

Date: 10 September 2016 Opposition: Leicester City Competition: League	BBC	Sunday Times	Guardian	Mirror		10 September 2016
	Echo	Sun Independent	Independent	Mail		
		Sun Telegraph	Telegraph	Leicester Mercury		

THETIMES

the guardian

Happy homecoming for Liverpool as Roberto Firmino double sinks Leicester

Anfield opened for business in style. After all the hype surrounding the opening of a £114m stand it fell to Liverpool’s players to demonstrate that they, not concrete, steel or glass, dictate the mood inside an expectant arena. “Fill it with life,” Jürgen Klopp had instructed and his team obliged on cue, filling Anfield with goals, incisiveness and optimism as Leicester City were condemned to a comprehensive pounding.

For the Premier League champions it is an inauspicious start to their title defence and to a week when they make their debut on the Champions League stage against Club Brugge. Claudio Ranieri’s side lost only three league games last season and have now lost two of the opening quartet. They opened brightly, had their moments, but were made to look pedestrian at times by the quick thinking of Daniel Sturridge, Roberto Firmino and Adam Lallana and the quick feet of Sadio Mané. The quality of Liverpool’s goals – two assured finishes by Firmino, a superb team goal for Mané and an emphatic strike by Lallana – reflected their superiority in the final third over a team they trailed by 21 points last season. There will be no repeat on the evidence of Liverpool’s homecoming.

“What we did today is what I expect from us,” said Klopp. “I am really on the side of the players. They are responsible for our good performances and I am responsible for our bad performances. That is an easy deal. We have to see how often we can show it. This league is so unbelievably strong, so competitive and today we were good. We need to perform and have atmospheres like this not only against the champions or when we score four goals. We have to create our own atmosphere for ourselves and nobody else.”

Firmino delivered the opening ceremony that truly mattered with the first goal at the revamped stadium but the contribution of Sturridge, arguably only starting due to Philippe Coutinho’s international exertions for Brazil, was not lost on Anfield’s largest attendance since 1977. The England international tracked back diligently to halt a Leicester attack and intercepted for Simon Mignolet. Lucas Leiva, deputising for Dejan Lovren, who picked up a monstrous shiner after a clash of heads in training on Friday, found James Milner on the left and that was the signal for Firmino to lose Daniel Amartey with a piercing run. Milner delivered the required pass, the Brazilian cut inside Robert Huth and beat Kasper Schmeichel with an intelligent finish. The mood and flow of the game were transformed. “We started well but after the first goal we lost our counter and they played so, so well,” agreed Ranieri.

Mané was a devastating menace throughout and teed up Sturridge for a close-range shot that Schmeichel saved well. The Dane was powerless, however, when Sturridge returned the favour and Mané doubled Liverpool’s lead in thrilling fashion. Lucas, Firmino and Jordan Henderson were all involved as the Liverpool captain sent Sturridge clear with a measured chip over the top. The striker’s control was excellent, his second touch even better as he back-heeled inside for the unmarked Mané to scoop the ball over the Leicester goalkeeper’s despairing grasp and over the line.

Anfield purred over the comfortable lead but was left aghast by not one but two errors from Lucas. The makeshift centre-half mis-controlled a routine goal-kick from Mignolet and, with Shinji Okazaki closing in, compounded the error by clearing straight to Jamie Vardy. The striker accepted the gift from close range and Leicester almost equalised when Mignolet missed a long throw from Luis Hernández, a replacement for the hamstrung Danny Simpson, and Huth’s looping header landed on the top of the bar.

Ranieri tried to sharpen his attack with the introduction of Ahmed Musa, the £17m summer signing from CSKA Moscow, but Liverpool’s tireless and tricky front three monopolised the danger. Lallana, fresh from saving England in Slovakia, drove an unstoppable finish into the top corner following a neat lay-off from the impressive Georginio Wijnaldum. The fourth arrived in the final moments when Henderson, earlier guilty of a glaring miss, released Mané behind a square Leicester defence and a needless rush by Schmeichel. Mané unselfishly squared for Firmino to seal victory with a nonchalant finish.

There was a bizarre moment at 3-1 when, with the Kop singing his name, Klopp reacted furiously to the tribute and pointed to his watch to say the serenading was premature. His grievance may have been supported by Vardy breaking clear and forcing an important save from Mignolet but the manager’s concern was out of context with Liverpool’s dominance. “Please don’t sing my name before the game is decided,” he requested. “It is nice but not necessary.” It is also hard for supporters to resist with victories like this.

