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# January 2016

### THE TIMES

Fearless Exeter hand out lesson to Liverpool's young ones Exeter City 2 Liverpool 2 Sinclair 12, Smith 73

Playing with pride in the shirt and endless adventure. Exeter City made a mockery of the 76 league places between them and Liverpool at a raucous St James Park last night. Jurgen Klopp's young side needed a 73rd-minute equaliser from Brad Smith, their 21-year-old Australia left back, to force a replay. Exeter did the FA Cup proud and their fearlessness against vaunted foe will surely inspire others this thirdround weekend. Liverpool were strangers in the night, proving that the under-21 league is hardly the ideal finishing school for those wishing to make it in the higher echelons of the professional game. Adam Bogdan had a nightmare; if he stood no chance with Tom Nichols's opener, which was cancelled out by Jerome Sinclair, the Liverpool goalkeeper allowed a corner from the outstanding Lee Holmes to beat him. Such were Liverpool's injury problems that when when Smith briefly required medical attention late on, the Exeter supporters chanted "is it your hamstring?" It was that sort of night, a good Cup tie passionately followed. Exeter had boasted Adrian Edmondson among their support, but Liverpool had the young ones. Klopp started three teenagers, Cameron Brannagan, Ryan Kent and Sinclair, in a side showing 11 changes from Liverpool's previous game, against Stoke City. "Who are you?" laughed the Exeter fans as Klopp's irregulars ran on. They sang it again even louder when Liverpool ran off chastened at the break, trailing 2-1. Klopp had warned that his selection would be much changed because he was missing 13 players through injury and wanted to rest others in preparation for Wednesday's Barclays Premier League meeting with Arsenal. Tiago Ilori and Kevin Stewart were even recalled from loan spells and registered by the midday deadline to play. Liverpool still had plenty of talent on view, including Christian Benteke leading the line and Joao Teixeira, the Portuguese making his first start for Liverpool, buzzing around in support. The promising Sinclair took his firsthalf goal well, providing an immediate riposte to Nichols's opener, but the question constantly posed was whether Liverpool had the nous and nerve

It had all the hallmarks of a classic Cup occasion, with the eighth-placed team in the Premier League playing on the heavy pitch of the side residing 16th in League Two. Paul Tisdale, whose son warmed up with the mascots on the pitch, presented Klopp with a gift beforehand. It was nothing to the present Bogdan gave Holmes. Tisdale's club certainly rolled out the red carpet for Liverpool, putting up signs for the visiting fans to "thank you for travelling 252 miles to support your club today". Officials at St James Park reckoned they could have sold out their 8,500-capacity ground four times over, such was the interest. With TV cameras using up some space, there were 8,298 squeezed in, including 1,297 visitors. It sounded many, many more.

The 5,000 programmes, some accidentally printed with contents upside down, sold briskly. Exeter had increased the number of pages in the programme to 96 because "we wanted to pay our respect" for those Liverpool fans who died at Hillsborough. It was a gesture greatly appreciated by Liverpool.

Liverpool supporters on the away terrace had to peer over hoardings advertising "Market Carpets" and "TMF Scaffolding" to catch the action, which soon unfolded in Bogdan's goalmouth in front of them after nine minutes. Jamie Reid sped down the right, beating Smith, the full back, and crossed low and hard on the run. Klopp's firstchoice defence struggles with crosses and his makeshift back four followed suit. Nichols timed his run perfectly, meeting Reid's cross and propelling it first time past Bogdan. St James Park sensed an upset. Exeter had been 5-1 to win partly because of the fame of the opposition, seven times winners of the FA Cup, but also because they had lost four games since the draw.

This was a test of Liverpool's youngsters, of their character. They quickly responded, the ball moving between Kent and Benteke, before a mix-up in the Exeter defence allowed Sinclair to pounce. It was a more accurate finish than one of his shots in the warm-up, that disappeared over the away terrace. Exeter refused to follow the script. Their fans kept chanting, kept believing. Their players kept attacking, Christian Ribeiro heading just wide from Craig Woodman's cross. Exeter went for it again, sensing the vulnerability of Liverpool defensively. Their director of football, Steve Perryman, was out of his seat, leading the "we are

Exeter" chant. Yards away, Ribeiro, the Wales player, was really troubling Liverpool with his attacking down the right.

With seconds remaining of the first half, Ribeiro won a corner off Smith. Holmes's deliveries from open play had been worrying Liverpool, but here he embarrassed them from a corner. He curled in the ball left-footed and what happened next will haunt Bogdan. Holmes's corner drifted over Bogdan and bent in at the far post. It was a howler by Bogdan, who was also caught out away to Watford. He was under pressure from Nichols here, but really there was no excuse. The look he received from Klopp confirmed that. Holmes was a promising teenaged international during his early years with Derby County, captaining England Under-19, but his career never maintained the trajectory, taking in Southampton, Preston North End and assorted loans before arriving at St James Park last year. Holmes will always be remembered at Exeter for this goal -- and for his celebration, jogging down the touchline, almost laughing in disbelief. It was no laughing matter for Liverpool. Benteke's header was saved by Bobby Olejnik, but the force remained with Exeter for a while. A Nichols free kick was pushed over. But then Klopp sent on Sheyi Ojo for Sinclair after 71 minutes and Liverpool began to look more menacing. Within two minutes, Ojo dribbled in from the left and the ball fell to Smith, who drilled it past Olejnik.

## theguardian

Liverpool's Brad Smith strikes to deny Exeter a memorable FA Cup scalp In the end everything turned out rather well for Exeter City, even if this will be remembered as a night when a golden opportunity to eliminate Liverpool from the FA Cup and register one of the most famous victories in the League Two club's history slipped through their fingers.

Brad Smith, a 21-year-old Australian who was making only his fifth appearance for Liverpool, equalised 17 minutes from time to spare Jürgen Klopp the embarrassment of an upset that looked on the cards from the moment the teams were announced. The bad news for Liverpool's manager is that another fixture has to be crowbarred into an already congested schedule and, with that in mind, it was tempting to wonder whether a draw was the worst possible scenario for Klopp.

With 12 Liverpool players missing through injury, the tie being played on a pudding of a pitch, live television cameras in town and Exeter right up for the occasion, all the ingredients were there for a famous upset and for a long period it looked as though Paul Tisdale's side would deliver one of those famous FA Cup stories.

