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| Echo | Sunday Times    | Times       | Telegraph |
| BBC  | Sun Independent | Guardian    | Mirror    |
|      | Sun Telegraph   | Independent | Mail      |

**THE  TIMES**

Referee: R Madley Attendance: 44.179

Liverpool (4-2-3-1): S Mignolet 3 -- N Clyne 6, D Lovren (sub: K Toure, 12min 5), M Sakho 4, A Moreno 5 -- J Henderson 6 (sub: L Leiva, 87), E Can 5 -- J Milner 6, J Allen 5 (sub: J Bebe, 45+2), A Lallana 7 -- R Firmino 8. Substitutes not used: D Ward, J Flanagan, C Benteke, D Sturridge. Booked: Moreno. Sunderland (4-1-4-1): V Mannone 6 -- B Jones 4 (sub: D Yedlin, 75), L Kone 5, J O'Shea 5, P Van Aanholt 6 -- J Kirchhoff 5 (sub: A Johnson, 66 6) -- D Watmore 5 (sub: D N'Doye, 26 5), L Cattermole 5, Y M'Vila 5, W Khazri 5 -- J Defoe 6. Substitutes not used: J Pickford, W Brown, O Toivonen, J Rodwell. Booked: N'Doye.

"We may not have deserved this result but great credit to the players for their never-say-die attitude. With Jermain Defoe in the team you always have a chance."

Date: 6 February 2016  
Opposition: Sunderland  
Competition: League

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| Echo | Sunday Times    | Times       | Telegraph |
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TheMail

PS77 for this? You must be joking, say furious fans

THEY kept looking up at the giant clock in the corner of the stadium where the Kop and the Centenary Stand meet, waiting for their signal.

Up went the digits -- 73, 74, 75, 76 -- then along the front of the Kop walked a man dressed as the Grim Reaper.

By that point, the anger was tangible and songs, their tone laced with contempt and disgust, were being aimed at the directors' box.

Then the clock ticked over to 77 and, all around the stadium, the clatter of seats could be heard and out the fans went in their droves. It was estimated more than 25 per cent of the 44,179 left Anfield in the 77th minute, among them Jamie Carragher, one of Liverpool's most loyal servants.

This protest was visually striking and wholly commendable, the fans expressing fury at the way they believe Fenway Sports Group, Liverpool's American owners, have treated them.

Liverpool had gone on a PR offensive in the build-up to Saturday's game against Sunderland. Ian Ayre, the chief executive, insisted there was much to like about next season's ticket prices but he only added to the disenchantment.

'People seem to be focused on this PS77 ticket,' said Ayre. 'There are 200 at PS77 for six games a season -- the best seats in the newest stand in the country. There are 500 tickets for all category C games at PS9, free kids' tickets and half-price tickets for under 21s.' But people are focused on 'this PS77 ticket' for a reason. There has never been such an expensive seat at Anfield and the entertainment does not justify the admission fee.

Rob Davin, a Kop season-ticket holder for 30 years, said: 'FSG don't spend their own money and any money they do spend goes on players they think they can sell on for a huge profit. We are watching mediocrity.' Les Lawson, secretary of the Liverpool Supporters Club, added: 'There comes a point when you have to take a stand. I hope some who stayed might join in the next protest as we have to protect the future supporters. Enough is enough.' Some believe the walkout had an impact on a side that was without boss Jurgen Klopp -- recovering after surgery to remove his appendix -- and was to blame for Liverpool letting a 2-0 lead slip. It wasn't.

Simon Mignolet failed to deal with Adam Johnson's free kick because he is not a top-class goalkeeper. And Jermain Defoe equalised because he has the class to capitalise when players of the limited capability of Kolo Toure and Mamadou Sakho don't make the challenges they should do.

Klopp was in Aintree Hospital while his team, who have taken five points from the last six league games, crumbled. He was discharged yesterday and could be back at Melwood today.

Sunderland remain 19th but manager Sam Allardyce believes six wins from their last 13 games will keep them up. 'They're good at miraculous recoveries at Sunderland, so let's hope we can do it again,' he said.

SUPER STAT: Sunderland now have eight draws at Anfield in the Premier League era. Only Everton (11) have more. LIVERPOOL (4-3-3): Mignolet 4; Clyne 6, Lovren 5 (Toure 12min, 5.5), Sakho 5, Moreno 5.5; Henderson 7 (Lucas 87), Can 6.5, Allen 6 (Ibe 46, 5); Milner 7, Firmino 8.5, Lallana 7. Subs not used: Ward, Benteke, Sturridge, Flanagan. Scorers: Firmino 59, Lallana 70.

SUNDERLAND (4-5-1): Mannone 6; Jones 6 (Yedlin 75, 6), Kone 7, O'Shea 7.5, Van Aanholt 8; Watmore 6 (N'Doye 25, 7), M'Vila 7, Cattermole 6, Kirchoff 6 (Johnson 66, 7), Khazri 7; Defoe 7.5. Subs not used: Pickford, Brown, Rodwell, Toivonen. Scorers: Johnson 81, Defoe 89. Booked: N'Doye.

Man of the match: Roberto Firmino. Referee: Bobby Madley 7.