Date: 10 September 2016
Opposition: Leicester City
Competition: League

BBC	Sunday Times	Guardian	Mirror
Echo	Sun Independent	Independent	Mail
	Sun Telegraph	Telegraph	Leicester Mercury



Klopp challenges Liverpool to maintain high standards

Jrgen Klopp has challenged his Liverpool team to consistently meet the standard set by the performance during their 4-1 dismantling of Premier League champions Leicester City for the rest of the season.

Roberto Firmino's double plus goals from Sadio Mane and Adam Lallana pushed Liverpool into fifth position on goal difference following the first game played in front of Anfield's new main stand.

Klopp, who curiously reacted to Liverpool supporters chanting his name by making hand signals for them to stop when the scoreline was 3-1, revealed later that he believes any triumphalism sends out the wrong message to his players.

oeWe have to show this and perform and have atmospheres like this not only against the champions, he said. oeBut please don(tm)t sing my name before the game is decided. I don(tm)t play. It was the same at Arsenal. It is nice but not necessary.

Though there was a sense that Liverpool were in control, Klopp's feelings are understandable because a feeling remains that his is not a team to always trust.

At 2-0, Liverpool handed the incentive back to Leicester when Lucas's wayward clearance left Jamie Vardy with the simple task of scoring in front of an open goal.

oeWe knew we had to do the job today and that is what we did, Klopp added.

oeWe were strong physically, flexible, quick and creative. We scored wonderful goals and conceded a not too wonderful goal and had a few minutes where you saw what can happen in a football game. West Ham was 2-0 in the lead and lost today so things like this can happen, not only here. At half time I told the boys, this is our challenge. When we are good, we are really good but when we had some problems, it is not easy. This is challenge for the whole season.

The result means Leicester have now lost twice in four games this season. Claudio Ranieri, Leicester's manager, was critical of his players(tm) poise on a historic day at Anfield.

oeYou know when you lose some players [to injury] you lose also your composure but it is not only one or two players. We want to do something but Liverpool won the first ball, the second hall they were inspired tonight. Everything they tried to do was okay and it was difficult for us. We have to clean our mind. Fortunately, now we play every three days. There is an important adventure in the Champions League.

They travel to Belgium to play Club Brugge on Wednesday.



MANE THE CROWD PLEASER; Sizzling Saido puts on a dazzling show for fans at the revamped Anfield and says 'I could feel the love'

LIVERPOOL 4

Firmino 13, 89, Mane 31, Lallana 56

LEICESTER CITY 1

Vardy 38

SEXY football is an honourable virtue, and at times Sadio Mane's home debut for Liverpool was almost off the top shelf.

Belts off, trousers down, back of the net, four goals, three points.

As he marched into the home dressing room to congratulate his players, Liverpool owner John W Henry bragged: "That was some football, hey?"

And ahead of Leicester's debut in the Champions League in Bruges on Wednesday night, the only things manager Claudio Ranieri could hear going dilly-ding, dilly-dong were alarm bells.

Mane introduced himself to the expanded Anfield's biggest crowd for 40 years with a virtuoso performance reminiscent of John Barnes' first limbo dance in front of the Kop.

Barnes was an instant hit on Merseyside back in 1987, when Liverpool's first home game of the season - a 2-0 win against Oxford - was also delayed until mid-September by urgent matters of plumbing.

This time PS34million signing Mane's pace, movement and rotation was an object lesson in giving defenders the proverbial runaround.

The Senegal striker looks a perfect fit for manager Jurgen Klopp's template of high tempo and high marks for artistic impression, and he said: "I will e happy if defenders are afraid of me because that will make life easier for me.

"When you are new, sometimes it can be difficult to adapt to your team, but it is easy for me with great players like Daniel Sturridge, Philippe Coutinho and Roberto Firmino.

"I scored a hat-trick in three minutes when I was at Southampton, but maybe this was an even better day - it is a great compliment to be compared with the legendary players at this club.

"I'm still young and learning the game, but today we were very happy because the support was amazing and I could feel the love."

Too often, since Liverpool banked their last title 27 seasons ago, big-money signings have sunk to the occasion.

But Mane, 24, has raised his game a level and he was afforded a standing ovation when Klopp awarded him late parole from the eroticism.

