Date: 25 October 2015
Opposition: Southampton
Competition: League

Times	Telegraph	Echo
Guardian	Mirror	Daily Echo
Independent	Mail	BBC

25 October 2015

THE TIMES

Klopp and robber: Mane goal denies Liverpool manager

Liverpool 1 Benteke 77 Southampton 1 Mane 86
Referee: A Marriner Att: 44,171

Three games in and Jurgen Klopp is beginning to discover that the magic dust he did not feel was required to spark a Liverpool revival might be necessary after all. Undefeated but yet to record a win since taking over from Brendan Rodgers as manager, a third draw in eight days merely provided a predictable indictment of the shortage of quality in the squad that he inherited. If a revolution is under way at Anfield, it is starting slowly and inauspiciously. Southampton, like Tottenham Hotspur and Rubin Kazan before them, discovered that Klopp has been able to galvanise Liverpool's team spirit, stimulate their work ethic and provide a structure to their play that had not been quite so apparent before his arrival. But they also learnt that, like any other manager, Klopp cannot increase the level of individual ability at his disposal without entering the transfer market.

As the final whistle sounded yesterday, the new Liverpool manager would have been forgiven had his first conversation been with his employers to underline the point that reinforcements will be required at the earliest possible opportunity. John W Henry, Mike Gordon and Tom Werner, the three leading lights in Liverpool's ownership regime, had all been present to see their team do what they tend to -- provide plenty of perspiration but little by way of inspiration against opponents who recognised their limitations and acted accordingly.

Southampton were full value for the point they secured when Sadio Mane cancelled out a goal from Christian Benteke, a substitute, with four minutes remaining and although the forward subsequently conspired to get himself sent off, his dismissal did not obscure what was another positive showing by Ronald Koeman's team on their travels. Both the formbook and the league table highlight exactly where both teams are at present -- Southampton, eighth, are yet to be defeated away from home this season and Liverpool, ninth, have drawn eight of their past nine fixtures. If ever a Premier League game was destined for stalemate it was surely this one, with that outcome being threatened only briefly when Benteke scored to spark wild, but ultimately premature, celebrations from Klopp. For nine minutes, the prospect of Liverpool's fourth victory since early May loomed increasingly large, but then Mane struck and such hopes were dashed.

Every game is a slog for Liverpool. There is little flow to their play and little rhythm in their movement, the first half providing another showcase of the problems that Klopp is facing as his side failed to bring a single meaningful save out of Maarten Stekelenburg, the Southampton goalkeeper.

With Philippe Coutinho's slump in form continuing, Adam Lallana struggling to impose himself against his former club and Divock Origi demonstrating why he is Liverpool's fourth-choice striker, this was an attacking trident with no point other than to test Klopp's managerial skills.

Having racked up a total of 135 shots, resulting in just four goals, in five of their previous six home matches, Liverpool were less prolific with their attempts during the first half and none of the efforts they had -- from Emre Can, Coutinho, James Milner and Alberto Moreno -- hit the target. By a combination of diligence and organisation, Southampton were able to hold Liverpool at arms' length with relative comfort while also imposing their own game.

Southampton's threat had been evident early on, Steven Davis miscuing Mamadou Sakho's weak defensive header after just four minutes, and it grew as the half progressed. Virgil van Dijk, a towering presence at set pieces, had their best chances, seeing one header clawed away by Simon Mignolet and another cleared by Lucas Leiva. Klopp was left with little option but to make a change at the interval and he opted to withdraw the ineffective Origi, replacing him with Benteke. The substitution immediately gave Liverpool a focal point to their attack and Benteke's presence and superior movement gave the Southampton defence a much more testing proposition than they had faced from the raw Origi.

Within two minutes of his arrival, the former Aston Villa forward made his intentions known in his usual style, imposing himself at a corner taken by Milner, only for Davis to smuggle his effort away from a post.

The two sides then entered a 20-minute period in which each cancelled the other out. At that stage, it was hard to envisage a winner emerging as the game became an increasingly attritional affair in which both teams struggled to assert themselves in the final third. That changed after 77 minutes when Liverpool finally provided Benteke with the kind of service he thrives upon and the Belgium player responded by giving them the lead.

Milner's cross from the right flank was straight out of the handbook of how to create for a target man and Benteke met the ball with a header that matched immense power with unerring accuracy. The reaction of Klopp and Peter Krawitz, his assistant, was a mixture of delight and relief as the pair celebrated lustily on the touchline. With the first victory of his reign in sight, Klopp's passion was wholly understandable, but it gave way to disappointment when Mane gave Southampton a share of the spoils with his sixth goal of the season.

This time, Milner contributed to a goal for the wrong reasons as his unnecessary foul gave Southampton a free kick from which they took full advantage. James Ward-Prowse's delivery from the left flank prompted successive headers from Juanmi and Gaston Ramirez that allowed Mane to tap in at the back post.

Mane then picked up two yellow cards in quick succession for fouls on Roberto Firmino and Moreno, but his departure came too late to affect the outcome as Southampton held on to leave Klopp still awaiting that elusive first win.

theguardian

Southampton's Sadio Mané denies Liverpool win but is then sent off

Just to be clear, it is Liverpool who are the draw specialists, not their new manager. Jürgen Klopp is simply taking longer than expected to galvanise a side who have now drawn eight of their last nine games. The German thought he had overseen his first win here when Christian Benteke put Liverpool ahead with 13 minutes remaining but Sadio Mané levelled the scores nine minutes later before being sent off in stoppage time for a foul on Alberto Moreno that brought a second yellow.

