke, who poked out a boot to send it in. It was a giant slice of luck for the hosts.

There were other signs of recovery in those moments. Clyne's thumping challenge into Gradel, from which he emerged with the ball, seemed to quieten the threat of the Ivorian. Henderson took a speculative first-time shot which landed on the roof of the net and Coutinho then ran close to scoring himself, collecting a rebound to ease into the Bournemouth area, from where he steered a low shot wide. But with Eunan O'Kane, the one-time Everton academy trainee anchoring midfield, and Callum Wilson in attack, Bournemouth were in possession enough to maintain a threat.

It was just beyond the hour that those two combined, Wilson nutmegging Lovren in the penalty area to find the onrushing O'Kane, who found the side netting. Busy, ambitious Matt Ritchie was another reason why Howe's side looked like they have little to fear. They were worth a point.

The game's closing stages brought more signs of the force Benteke may prove to be, as he clattered Clyne's low cross from the right against the bar. It also brought Alberto Moreno tearing imperiously 30 yards in on goal, creating a free-kick routine so intricate that Milner - surprised to be find himself in possession - spooned 50 yards wide.

Six points out of six for Liverpool but much to do.

DAILY MIRROR

Liverpool's Bournemouth win shows room to improve — but 6 out of 6 ain't bad

It will take more than a spawny goal, which reeked of offside, on his home debut to make -Christian Benteke a Liverpool legend.

But this was an impressive start from the £32.5million brawny Belgian, full of muscular hold-up play, Olympic-class high jumping and no little sleight of foot as the Reds beat Bournemouth.

Brendan Rodgers might have felt he deserved a slice of fortune after the miseries of last season, and he got one here at Anfield when ref Craig Pawson and a dozing linesman allowed -Liverpool's new No9 a first-half winner - despite Philippe Coutinho interfering with play from an offside position.

Bill Shankly once observed that if a player is not interfering with play, then he ought to be - back in the days when the offside law was clearer than mud. And there was little doubt that Coutinho was creating a distraction here.

But after beginning this season on the brink of imminent crisis, Rodgers will take whatever he can get.

He has overseen back-to-back 1-0 victories and successfully integrated four of his summer signings into the first-team line-up - with James Milner influential in central midfield and full-backs -Nathaniel Clyne and Joe Gomez bedding in nicely. They will head to Arsenal next Monday with their tails up, however lucky this victory might have been.

Bournemouth are suffering a cruel introduction to the land of milk and money. They have been beaten by the only goal twice in their first two games, by Liverpool and Aston Villa, having carried plenty of attacking threat in both games. Eddie Howe's team are neat, tidy, easy-on-the-eye - but appear just a little too damned nice.

Their elevation has leant an unfamiliar romance to the Premier League - Mills, Boon and the mysterious Russian owner.

Their supporters were -determined to enjoy a first night out at a major top-flight landmark, despite a 540-mile round trip on a Monday. And the Cherries fizzed it about nicely early on.

They believed they had scored on six minutes when skipper Tommy Elphick headed in from Matt Ritchie's corner, only for the ref to rule it out for climbing on Dejan Lovren - another decision which angered Howe.

Liverpool soon rolled out some rapid-fire passing moves, Milner, Coutinho and Adam Lallana all to the fore.

Benteke, who had toppled into the second row of the Kop to introduce himself when winning an early corner, drilled over from long range after a stray Ritchie pass.

On 26 minutes, Benteke's big moment arrived - with a decent assist from Pawson.

After a short corner, Jordan Henderson centred - with Coutinho one of two players offside, and almost connecting himself - as Bournemouth's defenders stood in line and waited for justice which was not forthcoming and Benteke prodded in at the back stick.

There was little protest from Howe's men, who may require a meaner streak if they are to make a fist of staying up.

Milner then squared a free-kick cunningly to -Henderson, who clipped the top of the bar from 25 yards.

Henderson, the new Anfield skipper, might have had a penalty soon after when shunted in the back by Max Gradel but he failed to make a meal of it and was not rewarded for his honesty.

But half-time brought the end of Liverpool's brief purple patch. Rodgers hauled off -Henderson with a foot injury and the hosts struggled, Ritchie whistling one effort narrowly wide, then skimming a post with another as the new boys continued to surge forward.

There was little hint of a second goal until the 90th minute, when Clyne centred low and Benteke skewed a close-range shot against the bar.

Liverpool will need to improve on this, but six out of six ain't bad.