"When you play in a stadium like Anfield, you want to give your best and earn an ovation at the end, so I try," said Mane.

"Yes, I am in a good way now, but you have to work for it.

"That work started on the day I signed and now I have to show it in every game."

"Two-goal Firmino, Mane and a rocket from England midfielder Adam Lallana (left, with Jordan Henderson) garnished an enjoyable game that was a showcase for the best - and worst - of Klopp'sLiverpool.

At their best, it was exhilarating. But Lucas Leiva's ghastly blunder which gift wrapped Jamie Vardy's reply for Leicester, and 10 minutes

Liverpool's massive new PS150m main stand, which makes the Kop look like a potting shed, was opened with a parade of club legends, and Phil Babb, before kick-off.

Klopp said: "We could build a new stand every week, that would be absolutely no problem for me. It's still Anfield - it's bigger, but it's still Anfield, it is still perfect. We weren't completely tuned in because we had to change a position (Lucas for Dejan Lovren, who suffered a facial injury in training on Friday) and we couldn't train together for a second week.

"When we are together for a long time, of course we need to be tuned.

"At half time I said it was not Lucas's mistake, but everybody knew it was!

"I didn't speak about the goal we conceded - just about the rea c t i o n we showed afterwards, because it made no sense. That's what we tried to change in the second half and it was really good."

Date: 10 September 2016
Opposition: Leicester City
Competition: League

BBC	Sunday Times	Guardian	Mirror
Echo	Sun Independent	Independent	Mail
	Sun Telegraph	Telegraph	Leicester Mercury

LIVERPOOL

ECHO

Home sweet home as Reds find their attacking mojo at Anfield

Home sweet home. Liverpool marked the unveiling of the new-look Anfield with a booming statement of intent as they routed champions Leicester City.

Jurgen Klopp had demanded that the redeveloped stadium was “filled with life” and the club's players and supporters duly answered the manager's clarion call on a night to cherish. The outstanding Roberto Firmino struck twice, Sadio Mane capped a dazzling home debut with a goal and Adam Lallana bagged a beauty in front of the Kop. Liverpool could and should have had more as they looked gloriously potent as an attacking force.

Makeshift centre-back Lucas Leiva breathed a sigh of relief as his first-half blunder – punished by Jamie Vardy – was relegated to a footnote as the Reds ran riot against Claudio Ranieri's side. It had been 122 long days since Liverpool last graced the hallowed turf. They were forced to spend the opening month of the campaign on their travels as work was completed on the £115million new Main Stand.

And Klopp's men rose to the occasion on their return home – serving notice than a sizeable step forward for the club off the field is being accompanied by progress on it. A crowd of 53,074 – Anfield's biggest for 39 years – witnessed a performance brimming with desire, pace, creativity and class.

There is still plenty of room for improvement but here was proof in front of owners John W Henry, Tom Werner and Mike Gordon that this is a Liverpool side capable of doing some serious damage this term.

Mane has been a revelation since his £30million summer move from Southampton and deservedly received a standing ovation when he departed late on.

'Firmino can make the leap to stardom at Anfield'

There was a parade of legends in front of the new Main Stand before kick-off as the likes of Kenny Dalglish, Ian Rush, Ian St John, Robbie Fowler and Jamie Carragher accepted the acclaim of Anfield. The challenge facing the current crop is to ensure that one day they are mentioned in the same breath as those cherished names who brought so much glory to Anfield. One man who undoubtedly has the talent to make that leap if he stays around long enough is Firmino.

The Brazilian attacker blossomed during his first season with the Reds as he bagged 11 goals and he looks ready to take his game to the next level.

After a nervous start from the Reds, Firmino brought the contest to life in style with the opener in the 13 minute. It was a goal of real quality as James Milner spotted his intelligent run and picked him out with a pin-point pass.

Firmino's first touch took him away from Robert Huth and he coolly slotted past Kasper Schmeichel. Anfield erupted and the Reds fed off that energy from the stands as they took control. There were no surprises from Leicester as they sat deep and looked to hit the hosts on the counter-attack with the pace of Vardy. But Liverpool attacked with such speed and conviction that they repeatedly carved open the champions. Some of the interplay between Daniel Sturridge, Mane, Firmino and Lallana was delightful. Sturridge was expertly denied by Schmeichel after Mane's one-two with Lallana had put it on a plate for him.

Just past the half hour mark Liverpool doubled their account in style.