Smith, however, had not read the script and his close-range left-footed shot, after Jordan Moore-Taylor cleared off the line, means Exeter will travel to Anfield on Wednesday week for a replay and quite a payday. Early estimations are that a share of the gate receipts at Liverpool could be worth as much as £500,000 to Exeter.

That should soften the blow for Tisdale, whose disappointment afterwards reflected how close his impressive side had come to giving Klopp an unwelcome first taste of what the FA Cup is all about. Exeter's manager had every right to feel proud of his players, who performed with courage and belief.

The home team sensed blood from the outset, took the lead through Tom Nichols' 10th goal of the season and, when Lee Holmes scored direct from a corner kick on the stroke of half-time, to restore their advantage after Jerome Sinclair had equalised in the 12th minute, Klopp's face was a picture.

It was not a moment that Adam Bogan, the Liverpool goalkeeper, will want to view again and added to the growing impression that this was going to be Exeter's night. Bogdan was one of the few recognisable names in the Liverpool side, along with José Enrique, who was making his first appearance for the club in the best part of 12 months, and Christian Benteke.

Liverpool's £32.5m signing played the full 90 minutes and it must have been a chastening experience for the Belgium international. He was unlucky to see his powerful header tipped over the bar by Bobby Olejnik early in the second half but he was a peripheral figure for much of the evening and could have been forgiven for wondering how his Liverpool career has got to the point where he has ended up playing in a team of virtual unknowns.

Klopp's starting lineup showed 11 changes from the team that started against Stoke City in the Capital One Cup semi-final first leg on Tuesday night. In fact, take Benteke and Enrique out of that XI and the other nine players had only 18 Liverpool appearances between them.

In that context Klopp could have been forgiven for fearing the worst when Exeter took the lead after nine minutes following a raid down Liverpool's left flank. Jamie Reid was the creator, the forward showing a mixture of pace and strength to get away from Enrique before delivering a low inch-perfect cross that was expertly steered in by Nichols.

Liverpool, to their credit, quickly responded, albeit after some calamitous Exeter defending. Ryan Kent, who started brightly, looked to pass into the feet of Benteke in the area and, as the ball broke loose, two Exeter players seemed to get in one another's way. Jordan Tillson ended up swinging a wild left boot at the ball and it fell kindly for Sinclair, who finished clinically from about 10 yards on his first start for the club.

Exeter, however, looked the more dangerous of the two teams. David Noble might have done better when he lifted a shot over the bar and Christian Ribeiro, who was keen to get forward on the right at every opportunity, narrowly headed wide of the far upright with Bogdan beaten.

The Liverpool goalkeeper was not so fortunate four minutes later. Holmes stuck his left-footed corner kick with pace and precision, the ball arrowing over the head of Bogan, who ended up hanging on to the crossbar, and into the far corner of the net to put Exeter back in front.

Although Benteke saw his header saved, Exeter were growing in confidence in the second half and it was difficult to see where the Liverpool equaliser was going to come from. Yet Sheyi Ojo, who was one of five Liverpool debutants, made an instant impact when his break down the left, only two minutes after coming off the bench, led to Smith drilling home.

While "a tad disappointed" with the result, Tisdale could also see the silver lining. "A windfall like this is the sort of cash injection we don't get," he said. "We're going to get a payday and it's about keeping going what we have, not just signing new players but re-employing players, so it's a big achievement for us tonight. We're very frugal, careful with every penny, so I just can't over-emphasise how important this will be for a club like Exeter."

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January 2016

### The Hail

KLOPP'S KIDS battle back; Aussie Smith strikes late to deny valiant Exeter a huge upset

THE travellers behind the goal were still singing their songs about Kenny Dalglish and Stevie Heighway on the wing, but they have seen enough great footballers in their time to know Liverpoolgot away with it here. A 73rd-minute equaliser, plundered on pure instinct by Brad Smith, gave them a replay they barely deserved, and deprived Exeter of one of the great giantkillings of modern times. Yes, this was a glorified Liverpool youth team, but that was the choice of manager Jurgen Klopp. The fact remains that against an League Two team comprised of homegrown talent and free transfers, they still should have had enough. Instead Exeter looked the likely victors until a poor clearance by Exeter captain Jordan Moore-Taylor gifted Liverpool a secondhalf equaliser. It adds another game to an already packed schedule, but Klopp will take that. His first taste of one of the great traditions of English football was so close to being a bitter one. Exeter had not looked greatly troubled when, with 17 minutes remaining, Sheyi Ojo broke down the left and crossed. Moore-Taylor cut it out, but the ball flew straight to Smith who, almost on autopilot, returned it with interest. Exeter's players made their way back to the centre-circle, crestfallen. They shouldn't be. This was an outstanding effort, given the gulf between the two teams, and a lucrative outcome. What does a Grecian urn? A small fortune for a replay at Liverpool after this. The directors will be delighted, if not the neutrals. Exeter have lost every game since the draw for the third round was made. Not that you could have gleaned that from the first half here. Sure, there were some extremely rough edges on show, but that could be said of either side, and the quality of Exeter's opening goal belied the 76 places between the teams. That it was cancelled out by Liverpool's next attack was no doubt of enormous relief to manager Klopp. His inexperienced team were under enough pressure as it was. He had to take some of the responsibility for that, of course. Even with a wickedly long injury list, there was still a considerably stronger Liverpool team that could have started here.

It could have included James Milner, Joe Allen, Firmino, Lucas Leiva, Nathaniel Clyne, Alberto Moreno and Adam Lallana. Most of all, Klopp could have picked goalkeeper Simon Mignolet. As Exeter's second sailed past Adam Bogdan directly from a corner just before half-time, no doubt he wished he had.

As it was, Klopp had made his bed and had to lie in it. He picked a team in which only two players had made more than four appearances for the club, recalled loaned players from Swindon to Wolverhampton and admitted that before this week he had only seen some of the starters on video. 'Not all of them,' he added. Exeter manager Paul Tisdale reminded the locals that whatever XI walked out, they were stillLiverpool players, and not to get too excited. It was obvious from the start, though, that Exeter would never have a greater chance of sparking a Premier League upset. The game was nine minutes old when the home team took the lead from their first significant attack of the game.