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The message from Boston was crystal clear – they expected to see more bang for their buck this season.

Christian Benteke, Liverpool FC's most lavish purchase during a hectic summer, duly delivered in front of watching owners John W Henry and Tom Werner as he provided the first return on that hefty investment.

The £32.5million striker marked his home debut in style with the priceless strike in front of the Kop which maintained the Reds' perfect start to the campaign at the expense of Premier League new boys Bournemouth.

Controversy surrounded Benteke's classy finish from close range with Philippe Coutinho clearly standing in an offside position but to the Belgian's delight the goal stood. Only the woodwork denied Liverpool's match-winner a second late on.

It was far from convincing from Brendan Rodgers' side but just as they did at Stoke six days earlier they earned a scrappy victory.

Henry and Werner will return to the States in the knowledge that the rebuilding job is a work in progress both on and off the field.

Before kick-off the Fenway Sports Group duo had checked out progress on the new Main Stand which towers over Anfield with the 650 tonne roof truss now in place. That is on schedule to open in time for the start of the 2016/17 season and it's Rodgers' job to ensure the expanded arena plays hosts to Champions League football once again. To achieve that target the the bar will need to be raised considerably with tougher tests to follow over the coming weeks but, crucially, the Reds have a platform to build on. It's no surprise with so many new faces on board that fluency has so far eluded Rodgers' men.

Grinding out results

But unlike last season, when during their sorry demise they were an embarrassing soft touch, there is now a much greater backbone to the side.

The £80million spending spree Rodgers embarked upon hasn't only added quality but also a welcome injection of steel. Liverpool have recaptured the art of grinding out results with successive clean sheets. It was October last season before they managed back to back wins. Rodgers named an unchanged side following the 1-0 victory at Stoke with Emre Can and Roberto Firmino once again having to settle for places on the bench. However, there was a tactical tweak with Jordan Ibe switched to the left and Coutinho on the right with Adam Lallana playing centrally behind Benteke. The atmosphere pre-match was buoyant - the rousing rendition of You'll Never Walk Alone in stark contrast to the doom and gloom of May. That positivity should have energised Liverpool but for the opening 20 minutes they were second best. It was Bournemouth who showed the greater composure as the Reds repeatedly tossed possession away cheaply.

Dejan Lovren was rightly lauded for his solid display at Britannia Stadium as he vindicated Rodgers' decision to select him ahead of Mamadou Sakho.

The Croatian defender got a slice of luck that afternoon when his elbow on Mame Diouf only received a yellow card and he was the recipient of more good fortune against the Cherries. Tommy Elphick got above him to power a header past Simon Mignolet early on but Lovren's blushes were spared by Craig Pawson's whistle as the referee generously ruled that the centre-back had been fouled.

Nathaniel Clyne caught the eye at right-back on his home debut – with one crunching challenge on Max Gradel endearing him to the home supporters.

Clyne rampaged forward at every opportunity but the Reds were struggling to click as an attacking force. Benteke won his aerial duels but too often no-one was running beyond him to get on the end of his flick-ons. The Belgian frontman had been starved of service but when the first quality delivery into the box arrived in the 26th minute he made no mistake. Henderson played a corner short to Clyne and when the captain received it back he whipped in the kind of cross that his predecessor would have been proud of. Benteke's movement was excellent and he arrived at the back post to expertly divert it past Artur Boruc.

Goal gave Reds belief

It was the kind of poacher's effort which showcased that the Belgium international is much more than a targetman. Bournemouth were fuming because Coutinho was standing in an offside position but with the Brazilian having failed to make contact their protests were in vain. The breakthrough transformed the contest. Suddenly, belief spread through the ranks. There was an intelligence and freshness about Liverpool's set-pieces. Twice, Milner ignored the sea of bodies in the penalty box awaiting his free-kick and played it short to Henderson instead.

From the first one, Henderson's strike clipped the bar and then he was sent sprawling in the area by Gradel. The Kop's howls for a penalty were ignored by Pawson but the visitors remained under the cosh. Coutinho's influence on the contest grew and on the brink of half-time he should have doubled the Reds' tally but fired horribly wide and punched the turf in frustration.

There was a blow early in the second half when Henderson was forced off with a foot injury. Can replaced him and in Henderson's absence momentum was lost. Errors crept back in with Joe Gomez enduring some shaky moments. The rookie left-back did recover to make a fine block on Matt Ritchie, who was also denied by the outside of the post. The gutsy Cherries refused to go quietly. Eunan O'Kane also went close and the anxiety levels on the Kop were cranked up further when Mignolet flapped at a corner.