"Now I know not to celebrate too early," Klopp said. "If I looked delighted when our goal went in it is because I was, I was really pleased. But then we give a free-kick away, the ball is in the air and we are not calm enough. These things happen and of course we are disappointed, but I saw some development. We all know it will take time and patience but opposing teams are not going to wait around for us."

If that makes the game sound exciting, it was only the final quarter. A tedious first half had made the earlier anticlimax at Old Trafford look scintillating. "Where's your famous atmosphere?" the Southampton fans chorused, and Klopp could have been forgiven for wondering the same thing. Anfield was so eerily quiet most of the time it was possible to make out all the insults Adam Lallana was receiving from his former public. There was certainly little happening on the pitch for anyone to get worked up about. With Daniel Sturridge still absent and Benteke on the bench there was no focus to the home attacks and slightly too much of Philippe Coutinho, James Milner and Lallana moving the ball around on the edge of the visitors' area with no end result.

Southampton looked more purposeful when they came forward, holding the ball well and always threatening to find Graziano Pellè in a dangerous area, although it was Virgil van Dijk who came closer to scoring when the visitors ended the half with a sustained spell of pressure. The centre-half brought a save from Simon Mignolet when left unmarked at the far post from a free-kick, then won a header from the resulting corner to force Lucas Leiva to clear from under his own crossbar. Moreno fired high and wide from Lallana just before the interval, though perhaps the best chance of the half fell to Steven Davis when Mamadou Sakho misjudged a defensive header. The ball went straight to Davis near the penalty spot. But he was either too surprised or off balance to take advantage with a shot at goal.

It was no surprise to see Benteke replace Divock Origi for the second half and immediately he combined with Lallana to set up a half-chance and earn the first of a succession of corners. Nothing came of any of them but at least Liverpool brought the crowd to life with a promising flurry of attacks as Southampton were pinned back, culminating with Moreno sending a fierce shot across the face of goal from a narrow angle.

Liverpool 1-1 Southampton: Premier League – as it happened!

Christian Benteke's header was cancelled out by Sadio Mané's late goal as Liverpool's wait for a first win under Jürgen Klopp continues – this their third consecutive stalemate

Moreno's next effort, from a more promising position after being found well by Lallana and Coutinho, ended up high in the Kop to audible groans, though the pacy full-back instantly made amends by racing from half way to dispossess Mané in the act of shooting.

As in the Europa League game against Rubin Kazan on Thursday Klopp also added Roberto Firmino to his attacking mix before the end, though it was Benteke, with an old-fashioned centre-forward's header, who finally broke the deadlock. Milner retrieved a loose ball on the right wing, looked up and hit a measured cross. Benteke timed his run perfectly, climbed higher than José Fonte and placed a firm header into Maarten Stekelenburg's top-left corner. Klopp, in danger of becoming a passive figure on the touchline by that point, leapt into the air in celebration, prematurely as it turned out.

When James Ward-Prowse launched a free-kick into the Liverpool area four minutes from the end, Southampton won two successive aerial challenges, and when Gastón Ramírez headed across the face of goal from the second one, Mignolet could neither reach the ball nor prevent Mané hooking it in.

"We were only worth a point. We can play better football than that," Ronald Koeman said with disarming honesty. "It was a great goal from Benteke but a good reaction from us to come back so late."

Man of the match Victor Wanyama (Southampton)

Compiled by Graeme Riley

Date: 25 October 2015
Opposition: Southampton
Competition: League

Times	Telegraph	Echo
Guardian	Mirror	Daily Echo
Independent	Mail	BBC

25 October 2015

The Mail

MANE MAKES KLOPP WAIT; Southampton strike late to deny new boss his first Liverpool win

WHEN the flash bulbs were popping and the cameras were rolling at his grand unveiling, Liverpool's owners hoped Jurgen Klopp would start his reign with a 100 per cent record. A sequence of draws, however, was not the plan. Three games into the Klopp era and we are still awaiting the first victory, as another anxious afternoon at Anfield ended with familiar feelings of frustration.

This should have been the landmark win, the game that provided Liverpool with some momentum and a towering header from Christian Benteke, celebrated exuberantly by the colourful manager, could not have come at a better moment. All Liverpool had to do was defend for 13 minutes and keep their cool against a Southampton team that, by manager Ronald Koeman's own admission, had not shown the same verve and dash going forward as they have done in recent weeks; all that was required was for Liverpool to do the simple things efficiently. But. With Liverpool there is always a 'but'. One cheap free-kick conceded, two defensive headers missed and three points quickly became one when Sadio Mane was able to bundle in from three yards to shatter the fragile optimism.

'Many things I saw I am fine with,' said Klopp. 'I saw two good teams fighting for the result. We had moments and situations, and we made a goal. Then we concede one and it feels like the end of the world.' Anfield can be one of the most formidable venues in football, a cauldron with noise levels that scramble the senses, but when it is quiet, as it was for long period of this contest, it becomes a challenging place for the home team to play.

No longer does this stadium provide the rich supply of victories it once did. In the 21 games they have played in all competitions here in 2015, they have only won nine and the trust that was once a given between fans and players is no longer there. 'It is not because of the atmosphere,' said Klopp. 'It's not that we stopped our game physically, but we didn't believe we could turn this game, switch this game. 'That's a problem. That's why we are not calm enough in the moments when we need to change the game when we have the last pass.