It is a cliche about lower league players wanting it more — the players who want it most tend to rise to the elite level — but without doubt the opener came from Exeter's Jamie Reid being determined to give all he could, and Liverpool's back line thinking they had done enough. It was the 90 per cent effort Klopp dismissed so scornfully at West Ham last weekend. Reid found the extra 10 per cent. He appeared to have lost control of the ball when he stretched out a leg and whipped in a cross which took Jose Enrique, playing as a centre-half, by surprise. He clearly wasn't expecting it, but Tom Nichols was and his finish, extending a leg to angle the ball into the corner past Bogdan (left), was outstanding. Not that Exeter had long to enjoy it.

Australia left-back Smith had a shot blocked on the way to goal but from Liverpool's first effort on target, they achieved parity. It was a scruffy goal, the product of some League Two football, the defensive quality that has no doubt been the cause of four straight defeats for Exeter going into this match. Christian Benteke won the ball in the area -- it was a rare contribution, and anyone who was expecting PS32m-worth of striker to have looked a class above here will have been disappointed -- but Exeter failed to react quickly enough, allowing a cool finish from Jerome Sinclair in only his second game for the club. Yet if this speedy response was exactly what Liverpool needed, they failed to capitalise on it. Joao Teixeira -- whose PS830,000 fee from Sporting Lisbon made him more expensive than every starting Exeter player put together by a sum of, er, PS830,000 -- had a shot deflected wide. Ryan Kent also went close but the best chances of the half fell to Exeter, and they deserved their slender lead as the teams headed for the tunnel. In the 29th minute, a Christian Ribeiro cross was flicked on by Reid only for David Noble to shoot high over the bar arriving late in a crowded area. He appealed for a penalty, hit by a lunging attempted block, but referee Stuart Attwell rightly considered the ball to have left his boot before it happened. In the 41st minute, Exeter's two R's combined again -- this time Reid delivering the cross and Ribeiro stealing in for a dipping header that he directed just wide of the far post. Yet pressure was building again and finally it told on Bogdan. Not for the first time this season he was horribly weak dealing with a ball into his box, this time failing to collect an inswinging corner from Lee Holmes. Bogdan claimed he was fouled by Nichols, but it was little more than a forward presence in his orbit really and he has to be stronger than that. The look he received from Klopp as they passed on the way to the away dressing-

room seemed to suggest as much. too.

The Daily Telegraph

Exeter earn Anfield replay as Liverpool youngsters survive
Exeter City 2 Nichols 9, Holmes 45 Liverpool 2 Sinclair 12, Smith 73 Att: 8,298
The FA Cup third round announced itself with a raucous throwback of a tie as
Exeter City pushedLiverpool all the way to earn a deserved and lucrative replay.
The Grecians have their gift.

It could have been more. It could have been the most famous night in this club's 115-year history as they led deep into the encounter only to be clawed back by Jurgen Klopp's young side. Kindergarten Klopp, in fact, as the Liverpool manager, denied 12 players through injury, turned to a team with an average age of just 22 and gambled that he could get through.

Instead he has a replay which adds to a daunting fixture list. To an extent insult was added to injury but it could be a whole lot worse.

It was, quite gloriously, a classic cup tie with Exeter, 16th in League Two, playing with courage and belief and Liverpool hanging on in there at times. There were thrills and spills - with Liverpoolgoalkeeper Adam Bogdan again at fault. Klopp had promised an unfamiliar line-up - hamstrung as he is by hamstrings and fixture congestion - but still it raised eyebrows so see an Xl quite this callow and inexperienced. They boasted just 135 firstteam appearances - with 96 of those belonging to Jose Enrique, the makeshift central defender, and he has been ushered in from the wilderness. It was Enrique's first appearance for almost a year.

There was Christian Benteke also, all PS32.5 million of him, to captain the team but after that it was young, it was inexperienced - there were three debutants including Kevin Stewart who had only been recalled from loan at Swindon Town hours before kick-off - and it raised further the possibility of an upset. There was certainly an even bigger buzz on the Exeter Big Bank - the local equivalent of The Kop - as this tight ground in the city centre was rammed to capacity. Behind the low terrace at the opposite end of the ground people stood in the window frames of the houses behind to crane a view.

It was all set. There was even a hipper hipster than Klopp in the Exeter dug-out in the sartorially dapper manager Paul Tisdale - and a huge banner which read: "What we do today echoes in eternity. Make history".

The message was heeded inside 10 minutes. Exeter scored. It came as Jamie Reid sprinted down the right, tearing past Brad Smith and crossing low for Tom Nichols - a 22-year-old product of the club's youth system - to poke the ball past Adam Bogdan at full stretch as Tiago Ilori, on his debut, failed to cut it out.

It was a fine strike but just as the atmosphere cranked up

further Liverpool reacted. They pushed on and as the ball rebounded around the Exeter penalty area, with Jordan Moore-Taylor tussling with Benteke, it eventually fell to Jerome Sinclair who, on the 19-year-old's first start for Liverpool, scored his first goal by calmly sweeping his effort low into the corner.

It was well-taken but with a slice of fortune but immediately settled Liverpool and stalled Exeter's gathering momentum. Suddenly youngsters such as Stewart, Ryan Kent and Joao Teixeira were prominent as they picked their way nimbly over the heavy pitch.

But it was Exeter who should have reclaimed the lead when Christian Ribeiro worked his way down the right and did well to deliver a low cross. The ball ran to David Noble who side-footed high over the crossbar, under Connor Randall's lunging challenge, from just 10 yards.

Nine of this Liverpool team had just 18 first-team appearances between them and the scale of the task was becoming apparent when Exeter went close again as the impressive Ribeiro ran on to a deep cross to steer a header back across Bogdan and agonisingly wide. He held his head.

If Noble should have scored then Ribeiro really should have scored. For an Exeter side that had lost its last four matches, who had not reached the third round for 11 seasons this was excellent.

On 45 minutes it got even better when, deservedly, Exeter scored again with an extraordinary goal. It came direct from a corner with Lee Holmes swinging the ball in leftfooted from the right only for it to somehow drift over the hapless Bogdan and nestle in the net. If Holmes looked disbelieving then so did everyone else. Exeter were given a standing ovation as they walked off at half-time.