The Daily Telegraph

Head-burying in full swing after Liverpool walkout

Liverpool 2 Firmino 59, Lallana 70 Sunderland 2 Johnson 82, Defoe 89 Att: 44,179

Liverpool's owners will consider a review of their controversial new ticketing policy following the mass walkout of supporters during the Premier League fixture with Sunderland on Saturday. Fenway Sports Group, the club's owner, held emergency talks at boardroom level in the immediate aftermath of the unprecedented scenes in the 77th minute at Anfield. Those conversations began on Saturday evening, continued throughout yesterday with senior management in Liverpool and will continue into this week to establish if a restructuring of the proposed ticket strategy is feasible. The club are now under increasing pressure to act having been warned by supporters' groups the protest held this weekend was merely the first stage in what would be a series of coordinated responses should their concerns not be met. Supporters have already started to target some sponsors, with club partner Subway among those in the firing line via social media. Fenway management including the president, Michael Gordon, and the chairman, Tom Werner, were involved throughout the 13-month discourse on ticket prices and are ready to intervene again, although it remains unclear what - if any - concessions they intend to make.

While Liverpool prepare a response, across football a head-burying exercise is in full swing. The Premier League executives - of whom the top seven from 20 clubs blocked a proposal to cap the cost of away tickets to PS30 - bury their heads. The Premier League footballers - who took PS828 million in wages out of the top-tier of English football last season - bury their heads.

TheProfessionalFootballAssociation, funded to the tune of PS17.3 million from Premier League broadcast revenue - who think it is fair for a PS250,000-a-week player to pay the same PS150-a-year subscription as a PS250-a-week player - bury their heads. Ex-players supporting alienated fans are less vocal on the PFA chairman Gordon Taylor handing himself a pay increase from PS1.4 million to almost PS3.4 million a year (a 140 per cent increase). On that they, too, will bury their heads. The agents taking PS129.9 million in fees from the Premier League last season, without a single club identifying who they are or which Cayman Islands account they might then be relocating it. They bury their heads, too.

Can we shine the light on the agents? It might stop them dealing with your club and we cannot ignore the fact that they feed the transfer rumour mill that so obsesses us on deadline day. We will all bury our heads when demanding an extra PS5 million is added to the bid for the star player we crave.

Those who say that a PS50,000-a-week salary increase to a star player is about 'market forces' and a club shows lack of ambition if they refuse to pay it. They will have to bury their heads, managers, whose PS7 million-a-year salaries are funded by inflation-busting price increases are told to bury their heads, prevented from addressing the issue in public. What would they say? Would English football attract world stars if it was no longer the most alluring and profitable whorehouse in Europe? The TV broadcasters, stealthily increasing subscription charges since buying English football in 1992 - using this to subsidise monstrous bids each time the hammer falls on the next Premier League auction. They bury their heads, interviewing fan groups about how they're being fleeced without a trace of irony.

The next satellite TV increase is in the post.

On the wheel spins - a cycle of cynical complicity - as premonitions of English football's bubble bursting are dismissed as misguided prophecies of doom because we pay. We all pay, and if we don't someone else in an emerging football market will. And then Liverpool fans unfurl a banner saying 'Enough is Enough' and walk out. With their recent experience of orchestrated protest and a social media savvy that must make every Premier League PR team blush, they enact their mobilisation strategy and 10,000 head for the exit. Another 30,000 stayed but do not presume they were supporting ticket prices. They just wanted to watch the game they had paid for, although given what they witnessed in the last 13 minutes they must wish they had not.

Those departing were decent fans, not revolutionaries, many of whom know their ticket will be the same price next season but are considering future generations. No matter how much they are told the number of cheaper seats in one area might outnumber the most expensive, their trust in Premier League accountancy ended 20 years ago.

Board members at other clubs will pray this is a one-off, a regional eccentricity in a city where football and meaningful political expressions often walk side by side. They might be so deluded they will think what began here at Anfield will not spread. They will find they are wrong. When they have stopped burying their heads they will have to compromise. Otherwise, they will be left to do little more than hang them. In shame.

Liverpool drew 2-2 with Sunderland: 2-0 up, they conceded two stupid goals. You might think this match report is not about the game. Read it again. Every word of it is.

Date: 6 February 2016  
Opposition: Sunderland  
Competition: League

Echo

Sunday Times

Times

Telegraph

BBC

Sun Independent

Guardian

Mirror

Sun Telegraph

Independent

Mail

THE



INDEPENDENT

Liverpool fans vow to keep protesting over ticket prices

A Liverpool fans' group has warned of further demonstrations at the coming home matches against Manchester City and Chelsea following Saturday's mass Anfield walkout over ticket prices.

Several thousand fans left their seats in the 77th minute of Liverpool's Premier League game against Sunderland in protest at the club's new pricing structure, which includes a [pounds sterling]77 match-day ticket.

Liverpool were leading 2-0 at the time of the walkout but late goals from Adam Johnson and Jermain Defoe secured a draw for the visitors.

The Liverpool captain, Jordan Henderson, told Match of the Day that he and his team-mates could not use the protest as an excuse, and a spokesperson for Spirit of Shankly - the fans' group which helped to co-ordinate the demonstration - vowed to stage further protests.

"We are happy with yesterday's demonstration and we are pleased with the number of supporters who took part," Jay McKenna said. "The moment which preceded the walkout also showed the strength of feeling, with the very loud chants aimed at the directors' box. But the protest was aimed just as much at the owners. It is a good indication that supporters are very angry and this will just be the start of taking more action."

Anfield's first [pounds sterling]1,000 season ticket was announced last week; a match ticket in the reconstructed Main Stand will cost [pounds sterling]77 - up from [pounds sterling]59.

"We have got Manchester City and Chelsea at Anfield [in March] so those two league matches , where prices are still going to be on the forefront of people's minds, will be opportunities," McKenna added.

"A walkout of Anfield is unprecedented and I can't think of an occasion where it has happened in such numbers in another league ground in the UK.

"We don't have a firm idea of what we will do yet as this has all happened very quickly. We'll take the next two days to take stock and talk to the supporters about what we do next. But we will be taking action, because we need to.