'I don't understand this pressure in this moment but the guys feel it. That's the thing. They work so hard, they are full of concentration, everything is there. 'We have to work and I hope that we can enjoy it. You can always come back. That is what we have to understand.' The more that this accomplished Southampton side settled into a rhythm -- passing and probing and looking to cause problems -- the volume was almost turned to mute as the home fans became increasingly anxious. Only Klopp's shrill whistles to impart orders broke the eerie silence.

If the atmosphere was uncomfortable, it reflected Liverpool's performance. They were organised but as an attacking force they kept running down dead-ends and the biggest problem for Saints keeper Maarten Stekelenburg was the dropping temperatures. Southampton, by contrast, looked ominous every time they sped forward. Klopp had made a point of talking about the three-pronged menace of Graziano Pelle, Dusan Tadic and Mane in his press conference and they showed why he was right to highlight them. But the one thing Southampton could not do was fashion a chance to make Liverpool suffer. They had openings, notably when Virgil van Dijk saw a header saved by Simon Mignolet, but nothing that could be described as clear-cut.

'Our offensive performance was not good enough,' Ronald Koeman noted. 'Everyone in the dressing room is happy with a point but we are disappointed that we did not create enough or score more goals. That says everything when you come to a great stadium like Anfield.' Mercifully, the tempo increased considerably after the break and it was Liverpool who began much the brighter, with Benteke's introduction for the floundering Divock Origi giving them presence. They pushed forward, used the ball quicker and looked to stretch their visitors.

Alberto Moreno, the young Spanish left back, was a particular eye-catcher wearing red and, on the hour, he produced a moment that changed the mood, scampering back 30 yards to catch Mane and thundering into a challenge that won the ball cleanly.

It was magnificent defending and it altered the atmosphere. It lifted the crowd and they responded to lift the team and, in the 77th minute, they got the goal they craved when James Milner hoisted the ball into the middle and Benteke crashed a 12-yard header beyond the helpless Stekelenburg.

As Benteke was engulfed by his team-mates, Klopp hurtled down the touchline, leaping in the air and roaring his delight.

His assistant, Peter Krawietz, was similarly ecstatic, hurtling on to the pitch. Victory was within sight.

Yet the closer they got to it, the more nervous Liverpool became and in the 86th minute, James Ward-Prowse's free-kick, awarded for a silly foul by Milner, was headed on by the substitutes Juanmi and Gaston Ramirez to Mane, who bundled in from close range.

Now it was the turn for Koeman and his entourage to celebrate and it was nothing more than they deserved, the only blip on their efforts was Mane being shown two yellow cards in injury time.

'It was a great goal by Benteke but good reaction from my team,' said Koeman. 'We scored the equaliser but we can play better than we did.' Klopp, absolutely, would say the same.

The Daily Telegraph

Klopp given reality check after Liveerpool falter again

Liverpool 1
Benteke 77
Southampton 1
Mane 86
Att: 44,171

It is tempting to imagine Jurgen Klopp settling into the manager's office at Anfield and finding a farewell message from his predecessor. "You need a striker and a defence that can keep regular clean sheets," it might have read. "But we spent all the PS300 million already. Good luck."

After another draw, this time with Southampton, Klopp has learnt in three games what Liverpoolregulars whispered when trying not to puncture the optimism of his unveiling three weeks ago. The dossier telling him there is a top-four squad hiding at Anfield must have been severely doctored.

Beneath Klopp's colourful language and quotable witticism is wisdom. "We need to be patient but the others will not wait for us," he said. With each post-match analysis, the German coach is issuing a more robust reminder of how the rebuilding work at Anfield is not restricted to the new main stand.

Southampton were symbolic opponents for his first Premier League game on home soil, deservedly taking a point but also showing how much better they have invested the dividends from the proceeds of the sales of players sent to Merseyside.

No one watching Sadio Mane and Graziano Pelle will doubt, by default, that the Saints have spent the Luis Suarez money more wisely than Liverpool. The review of the managerial situation at Anfield may be over for the foreseeable future, but the assessment of why Liverpool are stuck in mid-table must extend beyond the dugout.

John W Henry, Tom Werner and Mike Gordon were all here to see their side pluckily trying in vain to overcome and then resist a classy Saints side. The thank-you card for the PS60 million must make its way from the south coast to Boston on an annual basis.

This was the kind of scruffy, tension-ridden afternoon Anfield has become too accustomed to. There was plenty of endeavour - one suspects that will be compulsory under the new Liverpool manager - but not enough attacking quality. The one moment that stood out yielded a gorgeous goal for Christian Benteke courtesy of James Milner's cross and a picture-perfect header. The Belgian hung in the air on 77 minutes before connecting with a ferocity that ensured the ball bruised the net.

The celebrations were such that it felt like it could be a defining early moment in Klopp's reign, even if the overwhelming sense was why had it taken so long to play to the target man's strengths.

No sooner had Liverpool retreated to a counter-attacking formation familiar flaws were exposed when the hosts were unable to defend a well-delivered set-piece from James Ward-Prowse. Gaston Ramirez's header found Mane at the back post and he nudged in the equaliser.

On the balance of play, it was fair.

Mane ruined his afternoon with a late red card for a second caution, but Klopp must have been watching his persistent forays into Liverpool territory with an envious and (perhaps) quizzical look when he considers how Southampton's team was constructed.

Origi ball times.

Klopp's enthusiasm was undented, attributing his side's inability to hang on to psychological baggage. "We could see and learn tonight we did not give up physically but we didn't believe any more that we could turn this result around," he said. "That's a problem, that we are not calm enough in the moments when we have the chances, the last pass and so on. I don't understand this pressure in these moments, but the guys feel it, you can see this.