Liverpool came out early for the re-start but were almost caught when Ribeiro appeared to be tripped inside the area. It felt like a big moment but no penalty was, rightly, given by referee Stuart Attwell as the defender had inadvertently kicked his own heel.

Finally an emphatic chance fell to Benteke, who had struggled to be involved, but who then met Teixeira's cross from close-range only for goalkeeper Bobby Olejnik to react superbly and push his header away for a corner.

Just as it appeared Liverpool were struggling they struck. Substitute Shey Ojo crossed and the ball was hacked out by Moore-Taylor but only as far as Smith who fired the ball low into the net.Liverpool were now dominant with

Teixeira bursting into the area and Olejnik beating his shot away with his legs. Exeter City unused subs McAllister, Davies, Morrison, Hoskins,

Hamon. Liverpool unused subs Lallana, Lucas, Fulton, Masterson. Referee Stuart Attwell.

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## Mirror

REDS LACK EXE-FACTOR; Smith saves day for Klopp's kids after minnows Exeter threaten huge Cup upset

2016

JURGEN KLOPP had spoken of having respect for the FA Cup.
But the godfather of heavy metal football had better start listening to a little
Aretha Franklin instead. She'll tell him the word is spelt R-E-S-P-E-C-T.

The Liverpool boss may have been hamstrung by injuries and the midwinter fixture logjam - but by sending out a starting line-up of eight callow youths, Christian Benteke, forgotten-man Luis Enrique and calamity keeper Adam Bogdan, he was lucky to escape humiliation.

It was a shame Klopp's controversial team selection should cast a shadow over a fine Exeter performance - because such was the fervour of the crowd and the tempo of their play, you could have imagined them troubling a full-strength Liverpool, never mind this side.

For 73 minutes this looked like being the Reds' first-ever FA Cup defeat by a club from the Football League basement - and how Paul Tisdale's men deserve their lucrative replay at Anfield.

While their heroic draw came courtesy of a goal scored directly from a Lee Holmes corner, on the stroke of half-time, there was no element of fluke about the scoreline. Liverpool kid Jerome Sinclair equalised a classy early opener from Tom Nichols but then Klopp's kids were battered by their League Two hosts, who could have won by a hatful, until Aussie full-back Brad Smith snatched an equaliser

Liverpool's starting XI had an average age of just 22.3 and precious little top-class experience - save for Benteke, Enrique and Bogdan - who was left embarrassed by Exeter's second goal. The Grecians' previous glamour tie here, against Manchester United in 2005, had seen Cristiano Ronaldo, Wayne Rooney, Ryan Giggs and Paul Scholes turn out in a 2-0 victory for Sir Alex Ferguson's men.

Yet hamstrings are more fragile at the major clubs these days, so Klopp was unwilling to risk any more injuries to senior players - except for Benteke exiled to this west-country naughty step.

Three of the German's inexperienced starting line-up - Tiago Ilori, Ryan Kent and Kevin Stewart - had been recalled from loans to help out the emergency crisis, along with sub Sheyi Ojo.

Still, Liverpool could send a matchday squad worth around PS90million into a venue with every aspect of an old-school giant-killing field.

There was the midfield swamp, the onlookers craning their necks from upstairs windows on St James' Road, and Tisdale wearing a porkpie hat at a jaunty angle, straight out of Bob Stokoe's old wardrobe.

Exeter had lost at home to Dagenham & Redbridge and AFC Wimbledon in their previous two outings, but their early passing was crisp, their movement brisk and within eight minutes they led.

Jamie Reid filleted the lesserspotted Enrique and centred low for Nichols to slip behind Connor Randall and steer it past Bogdan and inside the far post. There was a swift response from Liverpool though. Kent centred low, Benteke added a touch but Exeter duo Jordan Tillson and Troy Brown left the ball for one another, allowing Jerome Sinclair to nip in and equalise.

Sinclair had been Liverpool's youngest-ever first-teamer, just days after his 16th birthday in 2012, but this was his first goal in his fourth senior appearance for the Reds.

The Grecians twice carved out glorious chances - David Noble clearing the bar from eight yards and Christian Ribeiro heading narrowly wide across goal. Then City grabbed a richlydeserved second in first-half injurytime, Ribeiro winning a corner and Holmes swerving the dead-ball kick around the near post with the flapping Bogdan seeming to impersonate a semaphore man directing down a plane during a hurricane.

Exeter keeper Bobby Olejnik pulled out a brilliant save to push out Benteke's downward header soon after the break - but Tisdale's men had plenty of chances before a cross from Reds sub Ojo was half-cleared by Jordan Moore-Taylor and thumped in by Smith.

## THE X INDEPENDENT

Smith leveller deprives Exeter of famous win however Anfield awaits Liverpool's blushes were saved by 21-year-old Brad Smith's second-half equaliser at St James Park. The Australian struck with 17 minutes remaining to keep alive Liverpool's hopes of avoiding an immediate exit from this season's FA Cup. Having rolled out the red carpet for their Premier League visitors, the locals had mixed feelings when the two line-ups were read out on the stadium PA system. Jrgen Klopp had chosen to mark his first game in charge in the once-coveted competition by naming a side that was scarcely recognisable to the travelling fans from Merseyside, let alone the home supporters inside a packed St James Park. Instead of the instantly recognisable names of Nathaniel Clyne, Roberto Firmino, Emre Can, Mamadhou Sakho, Alberto Moreno and Lucas Leiva, the teamsheet read Cameron Brannagan, Jerome Sinclair, Connor Randall and debutants, Kevin Stewart, Tiago Ilori and Ryan Kent. Disrespectful or understandable? Maybe the competition's top brass will decide on that in the coming days.

Once the disappointment had sunk in for those who had paid to see their heroes up against a club they have played only five times in their history, there was a feeling of genuine optimism.

The club that sits in 16th place in League Two and who have lost their past four league games, were beaten in the first round one last season, against Warrington Town of the Northern Premier League, but this time, the pressure was well and truly off.