With 20 minutes to go Rodgers handed a home debut to Firmino with Ibe making

way. As Liverpool's backline dropped perilously deep the nerves on the Kop were jangling. The Reds survived and finished with a flourish with substitute Alberto Moreno providing a lively cameo. Benteke turned Clyne's cross against the bar late on but his earlier strike proved sufficient. Anfield's new No 9 is off the mark and Liverpool have rediscovered the art of winning.

DAILY ECHO

Belgian star Christian Benteke condemns Cherries to controversial defeat

A CONTROVERSIAL goal from Liverpool striker Christian Benteke condemned Cherries to a second defeat in the Premier League on their first trip to Anfield in 47 years. Benteke struck midway through the first half despite Philippe Coutinho appearing to have taken up an offside position moments before the Belgian tapped home. It was a bitter pill to swallow for the visitors, who also had an early effort from Tommy Elphick ruled out after the captain was judged to have fouled Dejan Lovren. But it was five-time European champions Liverpool who took victory in the first league contest between the teams, ending Cherries' hopes of a first win over the Reds in a competitive game. Boss Eddie Howe made two changes to the Cherries side that had lost 1-0 to Aston Villa on the opening day with Eunan O'Kane handed his first league start in 11 months, ex-Everton midfielder Dan Gosling making way for the 25-year-old. In addition, Max Gradel, recruited earlier this month from St Etienne for a fee understood to be £6million, was given his first start at the expense of winger Marc Pugh. New recruit Lee Tomlin took his place in the matchday squad for the first time as striker Yann Kermorgant – scorer of 15 Championship goals last term – relinquished his place on the bench. Liverpool boss Brendan Rodgers resisted the temptation to make any tweaks to the starting XI that had featured in the 1-0 victory at Stoke, with £29million summer signing Roberto Firmino remaining on an unchanged bench. Cherries started well but it was Liverpool who were first to threaten when Jordan Ibe sliced wide from the edge of the box. The visitors momentarily thought they had scored their first Premier League goal in the fifth minute when Elphick headed home a corner, only to be judged to have fouled Lovren by referee Craig Pawson. Clearly buoyed, Cherries continue to attack and another corner arrived in the 13th minute, Gradel's driven near-post delivery headed clear of the bar by King. Midway through the first half, Daniels's tenacious run and skidding cross nearly fell to Callum Wilson but instead the ball squirted to safety off the shin of centre-half Martin Skrtel. A wayward pass from Matt Ritchie handed Benteke a sight of goal some 25 yards out but Liverpool's marquee summer signing lashed well wide of the right upright. However, the former Aston Villa man did not have to wait long for his first competitive goal in a Reds shirt, although it arrived in controversial fashion in the 26th minute. Benteke stabbed in Jordan Henderson's delicious cross at the far post and the goal was given, despite Coutinho appearing offside when the initial delivery came in. The hosts came within a whisker of doubling their lead soon after when James Milner squared to Henderson and the England midfielder clipped the top of Boruc's bar, leaving the Kop disappointed. Seven minutes before half-time, Cherries survived penalty appeals as Henderson went to ground under minimal contact from Gradel before Coutinho fluffed a gilt-edged opportunity. The talisman's attempted pass was returned to his feet after a fortunate bounce off Daniels but he contrived to stroke past the left post with the goal gaping. Cherries began the second period with renewed purpose and Ritchie danced clear of several red shirts before unleashing a fizzing Exocet that keeper Simon Mignolet fielded confidently. Ex-Swindon winger Ritchie was at it again moments later when he jinked inside Adam Lallana but the Scotland international's effort did not curl or dip enough, before a Wilson shot was blocked by the midriff of Joe Gomez. Coutinho was proving a constant thorn in the side of the visitors' defence and the Liverpool playmaker fired a deflected effort narrowly past Boruc's left post. Lively work from Ibe in the 55th minute was not finished off by Milner as the ball slowly spun away from danger, before Ritchie's swerving delivery was punched nervously behind by Mignolet. Ritchie leathered a fraction wide of the right post after the ball had broken kindly for him 20 yards out and Howe then elected to throw Tomlin on for his Cherries debut. The visitors were beginning to look more of a threat and Wilson cleverly located O'Kane in the box, only for the midfielder to stroke into the side-netting. Andrew Surman produced a thunderous block to stop a Coutinho drive and Daniels repeated the trick in the 74th minute after the Brazilian had been expertly found in space by Benteke. Cherries ramped up the pressure in the closing stages and Simon Francis had Mignolet worried with a header that dropped onto the roof of the net. Benteke should have doubled the home advantage in the dying embers when his first-time strike bounced up off the turf and against the crossbar, much to Boruc's relief. But, ultimately, the final whistle soon sounded and gave the Reds their second 1-0 triumph in as many games.