Firmino laid off a pass from Lucas to Henderson, who dispatched a perfectly weighted ball through for Sturridge.

The Reds striker, who put in a fine shift on his return to the side, could have pulled the trigger but instead produced a remarkable backheel for Mane to make it 2-0.

Liverpool wobbled, but regrouped

Liverpool were cruising with Leicester looking shell-shocked. Yet seven minutes before the break they shot themselves in the foot.

Lucas, who was pressed into duty at centre-back after Dejan Lovren was ruled out with a head injury, was under no pressure when Mignolet played it out to him but his first touch was horrendous. As Shinji Okazaki closed him down, Lucas panicked and inexplicably knocked the ball across the face of goal. Vardy gleefully accepted the gift. Briefly, the atmosphere was transformed from one of celebration to consternation. Liverpool wobbled. Huth's header struck the bar after Mignolet failed to claim Luis Hernandez's long throw.

Half-time gave Klopp's men the chance to regroup and in the second half they regained their composure. It wasn't long before their two-goal cushion was restored. Always a hive of activity, the one criticism of Lallana has always been his lack of end product and 13 goals in his first two seasons with the Reds was a poor return for someone of his calibre.

But the £25million attacking midfielder looks like a man on a mission to put that right. Fresh from his last-gasp winner for England in Slovakia, Lallana claimed his second Liverpool goal of the campaign.

Like his piledriver at the Emirates on the opening weekend it was another beauty as he hammered into the top corner from 16 yards after latching on to Gini Wijnaldum's lay off. It was Liverpool's 100th goal in their 57 game under Klopp

The Kop chanted Lallana's name vociferously. Nobody is questioning his contribution this term. Klopp didn't take kindly to being serenaded in similar fashion soon after as he pointed to his watch and scolded supporters. The message was clear: it was too early, this contest was still in the balance.

Reds finished with a flourish

As if to prove his point Liverpool were soon indebted to Mignolet, who did brilliantly to thwart Vardy. The Belgian keeper, who was left bleeding from a head

wound after a robust challenge from the Foxes frontman, is under pressure now that Loris Karius is fit. However, Mignolet stood firm during Leicester's second-half rally and deserves to be retained. To his credit, Lucas didn't crumble after his mistake and made some timely interceptions. It helped that he had the commanding presence of Joel Matip alongside him.

Danny Drinkwater's volley deflected just wide before Klopp sought fresh legs with Philippe Coutinho and Kevin Stewart on for Sturridge and Wijnaldum.

It did the trick as Liverpool finished with a flourish. Henderson should have killed off the contest but blazed high into the Kop. It was a bad miss but this was Henderson's best performance of the season. The Reds captain is growing into that holding midfield role and he used the ball intelligently throughout.

Henderson's vision helped to create the fourth goal late on as his sweeping pass from deep inside his own half released Mane, who skipped around the on-rushing Schmeichel and unselfishly squared for Firmino to convert.

'Poetry in motion' rung around Anfield. Home sweet home.

Leicester Mercury

Sorry day for the champions

Leicester City suffered their worst defeat for nearly a year as they were well beaten by Liverpool at Anfield.

New record signing Islam Slimani watched from the stands as Claudio Ranieri's men were punished emphatically by Jurgen Klopp's side for some uncharacteristically poor defending. Not since Arsenal's 5-2 victory over City at King Power Stadium last season have City suffered such a heavy defeat.

They managed to bounce back on that occasion and go on to win the Premier League, and they will have to respond on Wednesday when they kick-off their Champions League campaign at Club Brugge.. City simply couldn't handle the pace and movement of Liverpool's front three of Saido Mane, Roberto Firmino and Daniel Sturridge from the very start of the game.

The hosts took the lead in the 13th minute and it was all too easy. A simple ball wide from Lucas found James Milner who fed Firmino in space just in front of the City back-four and after comfortably cutting inside Robert Huth, he slipped the ball past Schmeichel.. The Reds started to look superb going forward and Schmeichel had to deny Sturridge from point-blank range after Mane played a one-two with Adam Lallana to open City up once more, before squaring for his strike partner. City's usually stoic back-line was getting pulled all over the place and Danny Simpson was at fault when he followed Sturridge in behind the defence, playing both the England striker and Mane miles on side. The pair made him pay as they combined for Mane to score the second.