One of Exeter manager Paul Tisdale's primary concerns ahead of his side's big night was what to wear in front of the television cameras. Tongue in cheek, of course, but the 42-year-old former Southampton midfielder, in a pork-pie hat, certainly looked the part as his team set off in search of the weekend's first shock. The hosts were certainly keen to leave an early mark. Tom Nichols provided immediate indication of his pace before Jordan Tillson was denied a shot on goal by Brannagan's timely challenge. However, the opening goal was not long in coming. Jamie Reid exposed Jose Enrique along the Exeter right and when his cross flashed across the face, Nichols arrived to slide the ball into the far corner. Liverpool's response was immediate. After Brad Smith's shot had been blocked on the Exeter line by Christian Ribeiro, Sinclair, who has been linked with a move away from Anfield, reacted quickly to a defensive miskick to register his first senior goal for the club.

It was the perfect tonic for Klopp and his young side. Thereafter, they played with increased confidence and taught Exeter an important lesson in the art of possession football. All that was missing was the level of finish that Sinclair had shown in the 12th minute.

It was a similar story at the other end with David Noble clearing the crossbar by 20 yards from a dozen yards and Ribeiro heading wide of Adam Bogdan's far post after a measured cross from Lee Holmes. However, with first half time running out, Holmes whipped in a corner from the right and with Bogdan clutching at thin air, the ball sailed straight in to the far corner without anyone touching it. Liverpool came within a whisker of equalising, for a second time, five minutes into the second half. Brad Smith picked out Christian Benteke with a delightful cross from the left, but the Belgian was denied by a wonderful save from Exeter goalkeeper Bobby Olejnik.

To their credit, the League Two side were in no mood to sit on their lead and play out time. Admittedly, their distribution was not what it had been in the first half, but they did their level best to keep Liverpool on their toes.

Still, the tide was beginning to turn and with Smith coming more and more into the game, the visitors looked the more likely to score.

That said, as hard as Liverpool pushed, they were lacking the necessary edge in the final third where Jordan Moore-Taylor and Troy Brown cancelled out the dual threat of Benteke and Sinclair.

Exeter built on that stability and after Ribeiro headed wide of the far post on the hour, Nichols was only inches over with a free-kick from 20 yards.

As the game moved into the final quarter, so Exeter picked up the pace with substitute Arron Davies shooting wide from 25 yards and Holmes causing a few Liverpool hearts to miss a beat with successive crosses from the left. But just when it looked as though Liverpool might be tumbling out, the excellent Smith reacted in the box and levelled. It was just reward for the Australian who was Liverpool's stand-out player on a difficult night.

Liverpool thought they might have had a penalty with seven minutes remaining, but their vociferous appeals for a foul on substitute Sheyi Ojo were waved away by referee Stuart Attwell. It was the right decision and made sure that Exeter will get another significant pay day, later this month.

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January 2016



Spirited late FA Cup rally by young Reds spares Klopp's blushes - but reward is just another game

One of youngest teams in Liverpool history but it's the senior players who struggle most at St James' Park. The irony won't have been lost on Jurgen Klopp. Having responded to Liverpool's gruelling fixture schedule by fielding one of the youngest and inexperienced teams in the club's history, his reward at the end of a frenetic night in Devon was an extra game to negotiate.

Forget that full week on the training ground later this month. Exeter City are heading to Anfield for a FA Cup third round replay.

Yet in truth the German boss should be thanking his lucky stars after the Reds narrowly avoided a humiliating exit at the hands of the League Two outfit. Regardless of the rights and wrongs of his team selection, Klopp would have found himself in the eye of a storm if the Grecians had become the first club from at least three divisions below to knock Liverpool out of the FA Cup since the infamous defeat to Worcester City way back in 1959. On the back of a gutsy League Cup triumph at Stoke, it would have unleashed an unwelcome torrent of negativity. For most of the night that bleak scenario looked a distinct possibility before a spirited late rally spared their blushes. Twice, Liverpool trailed as Tom Nichols netted before Adam Bogdan was left red-faced by Lee Holmes' corner. However, on each occasion the visitors responded with Jerome Sinclair and then Brad Smith celebrating their first senior goals for the club.

Already without 13 players due to an injury crisis, Klopp took a massive gamble by opting to rest another nine in Simon Mignolet, Nathaniel Clyne, Alberto Moreno, Roberto Firmino, Adam Lallana, Emre Can, Joe Allen, James Milner and Lucas Leiva ahead of Wednesday's league visit of Arsenal. But a scratch line up did just enough to maintain the seven-time winners' interest in the competition.

The young guns provided all the positives after responding to Klopp's pre-match rallying call about proving they can be part of the club's future.

There were five debuts as Tiago Ilori, Ryan Kent and Kevin Stewart all started before Sheyi Ojo and Joe Maguire came off the bench. They didn't let anyone down as they dug deep and battled amid the Devon mud.

Cameron Brannagan shone brightly in the centre of midfield, while Ojo made a classy cameo as he helped inspire the fightback. In fact it was the few senior pros around them who went AWOL at St James' Park.

Bodgan endured an evening to forget but stand-in captain Christian Benteke and makeshift centre-back Jose Enrique, who was making his first outing for nearly a year, fared little better. Benteke should have had a field day against Exeter's backline but once again the £32.5million strike made little impression.

If Klopp played him simply to deliver a kick up the backside, the reaction from the Belgian frontman was muted. He hardly led by example.

Aside from Benteke and Enrique, the rest of the startling line up had just 18 appearances between them with Klopp admitting he had only seen some of them play on DVD. They endured a nightmare start as they fell behind inside nine minutes. Jamie Reid burst away from Enrique down the right and delivered an inviting cross. Nichols got there ahead of Connor Randall to deliver a clinical finish into the bottom corner for his 10 goal of the season.

Special moment for Jerome Sinclair

St James' Park erupted. Yet Liverpool hit back and within three minutes they had restored parity. Kent played the ball into Benteke's and Exeter made a hash of clearing his lay-off. Sinclair gleefully accepted the gift as he pounced to slot home his first senior goal for the Reds. It was a special moment for Sinclair, who hadn't played since Steven Gerrard's Anfield swansong back in May. Since then he's paid the price for an ongoing contract stand-off with the club but Klopp offered the young striker an olive branch and he took it.