"We really need Liverpool Football Club, the owners and the executives to think to themselves: 'Is this the right approach?'"

DAILY

Mirror

FANS WALK OUT... REDS KOP OUT; Crowd protest makes its mark as Liverpool throw away two-goal lead after support disappears

LIVERPOOL 2

Firmino 59

Lallana 70

SUNDERLAND 2

Johnson 82

Defoe 89

DAVID MADDOCK says Liverpool need to take note of fan unrest and an under-performing team THESE are unprecedented times at Anfield, the final, turbulent 13 minutes highlighting the problems on and off the pitch.

It is easy of course, to ask "crisis, what crisis?" As Liverpool officials have attempted to do in the face of a growing, alarming disconnect with their fans. But a haunted, silent stadium in those final, depressing minutes tells a story of not only historic actions by fans who have a right to ask what the Premier League riches are giving to them, but also of a haunted, empty team.

Let's take the protest first. Of course Liverpool may have a point when they say their ticket pricing is aimed at subsidising the bottom end by increasing the top end, and of course there are people prepared to pay it... but it still spectacularly misses the real point.

Where are all these TV riches coming from? Us. We're paying through the nose for our subscriptions, ridiculous, eye-watering sums every month, to finance an obscene Premier League feeding frenzy where the snouts in the trough are players and predatory overseas owners.

Fans have had enough because clubs have lost touch completely with them, and Liverpool find themselves targeted because of their unfortunate timing in raising prices and calling us customers not supporters.

Yet it is more unfortunate still, because the product they are offering is so frequently awful, as was evidenced here, where no amount of focus on a walk-out by around 10,000 fans could mask.

Would a full ground have prevented mistakes from Simon Mignolet and Mamadou Sakho? Recent history tells us not, with them along with Albert Moreno and Emre Can responsible for the vast majority of the goals the Reds have conceded this season.

Liverpool have taken hundreds of millions of their fans' money and wasted it on a squad that is the epitome of mid-table mediocrity. Four of their back six are accidents waiting to happen, and most of their attacking players have no goals in them. Remarkable.

No wonder fans were happy to leave. The wonder is they didn't go earlier. Even skipper Jordan Henderson admitted as much when he refused to blame the walk-out.

"As professionals we can't use that as an excuse. We have to take responsibility as individuals and a last 10 minutes like that was not good enough," he said. "We haven't been very consistent. You see you can get punished. We must work on it." The first 80 minutes were not much better, but at least Roberto Firmino showed his quality, by scoring once and creating the other for Adam Lallana, as Sunderland's limitations were exposed.

But then Mignolet's were once more, as he contrived to position his wall and then dive over a weak Adam Johnson free-kick.

Inevitably, Sakho and Co panicked, and the equaliser we knew was coming arrived when Jermain Defoe turned him (above) to score in the last minute. It was lame from Liverpool, but gives the visitors hope. As boss Sam Allardyce explained, they have new faces, more spirit...and a history of getting out of impossible situations. Asked how many wins for safety, he replied: "Oh, 13 games, so six wins. "They've done it before.

"They're good at miraculous recoveries at Sunderland, so let's hope we can do it again!

"The lads we brought in January can lift the others with their fresh perspective."

LIVERPOOL: Mignolet 4, Clyne 6, Lovren 6 (Toure 12, 6), Sakho 5, Moreno 5, Henderson 7 (Lucas 86), Can 5, Allen 6 (Ibe 45, 5), Milner 7, Firmino 8, Lallana 6

SUNDERLAND: Mannone 7, Jones 5 (Yedlin 75, 6) Kone 7, O'Shea 6, Van Aanholt 6, Cattermole 7, Kirchhoff 6 (Johnson 66, 6), M'Vila 6, Watmore 6 (N'Doye 26, 6), Defoe 7, Khazri 7