City looked shell-shocked but were then handed a lifeline by some kamikaze play from Lucas. The midfielder, playing as a makeshift centre-back, was trying to get on the ball as much as possible inside his own penalty box and when he got caught out he inadvertently passed straight to Vardy to score into an empty net. It was a gift City had scarcely deserved and when Huth's header then bounced off the top of the bar it looked as if City were well and truly back in the game.

At half time Ranieri made a change, bringing on Ahmed Musa for Shinji Okazaki and the Nigerian looked bright early on but it was Liverpool who scored the third. City's defence were pulled out of shape again and Georginio Wijnaldum teed up Lallana, who lashed his shot into the top corner.

City were starting to look beleaguered but Vardy had a great chance to score a second when he was put through by Mahrez, but Simon Mignolet saved with his feet. City could not fashion a comeback and certainly but put the hosts under pressure with a succession of high balls. Schmeichel also had to be alert to pull off another smart save from Mane in the closing stages to ensure the defeat wasn't any heavier. But when the City keeper came rushing out miles from his goal in the last minute, he was well beaten by Mane who then teed up Firminio for his second and Liverpool's fourth to seal a sorry day for the champions.

TEAMS

Liverpool (4-3-3): 22 Simon Mignolet; 2 Nathaniel Clyne, 21 Lucas Leiva, 32 Joel Matip, 7 James Milner; 20 Adam Lallana, 14 Jordan Henderson, 5 Georginio Wijnaldum; 19 Saido Mane,11 Roberto Firminio,15 Daniel Sturridge

Subs: 1 Loris Karius, 10 Philippe Coutinho (for Sturridge, 76min), 16 Marko Grujic, 17 Ragnar Klaven, 18 Alberto Moreno (for Man 90+3), 27 Divock Origi, 36 Kevin Stewart (for Wijnaldum, 76min)

Leicester City (4-4-2):1 Kasper Schmeichel; 17 Danny Simpson, 6 Robert Huth, 5 Wes Morgan, 28 Christian Fuchs; 26 Riyad Mahrez, 4 Danny Drinkwater,13 Daniel Amartey,11 Marc Albrighton;20 Shinji Okazaki, 9 Jamie Vardy

Subs: 2 Luis Hernandez (for Simpson, 34min), 3 Ben Chilwell, 7 Ahmed Musa (for Okazaki, half-time), 10 Andy King, 21 Ron-Robert Zieler, 22 Demarai Gray, 23 Leonardo Ulloa (for Albrighton, 65min)

STATS

Goals: Firmino (13, 89), Mane (31), Vardy (38), Lallana (56)

Half-time: 2-1

Ref: Craig Pawson

Yellow cards: Henderson (Liverpool), Amartey, Drinkwater, Huth (Leicester City)

Possession: 63% (Liverpool), 37% (City)

Shots: 16 (Liverpool), 12 (City) Shots on target: 11 (Liverpool), 3 (City)

Corners: 1 (Liverpool), 6 (City) Fouls:4 (Liverpool), 8(City)

Compiled by Graeme Riley

Date: 10 September 2016
Opposition: Leicester City
Competition: League

BBC	Sunday Times	Guardian	Mirror
Echo	Sun Independent	Independent	Mail
	Sun Telegraph	Telegraph	Leicester Mercury



New-look Anfield, new-look Liverpool as Klopp’s side hammer Foxes

The sense of occasion was enormous. The first match in front of Anfield's new main stand was marked by 17 legends from Liverpool's past being paraded in the moments before kick-off.

A criticism of modern Liverpool, indeed is that Jrgen Klopp's current team does not possess the necessary star quality to make Liverpool great again and Klopp always counters that argument by pointing towards his track record of making stars rather than spending lots of money on them.

Perhaps Sadio Man[c] will prove to be one of those players. The Senegalese, who let's not forget, is Liverpool's record signing, cut through Leicester's defence time and time again here; scoring once, supplying another. When Klopp chose to remove him in injury time, appreciating that an ovation would arrive, the roar seemed to come from the guts of the stadium.

The outcome means that Leicester have now lost twice this season. Bearing in mind defeat was only suffered on three occasions when they became Premier League champions, it feels unlikely this improbable feat will be repeated soon. They miss N'Golo Kant[c] badly and Claudio Ranieri's attempt to replace him here with Daniel Amartey " a defender playing in midfield " did not work.