MATCH STATS

Liverpool: Mignolet, Clyne, Lovren, Skrtel, Gomez, Henderson (Can, 52), Milner, Coutinho (Moreno, 81), Lallana, Ibe (Firmino, 70), Benteke.

Unused subs: Toure, Origi, Ings, Bogdan (g/k). Booked: Gomez.

Cherries: Boruc, Francis, Elphick, Cook, Daniels, Ritchie, O'Kane (Gosling, 87),

Surman, Gradel (Smith, 81), King (Tomlin, 61), Wilson.

Unused subs: Mings, Distin, Pugh, Federici (g/k). Booked: O'Kane, Ritchie, Cook,

Tomlin. Referee: Craig Pawson. Attendance: 44,102.

Date: 17 August 2015
 Opposition: Bournemouth
 Competition: League

Times	Telegraph	Echo
Guardian	Mirror	Daily Echo
Independent	Mail	BBC

17 August 2015



Christian Benteke's controversial winner on his Anfield debut ensured Liverpool maintained their 100% start to the new season with an unconvincing victory over Premier League newcomers Bournemouth.

Liverpool's £32.5m summer signing from Aston Villa turned home from close range in front of the Kop after 26 minutes - but Philippe Coutinho was clearly offside as he also tried to reach Jordan Henderson's cross.

It meant a second successive narrow defeat for Bournemouth, who showed plenty of confidence and promise and were also frustrated when Tommy Elphick's early header was ruled out by referee Craig Pawson for a foul on Dejan Lovren. Eddie Howe's side had plenty of possession but rarely troubled Liverpool goalkeeper Simon Mignolet and it was Benteke who came closest to adding a second on his impressive Anfield bow when he struck the bar from close range in the last minute.

It was a case of job done for Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers in front of watching owner John W Henry with a second win and second clean sheet of the new season.

Big man Benteke delivers

Benteke was Liverpool's biggest summer investment and Rodgers needs him to deliver - and fast - to ease the pain of last season.

And the early signs were very promising, not just with his winning goal, but also his all-round play.

The giant Belgian showed his power in the air on several occasions, demonstrating a physical presence that will give a Reds side with a possession-heavy game an added dimension.

Benteke also showed good team awareness and pace on several occasions, his link with Coutinho looked like it could be highly productive as the season progresses.

Bournemouth can take heart

It has been a hard landing for Bournemouth in the Premier League with defeats by Aston Villa and now Liverpool, but there is plenty for Howe to take away from this visit to one of the biggest stages in English football.

The Cherries may need to solve a lack of goals in coming months but they were not daunted by Liverpool or the Kop and played with a confident passing style that will certainly not look out of place in the top flight.

It will be a tough season for Bournemouth and that early table does not look good, but on this evidence there is not the slightest reason for despondency for Howe and his players other than in the pain of another defeat. They were excellent for long spells.

New rule same old problems

The offside rule has been tweaked to supposedly clear up the grey area of when a player is interfering with play only for Bournemouth to find themselves the victim of a situation this was meant to avoid when Benteke scored Liverpool's winner.

The new rule states "a player in an offside position shall be penalised if he clearly attempts to play a ball which is close to him when this action impacts on an opponent or makes an obvious action which clearly impacts on the ability of an opponent to play the ball."

A very offside Coutinho was clearly trying to play the ball when he stretched to Henderson's cross, just failing but then seeing the ball fall for Benteke to turn in. The goal was still given and Bournemouth were left nursing a heavy sense of injustice.

Man of the Match - Christian Benteke (Liverpool)

Manager reaction

Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers, speaking to BBC Sport: "I haven't seen their disallowed goal or ours and the most important thing is ours stood.

"We said it would be a tough game. Defensively we were very good. Our play was better after the goal, I am very pleased.

"Christian Benteke is bedding into a new team but you could see his threat. I'm very pleased for the players, six points, two clean sheets and the team will grow."

Bournemouth manager Eddie Howe, speaking to BBC Sport: "It is tough to take but we have to. We are learning tough lessons, the margins for success are small. It will be character building.