REF: Robert Madley ATT: 44,179

MOTM ROBERTO FIRMINO

Date: 6 February 2016

Opposition: Sunderland

Competition: League

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LIVERPOOL

ECHO

Spineless capitulation leaves Klopp with headache to add to stomach ache

This will have made for uncomfortable viewing in Boston. First came an exodus unprecedented in Anfield history as around 10,000 supporters walked out in protest at rising ticket prices. It was followed by a spineless late capitulation from Liverpool as two points were carelessly tossed away. Some will argue the two events were somehow linked. That what was going on off the field was some kind of unwelcome distraction as the Reds crumbled on it. But that would be to spectacularly miss the point. It wasn't the empty seats which consigned Liverpool to another deflating setback, it was the kind of infuriating individual errors which have haunted them all season. From a position of total control after goals from Roberto Firmino and Adam Lallana , they shot themselves in the foot. Simon Mignolet was left red-faced as Adam Johnson's free-kick nestled in the bottom corner and then Mamadou Sakho failed miserably to deal with Jermain Defoe, who gleefully slammed home a last-gasp equaliser for lowly Sunderland. A squad which has been assembled with £300million worth of investment over the past three-and-a-half years continues to look woefully short of quality. Liverpool may have booked themselves a Wembley final but since the turn of the year they have taken just five points out of a possible 18. Hopes of challenging for a Champions League spot lie in tatters with the club consigned to mid-table mediocrity. 'There was nothing to life the spirits here' Pity whoever had to break the news to the absent Jurgen Klopp when he woke up after having surgery to remove his appendix. As well as the result and the revolt in the stands, there was the added woe of Dejan Lovren and Joe Allen both limping off. There was nothing to lift his spirits here. Once the pain in his stomach has subsided, the Liverpool manager has got a major headache trying to put things right. Owners Fenway Sports Group also have a huge battle on their hands as they attempt to quell the growing unrest among supporters. The walkout on 77 minutes, which was organised by fans' group Spion Kop 1906 and backed by Spirit of Shankly, received much greater support than the Anfield hierarchy had envisaged. 'You greedy b\*\*\*\*\* enough is enough,' was the deafening chant from the Kop directed towards John W Henry, Tom Werner, Mike Gordon and Ian Ayre. This wasn't a one-off. This issue isn't going to go away. It's not about the 200 top priced £77 tickets there will be for category A games next season, it's about the fact that the cost of watching football is continuing to escalate at a time when top-flight clubs are about to share a TV windfall of £8billion. Nearly half of the Kop was vacated early and thousands in other parts of the ground followed suit in a show of solidarity. One elderly man in the Paddock raised a sheet of paper towards the directors box which read simply: 'Disgrace £77'. No intensity or urgency to Liverpool's play Black flags were flown on the Kop before kick-off and by the end the mood was funereal. In the absence of Klopp, who was taken ill on Friday night, assistants Zeljko Buvac and Peter Krawietz took control of team affairs. Allen replaced Lucas Leiva in the only change from the midweek defeat at Leicester. The first half was a non-event. Sunderland sat deep, got 10 men behind the ball and challenged Liverpool to break them down. The Reds had 82% possession but did precious little with it. There was no intensity or urgency to their play. No spark, no ingenuity. They moved the ball too slowly and failed to really stretch the Black Cats. Kolo Toure replaced the injured Lovren before Lallana teed up Alberto Moreno, who was denied by Vito Mannone. Firmino was Liverpool's brightest performer. The Brazilian brought a dour contest to life just before the break when a sweetly-struck 20-yarder just cleared the angle of post and bar. Moreno nodded over from Lallana's cross as the Reds finally began to exert some pressure. It was a big chance for Allen, who was making only his second league start of the campaign, but his day was wrecked when he pulled up clutching his hamstring and Jordon Ibe came on. The Kop cried 'out the ground on 77' Ibe improved Liverpool and in the second half they finally found a way through. Firmino had already gone close from 25 yards before he broke the deadlock in the 59th minute. James Milner picked him out with a curling cross towards the back post and the £29million attacker nodded home his sixth goal of the campaign. Ibe's piledriver was deflected just over before Mannone kept Sunderland in it by

thwarting Lallana and then Ibe. With 20 minutes to go Liverpool doubled their account. Firmino closed down Billy Jones, won the ball back and burst clear before unselfishly squaring for Lallana to slot home. Then came the mass exodus which followed the Kop's cry of 'out the ground on 77'. Rather than being bold and handing a cameo to striker Daniel Sturridge, who was named among the subs after two months out, Liverpool dropped deep and tried to shut up shop as Lucas replaced Jordan Henderson. The lack of leaders was once again exposed What followed was horrendous. With eight minutes to go Sunderland were gifted a lifeline. Mignolet, who had been lucky earlier when a poor throw straight to Jan Kirchhoff went unpunished, was slow to react to Johnson's free-kick, which slipped under him at his near post. Rather than dig in, Liverpool wilted. The lack of leaders in this team was once again exposed. Sakho recklessly allowed Defoe to turn in the box and the finish was emphatic. Liverpool have got big problems to sort out - both on and off the field.