Joao Carlos Teixeira, who hadn't featured since the League Cup tie with Bournemouth in October, provided some rare moments of quality as he drifted in off the left with menace. The Portuguese attacker had one strike deflected behind before Randall's cross-shot flashed wide. Kent came to life down the right and put in some decent deliveries but Benteke was repeatedly caught on his heels. Faces different but old problems remained

Brannagan's range of passing picked holes in the Grecians' backline but Liverpool looked suspect defensively every time Paul Tisdale's energised Exeter side broke away in wide areas. The faces may have been different but the problems were painfully familiar as the Reds didn't do enough to stop crosses being swung into the box. Exeter continued to have plenty of joy out wide and Liverpool were on the back foot long before Bogdan's calamity. David Noble wastefully fired over from Christian Ribeiro's cross. Holmes then turned provider but Ribeiro nodded wide when he looked destined to score. Liverpool appeared to have weathered the storm but on the stroke of half-time they were embarrassed.

Holmes' left-footed corner was swung in at real pace but that was no excuse for Bogdan's feeble reaction. The bemused Hungary international was left hanging off the crossbar as the ball nestled in the far corner. A month ago all the talk was of Bogdan taking Simon Mignolet's place. Now Mignolet's spot has never looked so secure. Bogdan endured a torrid Premier League debut for the Reds at Watford last month and here he displayed the same glaring weakness as he remained rooted to the spot when there was danger to deal with.

Exeter were cruising before Ojo sparked Reds back to life

The goal visibly deflated the Reds' rookies and they struggled to get going in the second half. Stuart Attwell rightly waved away the hosts' pleas for a penalty after Ribeiro went down following a challenge from Stewart. Benteke should have made it 2-2 after Brannagan's cross picked him out but his header was too close to Bobby Olejnik, who expertly clawed it over. Klopp had Lallana and Lucas on the bench but instead opted for more youth as he brought on Pedro Chirivella for Kent. Exeter were cruising with Nichols threatening to add a third.

Ojo replaced Sinclair and it was the teenager, recalled from Wolves this week, who provided the injection of pace and power Liverpool so desperately required. His impact was instant as the Reds equalised 17 minutes from time. Ojo's drilled cross was hacked away by Jordan Moore-Taylor but only as far as left-back Smith who drilled home. Maguire made his first-team bow in place of the tiring llori as suddenly Liverpool looked the more likely winners.

Teixeira could have been the hero but he was thwarted by Olejnik. The celebrations belonged to Exeter. For Liverpool there was simply relief. Exeter (4-4-2): Olejnik; Woodman, Brown, Ribeiro (Davies 65), Reid; Moore-Taylor, Tillson, Noble (Oakley 62), Holmes (Grant 84); Nichols, Nicholls. Not used: McAllister, Morrison, Hoskins, Hamon.

Liverpool (4-2-3-1): Bogdan; Randall, Ilori (Maguire 77), Enrique, Smith; Brannagan, Stewart; Kent (Chirivella 57), Sinclair (Ojo 71), Teixeira; Benteke. Not used: Fulton, Lallana, Lucas, Masterson.

Referee: Stuart Attwell. Attendance: 8,298. Goals: Nichols 9, Sinclair 12, Holmes 45+1, Smith 73. Bookings: None

Man of the match: Cameron Brannagan. The young midfielder was the pick of the rookies as he produced a gutsy display.

### Express&Echo

Exeter City produced one of their best performances of the season to hold Premier League Liverpool to a 2-2 draw in the FA Cup third round.

A goal from Tom Nichols put them in front after nine minutes and, even though Liverpool equalised shortly after, Lee Holmes scored direct from a corner in first half stoppage time to send City into the break with a 2-1 advantage.

For large parts of the second-half it looked as though City were going to score a third, but Liverpool managed to draw level with 20 minutes to go through Brad Smith. That means City will now travel to Anfield in a week-and-a-half's time, for a money-spinning replay on the back of what was a memorable night in club's history..

City manager Paul Tisdale made two changes from the team that lost to Dagenham & Redbridge last time out, recalling Christian Ribeiro to right-back and David Noble to central midfield. That meant both Arron Davies and Joel Grant dropped to the bench.

Liverpool, hit by injuries, named just three senior players in their starting XI, with Christian Benteke captaining the side for the first time.

He was joined in the line-up by reserve keeper Adam Bogdan and Jose Enrique who was playing his first game for the club since an FA Cup fourth round match with Bolton Wanderers last year.

Other than that it was an inexperienced team that took the field for Liverpool. None of the other eight players had started a Premier League game for Liverpool and Tiago ILori and Ryan Kent had only recently been recalled from loan spells at Aston Villa and Coventry to play their part in the match.

City got off to a dream start as they scored with their first meaningful attack after nine minutes. Troy Brown did well to keep a ball that looked to be going out for a Liverpool throw in play and then Lee Holmes played a superb ball up the line for Jamie Reid to run onto. From there Reid played a great first-time cross into the area and Tom Nichols side-footed a shot past the stranded Bodgan.

Liverpool responded to that set-back well though and were level three minutes later. The goal had an element of good fortune about it though as City made a hash of trying to clear the ball on the edge of their own penalty area and the ball ran through to Jerome Sinclair who fired into the bottom left hand corner with ease.

Jurgen Klopp's side were on top for about a 15-minute spell after that, with Joao Teixeira causing problems down City's right. Brown had clear a low cross from Ryan Kent from inside his six yard box, with Benteke lurking, and Olejnik did well to save a deflected shot from Kevin Stewart.

However, as the half came to a close it was City who were looking the more dangerous and Ribeiro should have headed them back in front, from a great Holmes cross into the box, just before the home side did regain their advantage in first-half stoppage time.

Again it was Holmes who did the damage as he swung a corner towards the goal. Bodgan lost flight of the cross and the ball flew over his head and straight into the back of the net.

City started the second-half brightly and had a shout for a penalty appeal when Ribeiro went down in the area, but there appeared to be minimal contact, if any, from Brad Smith and referee Stuart Attwell waved play on.

Liverpool had a great chance to equalise on 51 minutes as Cameron Brannagan crossed from the right and Benteke headed goalwards forcing Olejnik into a superb save to tip the ball over the crossbar.

Klopp made his first change on 56 minutes bringing on Pedro Chirivella on for Kent, but City were still creating chances as Ribeiro headed another cross from Holmes just wide and Nichols won and sent a free-kick just over the Liverpool

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#### crossbar

Tisdale made a couple of substitutions around the hour mark with Noble and Ribeiro, who haven't started a game for City in over a month, replaced by Matt Oakley and Arron Davies. Davies first contribution was to pick up a Nichols pass on the edge of the area and fire a shot just off target as the Grecians superb second half performance continued.