"We have to be patient. We have to work. It's not an illness, we can change it. I can enjoy these games, working in this atmosphere."

The measure of how far Southampton are advancing is that Ronald Koeman was only moderately satisfied, believing his players could have offered more in attack. "It's positive we are not beaten away on the road," the Dutchman said. "Out of five games - including at Chelsea and Liverpoolwhich are dif-ficult away games - it tells you how we have grown as a team. Everyone is happy but also a bit disappointed we didn't create more goals."

Klopp has set no targets for his debut season. He is astute not to do so, but the club's pre-season target of returning to the Champions League looks increasingly fanciful.

Compiled by Graeme Riley

Date: 25 October 2015
Opposition: Southampton
Competition: League

Times	Telegraph	Echo
Guardian	Mirror	Daily Echo
Independent	Mail	BBC

25 October 2015

THE INDEPENDENT

Klopp rues Liverpool's inability to deal with setbacks

When Christian Benteke soared like John Toshack to score what appeared to be the match-winning goal here yesterday, Jrgen Klopp reacted by charging out of his technical area, and punching the night air before pumping a fist into his chest.
By the time he had turned to the Main Stand, releasing a roar that came from his guts, assistant Peter Krawietz had joined him, having sprung from his position in the dugout. Suddenly, Krawietz was on the pitch.
Nine minutes later, Klopp folded his arms and offered a wry smile when Southampton equalised. This is a Liverpool manager who will laugh in the face of adversity. Afterwards, he insisted a sickness does not exist at Anfield, a place he nevertheless concedes does not deal particularly well with setbacks because of the weight of history. He recognised that Liverpool have not won a league since 1990.
"I understand this pressure at the moment because the guys feel it," he said. "We conceded one goal and it felt like the end of the world. There was still 10 minutes left to play. This has to change."
Klopp said that he saw many "fine" things from his side. He described two teams fighting for a result, with Liverpool not being quite as fresh because of European excursions, though he was not using it as an excuse for the outcome. "We had everything you need in a close game to win," he insisted before admitting it frustrated him that Liverpool did not deal well with James Ward-Prowse's free-kick, which enabled Saido Man[c] to bundle the ball over the line. Man[c] was later sent off in injury time for lungeing at Alberto Moreno. By then, though, his most significant damage had been served.
"We all know it takes time and I see development," Klopp added. "The problem is the other teams don't wait for us. They want to beat us."
For Klopp, there is a positive: he is unbeaten in three matches as Liverpool's manager. But he is yet to experience a victory. And that was how this game went for him, the good shadowed closely by bad. Benteke's header was the best you are likely to witness this season. And then the traits of old crept into a defence which had three opportunities to clear before the moment arrived when two points were dropped.
Briefly, Anfield was the emotional place Klopp wants it to be. Previously, the loudest noise had been at half-time when Jason McAteer, the 44-year-old former Liverpool player, hit the crossbar twice in a competition that also involved John Aldridge and two other supporters.
Benteke had spent the interval at the other end of the pitch going through a warm-up with fitness coach Ryland Morgans. His introduction was necessary because the lack of attacking focal point in Liverpool's team was so obvious. Divock Origi is playing only because of injuries but he is clearly not yet ready to take on the responsibility of such an important role, especially when he is fed on limited support from a midfield like Liverpool's.
Klopp's team is currently structured not too differently to an old W-M formation ,with Emre Can and James Milner operating as wing-halves. It has left the person playing as a centre-forward isolated, yet Origi's inability to hold possession contributes towards the system breaking down.
Perhaps Can does not get forward too much because he knows his lung capacity will not allow him to get back. Perhaps Milner is not quite the all-round midfielder he might consider himself. Or perhaps, conversely, the caution was a deliberate ploy by Klopp as he appreciated how dangerous Southampton could be on the break, having seen the outcome when Chelsea underestimated them at Stamford Bridge. Liverpool's deep midfield three negated the threat of Southampton's attacking midfield three. Should it really be a surprise that the first half was like board game based around strategy?
Southampton's manager, Ronald Koeman, reasoned that a point was deserved but nothing more. For him, Virgil van Dijk was outstanding and, if Liverpool are considering adding to the [pounds sterling]61.5m they have spent on Southampton players in last 18 months, they should know where to look next. Origi appeared to stop going near the Dutchman by the end of the first half, such was the centre-back's intimidating presence. In attack, he was also threatening and Simon Mignolet did well to claw away a headed chance that was made possible because Liverpool's defence had not followed the runs of three opposition players.
Koeman, though, was disappointed in the flagrant way his team surrendered possession, especially in the final third, where few openings were created. Yet he praised the reaction after falling behind. "We can play better football than we did today," he conceded.
For Klopp, Koeman's honesty reflected that this was a missed opportunity.