Liverpool's opening goal was a thing of beauty. James Milner, operating as a left back again, illustrated why it sometimes helps to have a right footed player in that position. Leicester had targeted him before, thumping high cross-field passes in his direction. And yet, in possession, they seemed to forget to close down. With that, Milner's sliced a pass through Leicester's midfield and defence, releasing Roberto Firmino.

From there, there was still much to do but the attacker made the challenge look easy, dragging Robert Huth into a place he really did not want to be before fooling Kasper Schmeichel with the calmest of finishes.

Daniel Sturridge clipped a shot into Schmeichel's chest before assisting with Liverpool's second. Jordan Henderson's chipped pass appeared to have released the striker.

A few years ago, maybe he would have been able to race free of someone like Danny Simpson and score himself but having suffered from so many injuries, his game has had to adapt. He still sees opportunities that others do not and this contributed towards Man[c] converting instead, the winger having sprinted some distance to meet Sturridge's wonderful back-heel.

Leicester could not get going. Their route back into the game was handed to them by Lucas, who was filling in for Dejan Lovren at centre back after a head injury sustained at Melwood on Friday left him with a black eye. Upon receiving possession from a short goal kick by Simon Mignolet, the Brazilian hesitated and his first touch meant he had to attempt a clearance across his own penalty area. Jamie Vardy, waiting near the penalty spot, could not miss.

Leicester finished the half with momentum. From a Luis Hernandez throw-in, Robert Huth's header clanked against the top of the crossbar. The break came at the wrong time for the visitors, asLiverpool regrouped and scored their third. With the Kop demanding Georginio Wijnaldum pass to Firmino, the midfielder instead elected to feed Adam Lallana and his angled drive was gloriously delivered.

Liverpool continued to take unnecessary risks in defence, choosing to take short passes when longer ones would have been better. A feeling remains they will not keep many clean sheets this season.

Liverpool, though, are able to outscore opponents. And this became the third time in five games when the opposition conceded four or more when Man[c] evaded the challenge of Schmeichel near the half way line to supply Firmino with his second.

The Sunday Telegraph

Liverpool make themselves at home in new surroundings

Liverpool 4 Firmino 13, 89, Mane 31, Lallana 56 Leicester City 1 Vardy 38 Att: 51,232 By Jim White at Anfield With four sharp, nicely-finished goals, Liverpool took maximum points once again from the reigning Premier League champions. This is becoming something of a habit around Anfield: the defeat of Leicester City meant that over the past nine seasons, Liverpool have won six and drawn three of their home encounters with the previous season's title winners.

Not that it is a statistic likely to feature high up in the club's long list of distinctions. What the fans would much prefer is, rather than regularly debunking the title holders, Liverpool were actually winning the thing themselves.

It might have been played in a warm glow of evening sunshine, but what this game represented was a new dawn at Liverpool. The sparkling grandstand that towers over Stanley Park was for the first time filled with supporters. Outside before the game everyone was enthusing about its sweep, its comfort, about how it spoke of the club's ambition.

Though what mattered more to the 20,500 fans luxuriating in the wide open spaces of the new edifice was not so much the speed of service at the refreshment outlets or the voluminous scale of the toilet facilities. It was the ability of Jurgen Klopp's new Liverpool team to match their surroundings and mount a proper title challenge. Leicester, the champions of England - as their noisy fans were swift to remind the locals - were there to provide the most telling measure of progress.

The good news was Klopp's refashioned side started as if determined to mirror the expansive architectural developments. And it was on 13 minutes that the new stand's ability to project the noise of the crowd was given its first proper test. Picking the ball up in defence, Lucas Leiva strode forward and passed to James Milner. As Daniel Sturridge ran across on a decoy gallop, the England man played in Roberto Firmino.

He stepped inside, sent Robert Huth sprawling and finished beautifully past Kasper Schmeichel. It was a delightful goal: quick, sharp, efficient.

Even better came on the half-hour. Sturridge galloping on to Jordan Henderson's through-ball, Danny Simpson ran across in the attempt to block, and the England man back-heeled the most delightful invitation to Sadio Mane, which the Senegalese international clipped over the advancing Schmeichel. Simpson hurt more than his pride in the tussle and was replaced by Luis Hernandez.

But if the first goal had provided dividend from Klopp's decision to field a defence largely made up of midfielders, just before half-time the emergency centre-back Lucas demonstrated that defenders have their purpose. He sent a wretchedly misguided square ball beyond Simon Mignolet straight into the path of Jamie Vardy, who, his predatory instincts on full alert, only had to side foot the gift into the net.