However, it was Klopp second substitution, with 20 minutes to go, that got the visitors level Shey Ojo delivered a low cross into the six yard box that Moore-Taylor hastily cleared and then Smith fired first-time into the back of the net past a helpless Olejnik.

Then, with 10 minutes to go, Liverpool had a great chance to take the lead as Benteke flicked the ball into the path of Teixeira in the area, but Olejnik was quickly of his line to block with his legs from close range.

Liverpool threw men forward in the closing stages to try and win it, but didn't create another clear cut opening and City held on for a draw that their performance more than deserved.

Exeter City: Olejnik, Ribeiro (Davies, 64), Brown, Moore-Taylor, Woodman; Tillson, Nicholls, Holmes (Grant, 83), Noble (Oakley, 61); Reid, Nichols. Subs not used: McAllister, Oakley, Davies, Morrison, Hoskins, Hamon, Grant Liverpool: Bogdan; Randall, Enrique, Ilori (Maguire, 76), Smith, Teixeria, Brannagan, Stewart, Kent (Chirivella, 56); Sinclair (Ojo, 70), Benteke. Subs not used: Fulton, Lucas, Lallana, Ojo, Maguire, Chirivella, Materson. Attendance: 8,298 (1,297)



League Two Exeter were denied a memorable FA Cup upset as a barely recognisable Liverpool side came from behind to force a third-round replay. Reds boss Jurgen Klopp had made 11 changes and his side fell behind early on when Tom Nichols poked in.

Jerome Sinclair equalised with a low finish but the hosts retook the lead when goalkeeper Adam Bogdan conceded direct from a Lee Holmes corner. With time running out, Brad Smith rescued Liverpool with a neat finish. The replay at Anfield means Exeter are set for a cash windfall, withSporting Intelligence estimating it will be worth about £700,000 to the Devon club. Klopp's gamble almost proves costly

Liverpool have been hit hard by injuries this season, with enough first team players on the sidelines to make up an alternative starting XI.

Consequently, Reds boss Klopp made wholesale changes for Friday's game, with

just three players boasting more than four first-team appearances. A number of those included in the side had been recalled from loan spells elsewhere, including midfielder Kevin Stewart, whose spell at League One Swindon was ended just a few hours before the Exeter clash.

Stewart, defender Tiago Ilori and winger Ryan Kent were making their first-team debuts for the club, and the team's lack of any significant time playing together was immediately evident. They lacked cohesion, with Sinclair's goal their only effort of note in a first half Exeter edged, and as the game wore on the home side grew in confidence. Klopp's gamble looked to have failed until Smith took advantage of a tiring Exeter to spare his manager's blushes, but the German has previously complained about his side's busy fixture schedule and the draw has added another game to that.

#### Bogdan's blunder

It has been a season to forget for Bogdan so far. The Hungarian keeper made his Premier League debut against Watford on 20 December when number one Simon Mignolet was injured, but made the headlines for the wrong reasons when he dropped the ball from a corner to allow the Hornets to score. Against Exeter, it was once again a corner that caught Bogdan out. With the game approaching half-time, Holmes swung the ball in and it dipped under the crossbar as a perplexed, out-of-position Bogdan flapped meekly at it with an Exeter player in close attention.

### **Excellent Exeter**

Exeter are 16th in League Two and went into the game on the back of four successive defeats, but they clearly sensed the opportunity to cause an upset from the start. They took the game to Liverpool, pushing their players forward at every opportunity and were good value for their ninth-minute lead. Even after Liverpool's equaliser Exeter did not alter their approach to their game. Instead it was their opponents who rarely progressed beyond the halfway line.

After Holmes caught out Bogdan to restore Exeter's lead, it looked like the hosts

Ultimately, their exertions took their toll as Smith took advantage of tiring legs, but a replay at Anfield is the least they deserved for a determined display. What they said

Exeter boss Paul Tisdale: "I'm a football manager and I want to win games. When you're 2-1 up and defending a lead with 10 minutes to go then you're disappointed. But we got a draw against a very good side and have a replay at Anfield. We have no investor so every penny counts. At the end of the day we've put on a really good show."

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp on BBC One: "It's obvious what we have to learn in the future. We have to be more robust. It was a difficult pitch. Exeter did really well. Maybe they know which part of the pitch you can play football. It was really difficult for us today. On one-on-one situations they were more robust than our guys. "The first goal was unlucky for us - it was their first attack. I won't say anything about the second goal - they showed it live on the BBC. I can't believe we have to play another game now. You want it like this, so we will be there." 'Liverpool youngsters will learn' "It was a brilliant 94 minutes of football," said BBC Sport pundit Alan Shearer. "From start to finish it was entertaining. What a night for the Exeter chairman and the football club. "As for Liverpool, the experience the kids will get from the game will carry them on for the rest of their

Man of the match - Tom Nichols

were on course for a famous FA Cup upset.

Tom Nichols' early goal - his 10th for Exeter this season - settled any nerves the hosts may have had and allowed them to take the game to Liverpool The stats you need to know

Liverpool have lost their last three FA Cup third-round replays, all of which were at home to teams from a lower league. Liverpool have not won a match they've been losing at half-time since 14 February 2015 - an FA Cup tie against Crystal Palace. Adam Bogdan has conceded five goals in his last two games for Liverpool, having conceded just two in his first three.

Only three of Liverpool's starting XI had played four or more games for the club. Tom Nichols has scored three of Exeter's last four goals in all competitions. There are 76 league places between Liverpool and Exeter.

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Full time Match ends, Exeter City 2, Liverpool 2.

90:00+4:08Full time Second Half ends, Exeter City 2, Liverpool 2.

90:00+1:45 José Enrique (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

90:00+1:45 Foul by Jordan Tillson (Exeter City.

90:00+1:39 Attempt missed, Jordan Moore-Taylor (Exeter City header from the centre of the box misses to the left. Assisted by Craig Woodman with a cross following a corner. 90:00+1:01 Corner, Exeter City. Conceded by Joe Maguire.

89:05 Attempt missed. Brad Smith (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box misses to the right. Assisted by Connor Randall.