DAILY Mirror

WE'VE BEEN HERR BEFORE; Klopp has promised a Kop revolution but the same old failings that broke Rodgers are still there for all to see

LIVERPOOL 1
Benteke 77
SOUTHAMPTON 1
Mane 86
DAVID MADDOCK sees new boss Jurgen Klopp draw for the third time on a row - and struggle to find a winning formula
JURGEN KLOPP swept into Anfield on a hurricane of refreshing promises about how his side would play.
What the German did not explain though, was precisely how he would get Liverpool winning. And it seems right now, that is a mystery too complicated for even this famously forensic manager.
Here against Southampton, the problems that eventually led to the departure of a beaten and broken Brendan Rodgers were still painfully evident... and no closer to being resolved.
Fragile defence too often out of shape? Check. Poor marking and organisation at set-pieces? Check. Lack of pace in midfield passing and movement? Check. Lack of creativity? Check. Lack of goals? Check.
So it was the Saints were able to check every Liverpool move with ease, even replying to a late goal from the substitute Christian Benteke with a swift one of their own when they exploited set-piece weakness four minutes from time.
And it could have been checkmate, but for a poor finish from the otherwise excellent Graziano Pelle deep into stoppage time.
As it was, Southampton will reflect they were perhaps too unadventurous, given that when they trailed and finally attacked wide with crosses into the Italian, the home defence went to pieces.
Clearly there is a massive weakness from just about any ball aimed high into the Liverpool box, as a succession of panicked moments proved.
It was not much more encouraging for Klopp (below) at the other end either, at least until Benteke came on. True, his side looked more organised than under the previous regime, and certainly more regimented.
They created little but, set-pieces aside, at least they conceded frugally too, until the final minutes when visiting pressure produced spectacular reward.
Liverpool did enjoy a couple of moments when James Milner jinked across the box but shot wide and Emre Can also fired an effort the wrong side of the post.
But with youngster Divock Origi not yet ready to lead the line, and with both Adam Lallana and Philippe Coutinho seeming to lack the spark that made them hot properties, there was little to lift a deflated Kop.
Until Benteke emerged. He replaced fellow Belgian Origi at half time, and instantly repa gave the Reds an outlet, with the big centre-forward battling more manfully against Virgil van Dijk and Jose Fonte where his compatriot disappeared wide.
It actually created more space wide with Benteke holding the ball up and drawing defenders in, and Alberto Moreno could have twice capitalised when he fired over and wide from good positions.
Eventually, Liverpool did get some joy from the possession on the flanks this created, with Milner delivering the perfect cross which allowed Benteke to rise high above Fonte and smash the header into the net.
That came with 12 minutes remaining, but seemed to inspire Saints more. They started to get the ball into the box more and the equaliser came from a typical failure to compete at set-pieces. Fonte and Gaston Ramirez were both allowed unchallenged headers from James Ward-Prowse's delivery for Sadio Mane to bundle in.
And Saints could have reduced Liverpool's confidence further, but instead were reduced themselves when Mane stupidly fouled first Roberto Firmino, then Moreno to get himself sent off for two yellows.
It left manager Ronald Koeman admitting his side were not worth more than a point, but neither were Liverpool. Klopp had promised a title when he arrived at Anfield, but for now, a simple win would be nice.

Compiled by Graeme Riley

Date: 25 October 2015
Opposition: Southampton
Competition: League

Times	Telegraph	Echo
Guardian	Mirror	Daily Echo
Independent	Mail	BBC

25 October 2015

LIVERPOOL ECHO

A frustrating game for Jurgen Klopp, but nothing new for Reds

The last time a Liverpool manager began a home Premier League campaign against Southampton, it sparked the beginning of the end

For Jurgen Klopp, though, this was simply the end of the beginning.

After the fervour and excitement of the German's much-vaunted arrival, reality has now firmly bitten, the feelgood factor swiftly dissipating.

So if Thursday's Europa League stalemate against Rubin Kazan represented the dying embers of Klopp's welcoming party, then this was the hazy morning after. It was, however, no wake-up call.

The Liverpool boss knows what he has taken on. The Anfield hierarchy – John Henry, Tom Werner and Mike Gordon all in attendance again – know the scale of the task. And the Liverpool fans know it too. They'd just allowed themselves a few weeks respite after a demoralising six months following the club.

Just like they allowed themselves to believe the Klopp era was heading for belated lift-off after Christian Benteke took to the skies to bullet a header into the top corner of the Kop goal with 13 minutes remaining.

Form suggested it couldn't last. And for the sixth time in their last nine outings, Liverpool surrendered a hard-earned lead and were held to a 1-1 stalemate.

Frustrating, yes. But nothing new. Indeed, there hasn't been much to celebrate for the Anfield regulars during the last 18 months. Since Liverpool, then under Brendan Rodgers, squeaked a narrow victory on Southampton's last visit on the opening weekend of last season, they have won less than half of 36 games played on their own turf. Rebuilding Fortress Anfield will surely be high on Klopp's lengthening list of priorities as the problems undermining the Reds become increasingly apparent. So too the lack of goals, only nine in 10 Premier League matches. On only one occasion this season have Liverpool netted more than once in a match and rarely have they looked like altering that fact.

Of course, injuries haven't helped the cause. Daniel Sturridge was left watching on from the stands once more, sidelined by the knee injury that has prevented him from yet kicking a ball in anger under the new boss.

And with Danny Ings likely out for the campaign and Benteke again considered a substitute as best, Divock Origi led the line for the third game in succession.

The young Belgian continues to struggle. From rarely featuring under Rodgers to having circumstances transform him into a regular starter under Klopp, it's a significant leap the 20-year-old has found difficult to make.

Benteke's issue has been fitness, not impact. And after replacing his compatriot at half-time, he netted his third goal for the club with a thunderous header, rising above Jose Fonte to meet James Milner's inviting cross.