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| <div><div></div><div><p>Sunderland roar back as Anfield hit by walk-out</p><p>A man dressed in a grim reaper outfit stood before the Kop. While his cane predicted a doom-laden future, the old wooden rattle in his other hand reminded that beneath the costume was a supporter.</p><p>The plastic seats behind began to clatter and those leaving early shuffled towards the gangways. The message was clear, seemingly rising from the guts of Anfield. "You greedy bastards, enough is enough," they bellowed.</p><p>Many departed, though the majority remained. Jamie Carragher was photographed and presented on Twitter as one of the protesters. Liverpool were 2-0 up when the walkout over ticket prices started in the 77th minute and by full-time, Sunderland had improbably snatched a draw.</p><p>The capitulation acted as a reminder that Liverpool could do with a leader like Carragher on the pitch, where nobody presently is capable of harnessing the level of defiance being displayed on the terraces.</p><p>Mamadou Sakho was signed as Carragher's long-term replacement and he must be viewed by top-flight strikers as a gift that keeps on giving. The Frenchman was largely responsible for Jermain Defoe's equaliser, affording him space inside the box to execute a laser-guided finish.</p><p>Sakho, though, was not as responsible as Simon Mignolet for Sunderland's first goal as he failed to keep out Adam Johnson's free-kick, a moment that offered belief from a hopeless place.</p><p>Sam Allardyce, Sunderland's manager, admitted that he did not envisage a recovery Yet had Sunderland's best chances fallen to Defoe rather than Patrick Van Aanholt before Liverpoolapprehended control through goals from Roberto Firmino and Adam Lallana, then the gloom inside Anfield could have been even deeper than it was.</p><p>Allardyce believes Sunderland's survival will depend on how many opportunities they create for Defoe. "Jermain could be our saviour," he suggested.</p><p>Considering the mood at Liverpool undermines the one-club ethos Jrgen Klopp has been striving for, you wonder what he would have made of everything. The German was absent, having been in Aintree Hospital, where he had a successful operation to remove his appendix, so Pepijn Lijnders, the first team coach, spoke on his behalf.</p><p>The Dutchman does not possess the seniority to be negative. He said: "Normally the scoreboard doesn't lie, I think today it did."</p><p>His argument, however, was unconvincing.</p><p>The day had begun with scatter-gun quotes from Ian Ayre, Liverpool's chief executive, across official social media platforms, seemingly a late attempt to reach out to those in two minds about walking out.</p><p>The streets around Anfield were littered with leaflets, explaining why the action was necessary. Inside the ground, tall black flags flapped quietly, replacing the colourful ones that normally depict the stadium's history.</p><p>Two years ago this weekend, Liverpool destroyed Arsenal 5-1. There might be an issue with paying in advance of [pounds sterling]55 to witness the brilliance of Luis Suarez tearing the opposition apart. Spending [pounds sterling]77 to sit through the one-paced football being served up by this bunch is another issue.</p><p>Casual observers will hear about a 2-2 scoreline and a Sunderland salvage operation and maybe think this was an entertaining game. Where ineptitude is involved, context is needed. Liverpool are a mid-table team of mid-table players. Sunderland a team in the relegation zone.</p><p>At half-time Liverpool had enjoyed 82 per cent of the possession but had managed only one shot on target. A lead was established and there were more openings, which may have settled the matter entirely.</p><p>Yet with mutiny in the air, Liverpool's players embarked on their own walkout. With that, a point for Sunderland became a possibility. Ultimately, it became a reality.</p><p>Liverpool: (4-3-3) Mignolet; Clyne, Lovren (Tour[c], 12), Sakho, Moreno; Henderson (Lucas, 87), Can, Allen (Ibe, 44); Milner, Firmino, Lallana.</p><p>Sunderland: (4-1-4-1) Mannone; Jones (Yedlin, 76), O'Shea, Kon[c], Van Aanholt; Kirchhoff (Johnson, 66); Watmore, Cattermole, M'Vila, Khazri; Defoe.</p><p>Referee: Robert Madley</p><p>Man of the match: Defoe (Sunderland)</p><p>Match rating: 4/10</p></div></div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |      |                 |             |           |  |                 |  |  |
| <div><div><h2>The Sunday Telegraph</h2><p>Anfield anger at ticket prices is intensified by Defoe's leveller<br/>Liverpool 2 Firmino 59, Lallana 70 Sunderland 2 Johnson 82, Defoe 89 Att: 44,179<br/>To have Anfield anger followed by an exodus once in a game could be considered careless. To provoke it twice in the space of 13 minutes was a consequence of rank amateurism.</p><p>First came the planned walkout in the 77th minute of Liverpool's brainless 2-2 draw with Sunderland, thousands of fans vacating the premises before the visitors' most unlikely comeback.</p><p>Liverpool were two goals up when protesters left, a subdued atmosphere becoming feverish in the process.</p><p>"Enough is enough," they sang, having located the end of their tether after two decades of inflation-busting ticket increases. The most expensive Anfield ticket next season will be PS77.</p><p>Those who remained had the dubious pleasure of 13 minutes of self-destruction, the efforts of Adam Johnson, Simon Mignolet, Jermain Defoe and Mamadou Sakho combining to secure an unlikely point for Sunderland.</p><p>The departed must have heard the groans of those who had remained when Defoe struck the 89th-minute equaliser. They probably guessed who was culpable in the Liverpool defence before seeing or hearing further con-firmation. By full-time, Anfield had emptied due to more familiar failings.</p><p>In the absence of manager Jurgen Klopp, who had surgery to remove his appendix on Saturday afternoon, first team development coach Pep Lijnders insisted the walkout and team's disintegration was unrelated.</p><p>"We have one of the best supporter groups in the world so if they want to make a statement they have a right," said Lijnders. "It did not affect the players. It changed the atmosphere but not the mentality of the players.</p><p>"Normally the scoreboard doesn't lie. Today it did. For 82 minutes we played really well. The last 10 minutes we started walking back."</p><p>The symbolism did not end with the fans' dissent. The comic timing of Martin Broughton, the ex-chairman, was impeccable as he made a rare An-field return. Broughton was appointed to oversee the sale of Liverpool to Fenway Sport Group. It must have all seemed so familiar to him.</p><p>Kop protests, furious chants directed at the club's American ownership, and - in the opening and closing stages -the kind of putrid football he witnessed after appointing Roy Hodgson as manager. It is not quite 2010 at Anfield, but the last time anti-ownership banners were witnessed on the Kop, Broughton was in the process of ousting Tom Hicks and George Gillett.</p><p>For 45 minutes, the question was not how many would leave 13 minutes before the end, but how 45,000 would summon the will to stay that long. It was an awful start to the game. While some counted the clock until the 77th minute, others saw Daniel Sturridge among the substitutes and though it would only be a matter of time before he was summoned.</p><p>The mood changed after the break when Roberto Firmino's influence was rewarded with the first goal, a header from James Milner's cross just before the hour. When Firmino's exquisite build-up play teed up Adam Lallana to double the lead on 70 minutes, the build-up to the demonstration began, the Kop chants growing in ferocity and volume. Liverpool were in control and Sunderland had been abysmal when supporters declared full-time on ticket pricing. It seemed like some of the Liverpool players' concentration levels left the stadium with them.</p><p>In Johnson and Defoe Sunderland had players capable of taking advantage. Johnson's free-kick should not have beaten the Liverpool keeper - Johnson seemed as surprised as any spectator but it shifted momentum.</p><p>Every defender in Europe knows you do not allow Defoe time to turn and work a shot with his back to goal - every defender except Sakho, it seems. He was punished for his slackness.</p><p>"I didn't see it coming but a bit of quality can always change a game," Allardyce said. "It didn't look possible when we were 2-0 down. It is a strange old game. We were brilliant against Man City on Tuesday and got nothing."</p><p>Liverpool are heading for a midtable finish and whatever pain Klopp is feeling in his side might pale into comparison to the migraine he suffers when he sees video evidence of this finale.</p><p>Klopp felt symptoms of appendicitis at Liverpool's team hotel in the city centre on Friday and rushed to Aintree on Saturday morning. Having had surgery he will be released from hospital on Sunday and there will further assessments before it is determined if he can lead the team against West Ham in the FA Cup.</p><p>He is not the only one who needs treatment. Dejan Lovren and Joe Allen were both replaced with possible recurrence of hamstring injuries, Lovren more a precaution. At least Sturridge and Philippe Coutinho will be available in midweek - Sturridge was an unused substitute - although the other end of the pitch is a major problem. This team has won five points from 18 since the turn of the year. It was a day of black flags on The Kop and white flags for any lingering hope of the club entering the conversation for a Champions League place.</p><p>Liverpool (4-3-3) Mignolet 3; Clyne 6, Lovren 5 (Toure 12), Sakho 4; Moreno 6, Henderson 6 (Lucas 86), Can 7; Allen 6 (Ibe 45), Milner 7, Firmino 8, Lallana. Subs Benteke, Sturridge, Flanagan, Ward (g). Booked Moreno.</p><p>Sunderland (4-1-4-1) Mannone 7; Jones 5 (Yedlin 75), Kone 5, O'Shea 5, Van Aanholt 5; Kirchhoff 5 (Johnson 66); Watmore 4 (N'Doye 26), Cattermole 5, M'Vila 5, Khazri 6, Defoe 7. Subs Brown, Rodwell, Pickford, Toivonen. Booked N'Doye.</p><p>Referee R Madley (West Yorkshire).</p></div></div> |      |                 |             |           |  |                 |  |  |