"I didn't say a lot to the officials. They have a hard job but I will speak to them privately. I want feedback on the decisions.

"We had a few chances but the big positive is overall our performance. We know if we perform like that the results and goals will come. The players are winners and this is an experience we don't want to get used to."

Date: 17 August 2015
 Opposition: Bournemouth
 Competition: League

Times	Telegraph	Echo
Guardian	Mirror	Daily Echo
Independent	Mail	BBC

17 August 2015



Full time Match ends, Liverpool 1, Bournemouth 0.
 90:00+4:42 Full time Second Half ends, Liverpool 1, Bournemouth 0.
 90:00+4:00 Alberto Moreno (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 90:00+4:00 Foul by Tommy Elphick (Bournemouth).
 90:00+1:56 Attempt missed. James Milner (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Emre Can following a set piece situation.
 90:00+0:46 Booking Steve Cook (Bournemouth is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
 90:00+0:44 Alberto Moreno (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 90:00+0:44 Foul by Steve Cook (Bournemouth).
 89:33 Attempt missed. Adam Lallana (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is too high.
 89:31 Attempt saved. Christian Benteke (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the top centre of the goal. Assisted by Nathaniel Clyne with a cross.
 87:41 Attempt missed. Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box misses to the left.
 87:01 Attempt saved. Lee Tomlin (Bournemouth header from the right side of the box is saved in the top right corner. Assisted by Simon Francis with a headed pass.
 86:39 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Bournemouth. Dan Gosling replaces Eunan O'Kane.
 85:04 Attempt missed. Lee Tomlin (Bournemouth with an attempt from the centre of the box is just a bit too high. Assisted by Matt Ritchie with a cross following a corner.
 84:33 Corner, Bournemouth. Conceded by Dejan Lovren.
 84:31 Attempt blocked. Lee Tomlin (Bournemouth right footed shot from the right side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Adam Smith.
 83:13 Attempt blocked. Eunan O'Kane (Bournemouth right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Andrew Surman with a headed pass.
 82:09 Foul by Joseph Gomez (Liverpool).
 82:09 Adam Smith (Bournemouth wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 80:58 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Liverpool. Alberto Moreno replaces Philippe Coutinho.
 80:15 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Bournemouth. Adam Smith replaces Max Gradel.
 79:47 Attempt missed. Steve Cook (Bournemouth header from the centre of the box misses to the right. Assisted by Max Gradel with a cross following a corner.
 79:33 Corner, Bournemouth. Conceded by Martin Skrtel.
 78:12 Emre Can (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 78:12 Foul by Callum Wilson (Bournemouth).
 76:53 Booking Lee Tomlin (Bournemouth is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
 76:49 Adam Lallana (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 76:49 Foul by Lee Tomlin (Bournemouth).
 75:10 Booking Matt Ritchie (Bournemouth is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
 75:08 Emre Can (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 75:08 Foul by Matt Ritchie (Bournemouth).
 74:31 Booking Joseph Gomez (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
 74:07 Foul by Joseph Gomez (Liverpool).
 74:07 Lee Tomlin (Bournemouth wins a free kick on the right wing.
 73:03 Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Christian Benteke.
 72:33 Foul by Adam Lallana (Liverpool).
 72:33 Eunan O'Kane (Bournemouth wins a free kick on the right wing.
 71:11 Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked.
 69:42 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Liverpool. Roberto Firmino replaces Jordan Ibe.
 69:12 Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool left footed shot from the right side of the box is high and wide to the left. Assisted by Christian Benteke.
 67:48 Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked.
 66:40 Hand ball by Andrew Surman (Bournemouth).
 64:50 Corner, Bournemouth. Conceded by Dejan Lovren.
 64:47 Attempt blocked. Matt Ritchie (Bournemouth right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Max Gradel.
 62:33 Attempt missed. Eunan O'Kane (Bournemouth right footed shot from a difficult angle on the right is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by Callum Wilson.
 62:16 Attempt blocked. Matt Ritchie (Bournemouth left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Eunan O'Kane.
 60:05 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Bournemouth. Lee Tomlin replaces Joshua King.
 59:26 Matt Ritchie (Bournemouth hits the right post with a left footed shot from the right side of the box. Assisted by Joshua King.
 58:45 Offside, Liverpool. Dejan Lovren tries a through ball, but Nathaniel Clyne is caught offside.
 56:23 Corner, Bournemouth. Conceded by Simon Mignolet.
 54:02 Attempt missed. James Milner (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box misses to the right. Assisted by Jordan Ibe.
 52:04 Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool).
 52:04 Max Gradel (Bournemouth wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 51:33 Substitution Substitution Substitution, Liverpool. Emre Can replaces Jordan Henderson because of an injury.
 50:50 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Steve Cook.
 50:47 Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked.
 50:09 Attempt missed. Jordan Ibe (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box misses to the right. Assisted by Adam Lallana.
 49:16 Attempt blocked. Callum Wilson (Bournemouth left footed shot from outside the