While clearly short of peak sharpness, the £32.5million immediately offered Liverpool a physical presence up front – it was noticeable Southampton's defenders took a collective step back in the second half. Keeping Benteke on the pitch could prove key for Klopp over the coming weeks, given the ongoing concerns over Sturridge. That his goal didn't prove decisive was down to Milner blotting his copybook four minutes from time with a needless foul and booking – keeping him out of Wednesday's Capital One Cup visit of Bournemouth – and Liverpool's continued failure to see a game out. After the skipper upended Ryan Bertrand, the Reds defence failed to deal with James Ward-Prowse's floated delivery into the box, Fonte flicked on, Gaston Ramirez looped a head towards goal and Sadio Mane – later sent off in injury time for two silly fouls – bundled the ball over the line. There were some chinks of light in the performances of Nathaniel Clyne and renaissance man Lucas Leiva, while Roberto Firmino demonstrated enough during a cameo from the bench to suggest he could be ready for a start in midweek. But the Reds are still lacking a creative spark. Neither Philippe Coutinho nor the recently impressive Adam Lallana could grasp the initiative, while Emre Can, for all his endeavour, struggles with a final ball.

Southampton, not so resplendent in their garish green change colours, were content to sit back and invite Liverpool to play in front of them, asking the question of whether the Reds could show the guile and talent to prise them open.

There was little even approaching an answer during a dire, forgettable first half. Breaking down such a stout rearguard action requires either quick passing or genuine width. Liverpool had neither. The much-vaunted pressing game Klopp is unashamedly keen to impose on his charges, and which worked to obvious effect at White Hart Lane last weekend, is largely redundant in these encounters, with Southampton, like Rubin Kazan three days earlier, happy to let the Reds have the ball. And when the visitors did gain possession, the pace and power of Mane, Dusan Tadic and Graziano Pelle ensured the home defence was kept honest.

Goalmouth action was at a premium. Can hooked a Milner corner narrowly wide after Coutinho's shot was blocked by Cedric Soares, Milner saw a low drive skim off target and the busy Alberto Moreno excitedly fired over when in space inside the box. Southampton had their chances. Mamadou Sakho didn't connect properly with a clearing header but was grateful to see Steven Davis rush his shot straight at Simon Mignolet. And as the visitors grew in confidence going forward, the Liverpool goalkeeper was required to make a more impressive save when clawing the ball behind after a deep Davis free-kick found Virgil van Dijk for an unmarked header. Benteke made an instant difference on his arrival for the second half, helping force a succession of early corners.

Moreno shot across the face of goal having been found by Can's clever flick, while at the other end Martin Skrtel's glancing header clear was enough to prevent Pelle converting a certain goal before Moreno made a brilliant recovery challenge to halt a breaking Mane. Then came the late drama. Klopp's wait for a first win as Liverpool manager goes on.

LIVERPOOL (4-2-3-1): Mignolet; Clyne, Skrtel, Sakho, Moreno; Lucas, Can; Milner, Lallana (Firmino 67), Coutinho (Ibe 83); Origi (Benteke 46). Subs: Bogdan, Toure, Allen, Randall. GOAL: Benteke 77. BOOKING: Milner (foul).

SOUTHAMPTON (4-2-3-1): Stekelenburg; Soares, Fonte, van Dijk, Bertrand; Wanyama, Clasie (Juanmi 76); Tadic (Ward-Prowse 64), Mane, S Davis (Ramirez 80); Pelle. Subs: K Davis, Yoshida, Romeu, Caulker. GOAL: Mane 86. BOOKING: Mane (foul). SENDING-OFF: Mane (second bookable offence).

REFEREE: Andre Marriner. **ATT:** 44,171.

SOUTHERN Daily Echo

Sadio Mane sees red as Saints grab point against Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool

SAINTS grabbed a hard earned point at Anfield this afternoon, with Mane scoring and getting sent off late on.

Liverpool substitute Christian Benteke looked like he had settled a turgid encounter at home to Southampton with a thumping 77th-minute header.

Jurgen Klopp was four minutes away from joining Rafael Benitez, who in 2004 was the last manager to win his first Anfield league game, when Sadio Mane forced home from close range, only to spoil his afternoon by getting sent off for a second yellow card in added time.

The German has stressed the need for patience as time is needed to implement his ideas, but there was no holding back in the way he celebrated Benteke's goal, wheeling away on the touchline in a show of unbridled emotion.

It was not to last, however, and a third successive draw, following a 0-0 at Tottenham last weekend and a 1-1 at home to Rubin Kazan in midweek, shows there is still plenty of work to do.

What will help his cause, though, is being able to pick Benteke, the striker his predecessor Brendan Rodgers pushed so hard for the club to sign in the summer, on a regular basis now the Belgium international is fully recovered from his hamstring injury.

If Klopp can find a way of keeping Daniel Sturridge injury-free - the England striker was again left out as he is still struggling with a swollen knee and has yet to feature for the new manager - he may have room for manoeuvre.

But while his side remain short of firepower up front and still susceptible to conceding soft goals there will be more moments like this.

There was little to choose between the two teams, who both employed similar styles which cancelled each other out in the pressing departments.

At half-time former Liverpool defender-turned-television pundit Jamie Carragher summed up how much work Klopp still has to do when he said: "He has come in wanting to play heavy metal football but for two-and-a-half games now it's been a church choir."

There was little to speak of in the opening 45 minutes, aside from Simon Mignolet clawing away Virgil van Dijk's free header just before the break.

Benteke replaced Divock Origi for the second half and immediately Liverpool had more presence up front but they still could not make it count.

Moreno, who earned the second-loudest cheer of the afternoon after recovering at least five yards on Mane to put in a goal-saving tackle, drilled a shot across the face of goal from the narrowest of angles, but it was left to the big man to make the breakthrough.James Milner swung a cross in from the right and Benteke rose highest to power a header into the top corner.

Joy and relief exploded around Anfield but Liverpool's celebrations were cut short when Mane bundled home the equaliser at the far post after the hosts failed to defend a late free-kick.