83:35Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Exeter City. Joel Grant replaces Lee Holmes. 81:39 Kevin Stewart (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half

81:39 Foul by Josh Read (Exeter City.

80:47 Attempt saved. João Teixeira (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the

box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Christian Benteke.

79:27 Attempt blocked. Jordan Tillson (Exeter City right footed shot from outside the hox is blocked 79:24 Attempt blocked. Josh Read (Exeter City header from the centre of the box is

blocked. Assisted by Lee Holmes with a cross.

78:29 Attempt missed. Kevin Stewart (Liverpool right footed shot from a difficult angle on the right is too high following a set piece situation

77:35 Sheyi Ojo (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.

77:35 Foul by Troy Brown (Exeter City.

76:54Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Liverpool. Joe Maguire replaces Tiago Ilori because of an injury.

72:49Goal scored Goal!Goal! Exeter City 2, Liverpool 2. Brad Smith (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom left corner

72:26 Attempt blocked. Kevin Stewart (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Connor Randall.

71:16 José Enrique (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

71:16 Foul by Tom Nichols (Exeter City.

70:19Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Liverpool. Sheyi Ojo replaces Jerome

66:02 Attempt missed. Arron Davies (Exeter City right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Tom Nichols

65:26 Offside, Liverpool. Kevin Stewart tries a through ball, but Christian Benteke is caught offside

65:05Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Exeter City. Arron Davies replaces Christian Ribeiro

63:53 Attempt missed. Tom Nichols (Exeter City right footed shot from outside the box is just a bit too high from a direct free kick.

63:00 Foul by Tiago Ilori (Liverpool.

63:00 Tom Nichols (Exeter City wins a free kick in the attacking half.

61:30Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Exeter City. Matt Oakley replaces David

60:59 Attempt missed. Tom Nichols (Exeter City right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Alex Nicholls.

59:57 Corner, Exeter City. Conceded by Tiago Ilori.

57:35 Attempt missed. Christian Ribeiro (Exeter City header from the centre of the box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by Lee Holmes with a cross

56:56Substitution SubstitutionSubstitution, Liverpool. Pedro Chirivella replaces Ryan

56:29 Cameron Brannagan (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

56:29 Foul by Josh Read (Exeter City.

51:58 Offside, Liverpool. Christian Benteke tries a through ball, but Jerome Sinclair is caught offside.

50:20 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Robert Olejnik.

50:18 Attempt saved. Christian Benteke (Liverpool header from very close range is saved in the top right corner. Assisted by Cameron Brannagan with a cross

47:28 Attempt blocked. Alex Nicholls (Exeter City right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Josh Read.

45:00 Second Half begins Exeter City 2, Liverpool 1.

45:00+1:43Half time First Half ends, Exeter City 2, Liverpool 1.

45:00+0:15Goal scored Goal!Goal! Exeter City 2, Liverpool 1. Lee Holmes (Exeter City left footed shot from a difficult angle and long range on the right to the top left corner following a corner.

44:37 Corner, Exeter City. Conceded by Brad Smith.

43:24 Attempt blocked. Ryan Kent (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Connor Randall.

41:41 Foul by João Teixeira (Liverpool.

41:41 Christian Ribeiro (Exeter City wins a free kick on the right wing.

40:29 Attempt missed. Christian Ribeiro (Exeter City header from the centre of the box is close, but misses to the left. Assisted by Lee Holmes with a cross.

38:57 Attempt saved. Kevin Stewart (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Ryan Kent.

36:52 Jerome Sinclair (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

36:52 Foul by Alex Nicholls (Exeter City.

35:38 Corner, Exeter City. Conceded by Connor Randall.

35:22 Foul by Connor Randall (Liverpool.

35:22 Tom Nichols (Exeter City wins a free kick in the attacking half.

33:09 João Teixeira (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

33:09 Foul by Christian Ribeiro (Exeter City.

32:30 Attempt missed. Connor Randall (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Cameron Brannagan.

30:56 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Troy Brown

28:39 Attempt missed. David Noble (Exeter City left footed shot from the centre of the

box is too high. Assisted by Josh Read.

27:22 Attempt blocked. Rvan Kent (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Christian Benteke with a headed pass.

26:18 Attempt missed. Jordan Moore-Taylor (Exeter City header from the centre of the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Craig Woodman with a cross following a set piece situation.

25:47 Foul by Connor Randall (Liverpool.

25:47 Tom Nichols (Exeter City wins a free kick on the left wing.

24:24 Offside, Exeter City. Craig Woodman tries a through ball, but Lee Holmes is caught

23:49 Corner, Exeter City. Conceded by Tiago Ilori.

22:30 Kevin Stewart (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.

22:30 Foul by Tom Nichols (Exeter City. 21:11 Ryan Kent (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

21:11 Foul by David Noble (Exeter City.

20:11 Foul by Christian Benteke (Liverpool.

20:11 Jordan Tillson (Exeter City wins a free kick in the defensive half.

17:25 João Teixeira (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.

17:25 Foul by Christian Ribeiro (Exeter City.

16:07 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Troy Brown

16:05 Attempt blocked. João Teixeira (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Ryan Kent.

14:03 Attempt missed. Kevin Stewart (Liverpool with an attempt from the centre of the box misses to the right. Assisted by Brad Smith with a cross following a corner. 13:44 Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Christian Ribeiro.

13:16 Attempt blocked. Ryan Kent (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Cameron Brannagan.

12:45 José Enrique (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

12:45 Foul by Josh Read (Exeter City.

11:47Goal scored Goal!Goal! Exeter City 1, Liverpool 1. Jerome Sinclair (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom right corner.

11:41 Attempt blocked. Ryan Kent (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by João Teixeira

10:06 Attempt blocked. Brad Smith (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Tiago Ilori.

9:37 Corner, Liverpool, Conceded by Jordan Moore-Taylor,

8:11Goal scored Goal!Goal! Exeter City 1, Liverpool 0. Tom Nichols (Exeter City left footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom left corner. Assisted by Josh Read

5:47 Attempt blocked. Jordan Tillson (Exeter City right footed shot from outside the box is blocked.

4:25 João Teixeira (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

4:25 Foul by Christian Ribeiro (Exeter City.

0:44 João Teixeira (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

0:44 Foul by David Noble (Exeter City. 0:00 First Half begins.

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