box is blocked. Assisted by Matt Ritchie.
 48:23 Attempt missed. Matt Ritchie (Bournemouth left footed shot from the right side of the box is high and wide to the left. Assisted by Callum Wilson.
 48:08 Foul by Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool).
 48:08 Charlie Daniels (Bournemouth wins a free kick on the left wing.
 47:08 James Milner (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 47:08 Foul by Callum Wilson (Bournemouth).
 46:55 Attempt saved. Matt Ritchie (Bournemouth left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Eunan O'Kane.
 45:00 Second Half begins Liverpool 1, Bournemouth 0.
 45:00+1:03 Half time First Half ends, Liverpool 1, Bournemouth 0.
 45:00+0:21 Foul by Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool).
 45:00+0:21 Charlie Daniels (Bournemouth wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 43:24 Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box misses to the left.
 43:16 Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the left. Assisted by Christian Benteke with a headed pass.
 41:15 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Steve Cook.
 39:59 Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 39:59 Foul by Charlie Daniels (Bournemouth).
 38:14 Jordan Henderson (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 38:14 Foul by Tommy Elphick (Bournemouth).
 36:56 Foul by James Milner (Liverpool).
 36:56 Callum Wilson (Bournemouth wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 35:52 Adam Lallana (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 35:52 Foul by Andrew Surman (Bournemouth).
 33:47 Booking Eunan O'Kane (Bournemouth is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
 33:46 Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 33:46 Foul by Eunan O'Kane (Bournemouth).
 32:25 Christian Benteke (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 32:25 Foul by Charlie Daniels (Bournemouth).
 31:33 Foul by Adam Lallana (Liverpool).
 31:33 Andrew Surman (Bournemouth wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 30:51 Foul by Martin Skrtel (Liverpool).
 30:51 Steve Cook (Bournemouth wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 30:16 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Eunan O'Kane.
 30:14 Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Christian Benteke.
 28:27 Jordan Henderson (Liverpool hits the bar with a right footed shot from outside the box. Assisted by James Milner following a set piece situation.
 27:45 Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.
 27:45 Foul by Max Gradel (Bournemouth).
 27:22 James Milner (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 27:22 Foul by Joshua King (Bournemouth).
 25:49 Goal scored Goal! Goal! Liverpool 1, Bournemouth 0. Christian Benteke (Liverpool right footed shot from very close range to the top right corner. Assisted by Jordan Henderson with a cross following a corner.
 25:10 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Simon Francis.
 23:28 Attempt missed. Christian Benteke (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box misses to the right.
 22:44 Eunan O'Kane (Bournemouth wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 22:44 Foul by Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool).
 21:52 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Matt Ritchie.
 16:19 Foul by Callum Wilson (Bournemouth).
 16:19 Dejan Lovren (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 11:56 Attempt missed. Joshua King (Bournemouth header from the centre of the box is too high. Assisted by Max Gradel with a cross following a corner.
 11:28 Corner, Bournemouth. Conceded by Martin Skrtel.
 9:15 Eunan O'Kane (Bournemouth wins a free kick in the attacking half.
 9:15 Foul by Christian Benteke (Liverpool).
 6:48 Corner, Bournemouth. Conceded by Martin Skrtel.
 5:48 Jordan Henderson (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.
 5:48 Foul by Matt Ritchie (Bournemouth).
 4:46 Dejan Lovren (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 4:46 Foul by Tommy Elphick (Bournemouth).
 4:21 Corner, Bournemouth. Conceded by Dejan Lovren.
 3:33 Attempt missed. Jordan Ibe (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box misses to the right. Assisted by Martin Skrtel following a corner.
 3:03 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Charlie Daniels.
 2:32 Foul by Eunan O'Kane (Bournemouth).
 2:32 Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
 1:52 Corner, Bournemouth. Conceded by Martin Skrtel.
 0:00 First Half begins.
 0:00 Lineups are announced and players are warming up.