But Liverpool once more located the wherewithal to seize the ascendant. Georginio Wijnaldum took the ball on the edge of the area, stopped, changed direction and passed to Adam Lallana who swept a glorious rising shot past Schmeichel into the top corner of the goal. Mane and Sturridge then both went close, before Firmino added a late fourth.

Liverpool (4-3-3): Mignolet; Clyne, Lucas, Matip, Milner; Lallana, Henderson, Wijnaldum (Stewart 76); Mane (Moreno 90), Sturridge (Coutinho 76), Firmino. Subs Karius (g), Grujic, Klaven, Origi. Booked Henderson.

Leicester (4-4-2) Schmeichel; Simpson (Hernandez 33), Huth, Morgan, Fuchs; Mahrez, Drinkwater, Amartey, Albrighton (Ulloa 65); Okazaki (Musa 45), Vardy. Subs Zieler (g), Chilwell, King, Gray. Booked Amartey, Drinkwater, Huth. Referee C Pawson (South Yorkshire).

Date: 10 September 2016 Opposition: Leicester City Competition: League	BBC	Sunday Times	Guardian	Mirror		10 September 2016
	Echo	Sun Independent	Independent	Mail		
		Sun Telegraph	Telegraph	Leicester Mercury		


THE SUNDAY TIMES

Leicester crushed by rampant Reds

ANFIELD'S new PS115m stand will presumably bear witness to greater nights than this as Adam Lallana, six days removed from his role as saviour for England and Sam Allardyce, scored the decisive goal that killed off the contest.

But as a commentary on where the two sides stand early in their respective seasons, the game spoke volumes: of how much Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool is a work in progress and of how quickly Claudio Ranieri must transform the fortunes of the stuttering defending Premier League champions.

Roberto Firmino's second goal of the night, in the final minute from Sadio Mane's pass after Kasper Schmeichel had sprinted rashly out of his area, may have flattered Liverpool but the result should still have alarmed Ranieri greatly.

Few football clubs, and even fewer football stadiums, know how to stage an occasion quite likeLiverpool and Anfield and this was no exception. Supporters queued in their hundreds to take photographs of the new Main Stand along "96 Avenue" on the approach to the towering structure some 108ft higher and 8,500 seats bigger than its predecessor and roared their approval at former heroes who paraded on to the field before kick-off.

Unfortunately, once the focus switched to football, the problems faced by Klopp and his imbalanced squad were apparent; two of the Liverpool back four spots being occupied by midfield players James Milner and Lucas.

But after a few anxious early moments, it was Liverpool who scored the first goal in front of the new stand, with Milner displaying all his ball-playing acumen with the perfect pass from the left-wing, inside to Firmino after 13 minutes.

The Liverpool forward had only to advance a few yards, scything between Wes Morgan and Robert Huth before drilling a low shot past the diving Kasper Schmeichel from 14 yards. The opening exchanges had seemed to confirm the worst Liverpooldian fears, especially down the home team's left flank where the visitors repeatedly attempted to isolate Riyad Mahrez against Milner.

Shinji Okazaki sent an early warning shot over from distance, Jordan Henderson was forced into an acrobatic clearance from a Mahrez cross and, with Leicester pressing high up the field, Mahrez leaped impressively to outjump Lucas.

But the visitors failed to press home that advantage and, with the impressive Henderson increasingly influential, Firmino and Daniel Sturridge tested Schmeichel either side of the opening goal.

Before the half-hour, and just after Morgan had pulled a muscle which left him temporarily hobbled,Liverpool should have scored a wellworked second goal as Mane's well-executed one-two with Lallana allowed him to cross for Sturridge whose near-post shot was superbly saved by Schmeichel.

Leicester were struggling to cope, especially with Liverpool using the width offered by their two attacking lines of three although the second home goal, on 31 minutes, came through the middle of a Leicester defence that looks curiously vulnerable after last season's magnificent efforts. Henderson, predictably, was the architect with a defencesplitting pass that sent Sturridge into the area where he took the selfless option of producing a skilful back-heel that took the last defender out of play and left Mane with a simple finish, Schmeichel getting a despairing hand to the ball as it looped in.