Date: 6 February 2016

Opposition: Sunderland

Competition: League

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|------|-----------------|-------------|-----------|
| Echo | Sunday Times    | Times       | Telegraph |
| BBC  | Sun Independent | Guardian    | Mirror    |
|      | Sun Telegraph   | Independent | Mail      |



# THE SUNDAY TIMES

Exit the fans, enter Defoe

The thousands of Liverpool fans who walked out in the 77th minute in a protest over ticket prices missed a dramatic denouement, albeit one that would have heightened their sense of disgust. Sunderland, who had looked down and out, snatched two goals in the last 10 minutes to grab a valuable point in their battle against relegation.

The fans put on an impressive show of dissent against the PS77 price tag being introduced by the club's owners for some tickets next season, but it begged the question: did the walkout affect theLiverpool players? They had been cruising up to that point and were looking good value for their 2-0 lead, with goals from Roberto Firmino and Adam Lallana. While not exactly left walking alone, the team definitely appeared to switch off, especially goalkeeper Simon Mignolet, who was at fault for Sunderland's first goal from an Adam Johnson free kick, while Jermain Defoe's only chance of the game came in the 89th minute and he buried it with deadly efficiency.

Pep Lijnders, the Liverpool development coach who was standing in for the ill Jurgen Klopp, insisted the protest hadn't affected the players and added: "Normally the scoreboard doesn't lie, but I think today it did. For 82 minutes we played really well.

"The last 10 minutes we start walking back and we allowed them play some long balls. You have to stay cool and keep the same ideas."

The build-up to this game was more akin to a funeral than a football match. Giant-sized black flags were flying on the Kop. The absence of Klopp, in hospital having his appendix removed, also added to the pall and denied us a resumption of his touchline hostilities with Sam Allardyce, which had livened up the meeting between the two sides earlier this season.

The course of the first half failed to lift the mood, with Liverpool failing to break down the massed Sunderland defence. The closest they came to scoring was when Lallana played in Alberto Moreno in the 20th minute, but Vito Mannone saved well with his feet.

The sense of disarray in the Liverpool ranks was heightened by two enforced substitutions before half-time with Joe Allen leaving the field on 45 minutes to join Dejan Lovren, who was replaced by Kolo Toure in the opening 15 minutes, on the treatment table. Still, Liverpool had dominated possession and a sense of order appeared to be restored when they went ahead in the 58th minute. James Milner's superb swirling cross from the left was misjudged by Patrick Van Aanholt but not by Firmino, who opened the scoring with an excellent header. Firmino also produced an excellent assist for the second on 70 minutes when he robbed the hesitant Billy Jones and drove into the opposition box, where he had the presence of mind to pick out the run of Lallana.

It might have seemed like celebration time at most clubs, but a 2-0 lead over Sunderland was not going to stop Liverpool fans carrying out their planned walkout. A chant aimed at the club's owners of "You Greedy B\*\*\*\*\*, Enough is Enough" was followed by fans then walking out from all corners of the ground on 77 minutes, with the Kop end in particular suddenly showing hundreds of empty red seats.

The last of the protesters filing out will probably have seen the start of Sunderland's fightback. They won a free kick about 25 yards out, which Johnson struck low with his left foot. Mignolet appeared to have the effort covered, but it crept past his fingertips low into the corner of his net.

Liverpool then dropped back and Sunderland sensed their opportunity as the home side's assurance dissipated. A minute from the end, four or five tackles were missed as the ball was moved across from left to right and Van Aanholt then played a dangerous ball to Wahbi Khazri. He in turn played in Defoe, who had his back to goal but spun in an instant past Mamadou Sakho and lashed in the equaliser.

"I didn't see us getting back into the game, but a bit of quality can always change games. When we scored we had a bit more belief about us. When you never say die and you have Jermain Defoe up front you always have a chance," said Allardyce. At least Klopp's operation to remove his appendix was reported to be a success.