The goal continued Southampton's unbeaten record away from home in the Premier League, even if Mane was not there at the end to celebrate it having been shown his second yellow for tripping Moreno.

Compiled by Graeme Riley

Date: 25 October 2015
Opposition: Southampton
Competition: League

Times	Telegraph	Echo
Guardian	Mirror	Daily Echo
Independent	Mail	BBC

25 October 2015

BBC

Sadio Mane's late equaliser for Southampton denied Jurgen Klopp his first victory as Liverpool manager.
The home side dominated possession at Anfield and took the lead when Christian Benteke headed in James Milner's cross from the right.
But with four minutes left, Mane bundled in when Gaston Ramirez's header across goal was palmed by keeper Simon Mignolet into the body of the forward.
Mane was then sent off in stoppage time after picking up two late yellows.
The draw moves the Saints up to eighth, with Liverpool up to ninth and level on 14 points.
Gegenpressing works - but where's the end product?
Played three, drawn three. Klopp has laid the foundations of how he wants his side to play, but does he have right equipment to emulate his achievements at Borussia Dortmund?
The Reds have appeared to become, in such a short space of time, a team that is hard to defeat.
The energy spent by the hunting packs in closing down space when Southampton had the ball was impressive. Known as a form of***gegenpressing*** - immediate closing down of counter-attacks - the Reds enjoyed over 60% possession and limited the Saints to just three efforts on target.
But on the flip side Klopp does not appear to have the necessary attacking players to make that possession count in the opposition's third.
Liverpool barely threatened as an attacking force and prior to Benteke's goal they managed just one effort on target.
Origi and out?
How Liverpool could do with forwards like Mane and Graziano Pelle, who now have 13 goals between them in all competitions this season.
Klopp - his options limited by injuries to Danny Ings and Daniel Sturridge - opted to start with Divock Origi as his lone frontman. After a poor display, it is now three matches and no goals for the Belgium international under Klopp.
The disparity in performance between the Reds forward, who was replaced by Benteke at half-time, and Pelle was stark.
The Saints frontman was the busier of the two despite his side having less possession than the opposition, while Origi managed 10 touches in his 45 minutes - the fewest of any player on the field.
What they said
Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp:
"Of course this moment is not the best moment in the week because we wasted a lot of energy.
"Southampton haven't lost away from home so we had to work hard. You score the goal and you want to win, but it didn't happen tonight.
"Football is not a fairytale. Sometimes we write stories like this but it doesn't happen. You see these guys can play football, are technically strong and physically strong but you saw how big the disappointment was.
"It's only a goal, only a game of football. It's like it's the last thing in your life and we have to calm this down."
Southampton manager Ronald Koeman on BBC Sport:
"We deserved at least one point but honestly it was not our best performance but we had a good reaction after going down to a great goal from Benteke.
"Our defensive organisation is good, it is difficult to create chances against us.
"Teams like Liverpool, if they have a change in management, there is always a change in expectation. I know that, I have played for big teams and I know the expectation on the manager of Liverpool is always bigger than that of Southampton."
Man of the match - Virgil van Dijk (Southampton)
The stats you need to know
Liverpool have drawn four of their last five league games (W1, D4).
Their 3-2 win over Aston Villa is the only league fixture in which they have scored more than one goal this season.
The Reds have scored just nine league goals this season. Only West Brom (8) and Watford (8) have scored fewer.
Southampton are unbeaten away from home in this season's Premier League (W1, D4).
No player has scored more headed goals in the Premier League since 2013-14 than Christian Benteke (14, level with Arsenal's Olivier Giroud).
What next?
Liverpool have a League Cup encounter against Bournemouth midweek before they travel to Chelsea, with Jose Mourinho's side in turmoil. The Saints on the other hand face Aston Villa, who are without a manager, in the cup and then host the Cherries next week in the battle of the south coast.

Compiled by Graeme Riley

Date: 25 October 2015
Opposition: Southampton
Competition: League

Times	Telegraph	Echo
Guardian	Mirror	Daily Echo
Independent	Mail	BBC

25 October 2015

BBC

Full time Match ends, Liverpool 1, Southampton 1.
90:00+4:54Full time Second Half ends, Liverpool 1, Southampton 1.
90:00+3:04Dismissal DismissalSecond yellow card to Sadio Mané (Southampton for a bad foul.
90:00+2:46 Alberto Moreno (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.
90:00+2:46 Foul by Sadio Mané (Southampton.
90:00+2:01 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Cédric Soares.
90:00+0:47Booking Sadio Mané (Southampton is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
90:00+0:42 Roberto Firmino (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
90:00+0:42 Foul by Sadio Mané (Southampton.
89:30 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Cédric Soares.
87:18 Mamadou Sakho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
87:18 Foul by Graziano Pellè (Southampton.
85:26Goal scored Goal!Goal! Liverpool 1, Southampton 1. Sadio Mané (Southampton right footed shot from very close range to the bottom left corner. Assisted by Gastón Ramírez with a headed pass following a set piece situation.
84:55Booking James Milner (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.
84:52 Foul by James Milner (Liverpool.
84:52 Ryan Bertrand (Southampton wins a free kick on the left wing.
83:31 Foul by Martin Skrtel (Liverpool.
83:31 Victor Wanyama (Southampton wins a free kick in the defensive half.
82:56 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Cédric Soares.
82:36Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Liverpool. Jordon Ibe replaces Philippe Coutinho.
82:12 James Milner (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
82:12 Foul by Sadio Mané (Southampton.
80:43 Attempt missed. Sadio Mané (Southampton right footed shot from a difficult angle on the right is too high. Assisted by Cédric Soares.
79:48Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Southampton. Gastón Ramírez replaces Steven Davis.
79:26 Foul by Roberto Firmino (Liverpool.
79:26 James Ward-Prowse (Southampton wins a free kick in the defensive half.
79:08 Offside, Liverpool. Lucas Leiva tries a through ball, but Philippe Coutinho is caught offside.
78:36 Attempt blocked. Graziano Pellè (Southampton header from the left side of the six yard box is blocked. Assisted by Steven Davis with a cross.
76:32Goal scored Goal!Goal! Liverpool 1, Southampton 0. Christian Benteke (Liverpool header from the centre of the box to the top right corner. Assisted by James Milner with a cross.
75:37 Attempt missed. Graziano Pellè (Southampton right footed shot from the centre of the box misses to the left. Assisted by Cédric Soares with a cross.
75:04Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Southampton. Juanmi replaces Jordy Clasie.
71:36 Roberto Firmino (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.
71:36 Foul by Jordy Clasie (Southampton.
69:59 Attempt missed. Emre Can (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right.
68:46 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Jordy Clasie.
67:15 Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is too high. Assisted by James Milner.
66:47Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Liverpool. Roberto Firmino replaces Adam Lallana.
64:52 Corner, Southampton. Conceded by Adam Lallana.
64:22 Corner, Southampton. Conceded by Nathaniel Clyne.
63:40Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Southampton. James Ward-Prowse replaces Dusan Tadic.
62:06 Attempt missed. Adam Lallana (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box misses to the left. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho with a through ball.
61:25 Adam Lallana (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.
61:25 Foul by Virgil van Dijk (Southampton.
60:47 Foul by Alberto Moreno (Liverpool.
60:47 Graziano Pellè (Southampton wins a free kick in the defensive half.
59:47 Offside, Southampton. Jose Fonte tries a through ball, but Sadio Mané is caught offside.
59:10 Corner, Southampton. Conceded by Alberto Moreno.
58:32 Lucas Leiva (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
58:32 Foul by Ryan Bertrand (Southampton.
55:38 Attempt missed. Alberto Moreno (Liverpool left footed shot from a difficult angle on the left misses to the right. Assisted by Emre Can.
52:47 Corner, Southampton. Conceded by James Milner.
52:00 Foul by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool.
52:00 Sadio Mané (Southampton wins a free kick on the left wing.
50:07 Offside, Liverpool. Adam Lallana tries a through ball, but Alberto Moreno is caught offside.
47:46 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Sadio Mané.
47:33 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Jordy Clasie.
47:30 Attempt blocked. Christian Benteke (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by James Milner with a cross.
47:09 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Cédric Soares.
46:29 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Virgil van Dijk.
45:00 Second Half begins Liverpool 0, Southampton 0.
45:00Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Liverpool. Christian Benteke replaces Divock Origi.
45:00+1:17Half time First Half ends, Liverpool 0, Southampton 0.
44:49 Offside, Liverpool. Lucas Leiva tries a through ball, but Adam Lallana is caught offside.
40:44 Attempt missed. Alberto Moreno (Liverpool left footed shot from the left side of the box is too high. Assisted by Adam Lallana.
39:29 Adam Lallana (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
39:29 Foul by Victor Wanyama (Southampton.
38:03 Corner, Southampton. Conceded by Simon Mignolet.
38:01 Attempt saved. Virgil van Dijk (Southampton header from the centre of the box is saved in the top right corner. Assisted by Steven Davis.
37:15 Foul by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool.
37:15 Sadio Mané (Southampton wins a free kick in the attacking half.
34:30 Foul by James Milner (Liverpool.
34:30 Victor Wanyama (Southampton wins a free kick in the defensive half.
31:59 Lucas Leiva (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
31:59 Foul by Sadio Mané (Southampton.
31:52 Attempt blocked. James Milner (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Adam Lallana.
29:09 Attempt missed. James Milner (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by Adam Lallana.
28:42 Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked.
27:35 Offside, Southampton. Graziano Pellè tries a through ball, but Sadio Mané is caught offside.
23:12 Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from a difficult angle and long range on the left is too high. Assisted by Alberto Moreno.
19:53 Attempt saved. Steven Davis (Southampton right footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the centre of the goal.
19:29 Foul by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool.
19:29 Sadio Mané (Southampton wins a free kick in the defensive half.
17:24 Offside, Liverpool. James Milner tries a through ball, but Adam Lallana is caught offside.
14:33 Attempt blocked. Alberto Moreno (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by James Milner with a cross.
14:07 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Virgil van Dijk.
13:20 Attempt blocked. Graziano Pellè (Southampton left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Dusan Tadic.
11:42 Attempt missed. Jose Fonte (Southampton header from the right side of the six yard box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Dusan Tadic with a cross following a corner.
11:17 Corner, Southampton. Conceded by Lucas Leiva.
7:56 Attempt saved. Adam Lallana (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Lucas Leiva.
6:11 Divock Origi (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.
6:11 Foul by Victor Wanyama (Southampton.
5:02 James Milner (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.
5:02 Foul by Steven Davis (Southampton.
4:22 Corner, Southampton. Conceded by Lucas Leiva.
3:39 Attempt missed. Emre Can (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by James Milner with a cross following a corner.
3:04 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Virgil van Dijk.
3:00 Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Nathaniel Clyne.
0:00 First Half begins.
0:00 Lineups are announced and players are warming up.

Compiled by Graeme Riley