Liverpool: Mignolet 5, Clyne 6, Lovren 5 (Toure 12min, 5), Sakho 5, Moreno 6, Can 5, Henderson 5 (Lucas 87min, 5), Milner 6, Allen 5 (Ibe 45+1, 6), Lallana 6, Firmino 7  
Sunderland: Mannone 8, Jones 5 (Yedlin 75min, 5), O'Shea 6, Kone 6, Van Aanholt 6, Cattermole 5, Kirchhoff 6 (Johnson 81min, 7), Watmore 5 (N'Doye 24min, 6), M'Vila 7, Khazri 7, Defoe 7

# TheObserver

Date: 6 February 2016  
Opposition: Sunderland  
Competition: League

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| Echo | Sunday Times    | Times       | Telegraph |
| BBC  | Sun Independent | Guardian    | Mirror    |
|      | Sun Telegraph   | Independent | Mail      |

BBC

Thousands of Liverpool fans walked out of Anfield in protest at ticket prices as struggling Sunderland came from 2-0 behind to secure a crucial point. Roberto Firmino headed the Reds in front after James Milner's clever cross before the goalscorer turned provider to allow Adam Lallana to tap home. Fans were pouring out when Reds goalkeeper Simon Mignolet was beaten by Adam Johnson's curling free-kick. Jermain Defoe completed the comeback after finishing from 10 yards. Liverpool had striker Daniel Sturridge back on the substitutes bench after a damaged hamstring, but lost defender Dejan Lovren and midfielder Joe Allen to injury. Liverpool's defensive shortcomings hurt them again. Reds boss Jurgen Klopp missed this game after an operation to remove his appendix. His side's defending will not have done his health any good whatsoever as the Reds capitulated in the final eight minutes following the walkout by fans. Mignolet was at fault after being beaten all too easily by substitute Johnson's set-piece before Mamadou Sakho allowed Defoe to turn and score. It was the same old story for the Reds, who are still without a Premier League home win in 2016. They are also still hunting a first top-flight clean sheet of the calendar year, having conceded 14 times in the past six games. Liverpool's top-five hopes vanishing. The Reds drop one place to ninth in the table, their inconsistent form not only testing the patience of fans but also hurting Liverpool's chances of qualifying for Europe. Klopp's side will earn a place in the third qualifying round of next season's Europa League if they beat Manchester City in the League Cup final on 28 February. However, their chances of qualifying via a top-five finish are rapidly diminishing. They are 10 points off a top-four place and five adrift of fifth - having played a game more - after one win in six. Can Sunderland stay up? Sunderland remain four points from safety and have now gone 11 Premier League games without a clean sheet, longer than any other side currently. But their late comeback will give manager Sam Allardyce and his side a huge lift for the remaining 13 games of the campaign. The Black Cats still have to host Manchester United, Leicester City, Arsenal and Chelsea in addition to facing relegation rivals Newcastle and Norwich away. However, Sunderland overcame the early loss of striker Duncan Watmore, who hobbled off injured, to claim a point that did not seem likely after Lallana's 70th-minute goal put Liverpool 2-0 in front. Man of the match - Roberto Firmino (Liverpool) What the managers said Liverpool first-team development coach Pepijn Lijnders: "In the last 10 minutes we dropped off too much and let them play longer balls. "We felt that we were in control of the game and you see that one moment changes everything. "There are still eight to 10 minutes where you have to be calm and play, keep moving the ball into the final third, so when you lose it you can counter-press and stay higher up the pitch." Sunderland boss Sam Allardyce: "You think your day is over when you are 0-2 down at Anfield. But we fought back with two quality goals and got a point by not giving up. "It was never say die until the end. "When we went two down it looked like the fear had left us and we played better with the ball. We created chances and it was the quality of goals that got us a point. "We won't get goals back like that every game but today it was a precious point for us." The stats you need to know Only Sergio Aguero (7) has scored more Premier League goals in 2016 than Jermain Defoe (6). Roberto Firmino has been involved in more goals than any other Liverpool player this season (11, six goals and five assists). Firmino has been involved in seven goals in his past five Premier League games for the Reds (five goals, two assists). James Milner recorded his third assist in his past five league games. No Premier League player has more in 2016 than him (level with Adam Johnson and Riyad Mahrez). Adam Lallana has scored in two of his past three Premier League games, after not scoring in his previous 19 appearances in the competition. Sunderland extended their run of scoring in eight consecutive league away games. Jermain Defoe has scored six goals in his past six league appearances for Sunderland. What next? Liverpool are likely to make a number of changes for Tuesday's FA Cup fourth-round replay at West Ham United (19:45 GMT) before visiting bottom club Aston Villa (14:05) in the Premier League on 14 February. Sunderland host Manchester United in the league on 13 February (12:45)

Date: 6 February 2016

Opposition: Sunderland

Competition: League

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| Echo | Sunday Times    | Times       | Telegraph |
| BBC  | Sun Independent | Guardian    | Mirror    |
|      | Sun Telegraph   | Independent | Mail      |

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Match ends, Liverpool 2, Sunderland 2.  
90'+5' Second Half ends, Liverpool 2, Sunderland 2.  
90'+3' Attempt blocked. Adam Johnson (Sunderland right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Patrick van Aanholt.  
90'+1' Attempt missed. Jordon Ibe (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the left. Assisted by Mamadou Sakho.  
90' Lucas Leiva (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.  
90' Foul by Wahbi Khazri (Sunderland.  
90' Offside, Liverpool. Adam Lallana tries a through ball, but Roberto Firmino is caught offside.  
89' Goal! Liverpool 2, Sunderland 2. Jermain Defoe (Sunderland right footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom left corner. Assisted by Wahbi Khazri.  
86' Substitution, Liverpool. Lucas Leiva replaces Jordan Henderson.  
84' Offside, Liverpool. Nathaniel Clyne tries a through ball, but Roberto Firmino is caught offside.  
82' Goal! Liverpool 2, Sunderland 1. Adam Johnson (Sunderland from a free kick with a left footed shot to the bottom right corner.  
81' Alberto Moreno (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.  
81' Foul by Alberto Moreno (Liverpool.  
81' Wahbi Khazri (Sunderland wins a free kick in the attacking half.  
80' Attempt missed. Adam Lallana (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by Nathaniel Clyne.  
79' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Lamine Koné.  
77' Roberto Firmino (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
77' Foul by Lamine Koné (Sunderland.  
75' Substitution, Sunderland. DeAndre Yedlin replaces Billy Jones.  
73' Foul by Alberto Moreno (Liverpool.  
73' Dame N'Doye (Sunderland wins a free kick in the attacking half.  
72' Offside, Sunderland. John O'Shea tries a through ball, but Jermain Defoe is caught offside.  
70' Goal! Liverpool 2, Sunderland 0. Adam Lallana (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box to the centre of the goal. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.  
67' Attempt missed. Patrick van Aanholt (Sunderland left footed shot from the left side of the box is close, but misses to the left. Assisted by Wahbi Khazri.  
66' Substitution, Sunderland. Adam Johnson replaces Jan Kirchhoff.  
66' Attempt missed. Jordan Henderson (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the right.  
64' Attempt saved. Jordon Ibe (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is saved in the bottom left corner.  
64' Attempt saved. Adam Lallana (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Jordan Henderson.  
64' Hand ball by Lee Cattermole (Sunderland.  
62' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Billy Jones.  
62' Attempt blocked. Jordon Ibe (Liverpool left footed shot from the right side of the box is blocked. Assisted by James Milner.  
61' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Patrick van Aanholt.  
59' Goal! Liverpool 1, Sunderland 0. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool header from the right side of the six yard box to the bottom left corner. Assisted by James Milner with a cross.  
57' Attempt missed. Jermain Defoe (Sunderland right footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the left. Assisted by Jan Kirchhoff.  
57' Corner, Sunderland. Conceded by Alberto Moreno.  
56' Corner, Sunderland. Conceded by Jordon Ibe.  
54' Attempt missed. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses the top right corner. Assisted by Kolo Touré.  
53' Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.  
53' Foul by Wahbi Khazri (Sunderland.  
52' Offside, Sunderland. Lamine Koné tries a through ball, but Jermain Defoe is caught offside.  
47' Attempt blocked. Jordan Henderson (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Adam Lallana.  
Second Half begins Liverpool 0, Sunderland 0.  
45'+5' First Half ends, Liverpool 0, Sunderland 0.  
45'+4' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Patrick van Aanholt.  
45'+3' Attempt missed. Patrick van Aanholt (Sunderland left footed shot from outside the box misses to the right. Assisted by Wahbi Khazri following a set piece situation.  
45'+3' Delay over. They are ready to continue.  
45'+2' Substitution, Liverpool. Jordon Ibe replaces Joe Allen because of an injury.  
45'+2' Delay in match Joe Allen (Liverpool because of an injury.  
45'+1' Foul by Jordan Henderson (Liverpool.  
45'+1' Yann M'Vila (Sunderland wins a free kick in the attacking half.  
45' Attempt missed. Alberto Moreno (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is just a bit too high. Assisted by Roberto Firmino with a headed pass.  
44' Attempt missed. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is too high. Assisted by Emre Can with a headed pass.  
43' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Wahbi Khazri.  
41' Offside, Liverpool. James Milner tries a through ball, but Adam Lallana is caught offside.  
40' Delay over. They are ready to continue.  
39' Delay in match Mamadou Sakho (Liverpool because of an injury.  
39' Delay in match (Sunderland.  
39' Dame N'Doye (Sunderland is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.  
39' Mamadou Sakho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
39' Foul by Dame N'Doye (Sunderland.  
38' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Patrick van Aanholt.  
37' Attempt blocked. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool left footed shot from the right side of

the box is blocked. Assisted by Adam Lallana.  
32' Mamadou Sakho (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
32' Foul by Jermain Defoe (Sunderland.  
31' Joe Allen (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
31' Foul by Jan Kirchhoff (Sunderland.  
30' Attempt missed. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is too high. Assisted by Alberto Moreno.  
26' Delay over. They are ready to continue.  
26' Substitution, Sunderland. Dame N'Doye replaces Duncan Watmore because of an injury.  
23' Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.  
23' Foul by Wahbi Khazri (Sunderland.  
23' Delay over. They are ready to continue.  
22' Delay in match Duncan Watmore (Sunderland because of an injury.  
21' Attempt blocked. Jordan Henderson (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.  
20' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Vito Mannone.  
20' Attempt saved. Alberto Moreno (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Adam Lallana.  
13' Emre Can (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
13' Foul by Jan Kirchhoff (Sunderland.  
12' Substitution, Liverpool. Kolo Touré replaces Dejan Lovren because of an injury.  
11' Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool.  
11' Yann M'Vila (Sunderland wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
8' Attempt missed. Patrick van Aanholt (Sunderland left footed shot from outside the box misses to the right. Assisted by Jermain Defoe.  
6' Adam Lallana (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
6' Foul by Jan Kirchhoff (Sunderland.  
4' Emre Can (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
4' Foul by Duncan Watmore (Sunderland.  
1' Alberto Moreno (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.  
1' Foul by Billy Jones (Sunderland.  
First Half begins.  
Lineups are announced and players are warming up. 0