Still, there was a reason this knowledgable Anfield crowd had reacted with unease to Klopp's team selection and Lucas ably demonstrated it in gifting Leicester a foothold in the contest seven minutes before the interval. A short square ball from Simon Mignolet found Lucas looking anxious and, after miscontrolling the ball, the Brazilian simply mishit it across an open penalty area to the waiting Jamie Vardy who had the simple task of converting it into a gaping goal.

It was an extraordinary turn, and one that clearly unnerved Mignolet who, moments later, flapped in dealing with a Luis Hernandez long throw-in, allowing Huth to rise and power a header against the bar. Having been forced to bring on Hernandez for the injured Danny Simpson on 34 minutes, Ranieri made a further replacement at the interval with Ahmed Musa replacing Okazaki and winning an early Leicester corner from a deflected shot. Liverpool nerves were not helped moments later by Mignolet suffering a blooded nose at that set-piece which quickly led to another display of unadulterated panic by the keeper, ball at his feet and under pressure from blue shirts, who flirted with catastrophe before hoofing the ball to safety. Those nerves might have been soothed on 56 minutes when a neat Firmino touch played in Sturridge who attempted to lift the ball into the net over Schmeichel but succeeded only in striking it against the advancing keeper. But seconds later a neat, intricate passing move down the right Clyde inside to Sturridge and on to Georginio Wijnaldum looked to have come to nothing with the Liverpool man delaying a pass. But Wijnaldum instead laid off a neat, short pass to Lallana who drove a bullet-like shot into the top corner of the Leicester goal. Vardy was unusually wasteful just after the hour, when played clean in on goal by Mahrez only to be denied by the outstretched leg of Mignolet and Huth's nod, Danny Drinkwater's deflected volley and Vardy's header directly at Mignolet could all have offered a way back.

Liverpool: Mignolet 5; Clyne 7, Matip 6, Lucas 5, Milner 7; Wijnaldum 7 (Stewart 75min, 6), Henderson 8, Lallana 8; Mane 7 (Moreno 90min+3, 5), Firmino 8, Sturridge 9 (Coutinho 75min, 6) Leicester City: Schmeichel 7, Simpson 6 (Hernandez 34min, 6), Huth 6, Morgan 5, Fuchs 5; Mahrez 7, Drinkwater 7, Amartey 5, Albrighton 6 (Ulloa 65min, 6); Okazaki 6 (Musa 46min, 7), Vardy 7.



Date: 10 September 2016
Opposition: Leicester City
Competition: League

BBC	Sunday Times	Guardian	Mirror
Echo	Sun Independent	Independent	Mail
	Sun Telegraph	Telegraph	Leicester Mercury

BBC

Liverpool easily beat Premier League champions Leicester in their first home game of the season.

The Reds looked in control when Roberto Firmino converted James Milner's pass and Daniel Sturridge backheeled to Sadio Mane to clip home a second.

But Leicester were given hope when Lucas inexplicably passed the ball to Jamie Vardy to shoot into an empty net. However, Adam Lallana sealed the win by firing a shot into the top corner and Firmino got a second from Mane's pass.

Jurgen Klopp's Reds are up to seven points from four games, having played their first three matches on the road because of the expansion of Anfield's Main Stand. Meanwhile, Leicester remain on four points as they prepare for their Champions League debut against Club Brugge on Wednesday. Liverpool keeper Simon Mignolet picked up blood injuries to his nose and then eye, but he lasted the 90 minutes with summer signing Loris Karius remaining on the bench.

Liverpool, as has often been the case under Klopp, looked brilliant in stages, especially in the first 35 minutes when they could have been out of sight.

Their opener was a good passing move, which ended in left-back Milner playing a great ball through to Firmino, who stepped inside Robert Huth to steer the ball into the bottom corner. The Foxes defence were again caught out by Jordan Henderson's ball forward for the second and Sturridge squared it with his heel for Mane to score on his home debut. But there will be cause for concern as Brazilian midfielder Lucas started at centre-back, with Mamadou Sakho not in the squad, and he let Leicester back into the game.

He miscontrolled a simple pass from Mignolet and - under pressure and in a panic - played the ball across goal to Vardy, who just had to tap into an unguarded net. That gave Leicester hope and they could have had an equaliser when Robert Huth headed a Luis Hernandez long throw-in off the bar.

Luckily for the Reds, they got their act together in the second half and Lallana scored his second goal in a week, after his England winner against Slovakia, to wrap up the win, from Georginio Wijnaldum's lay-off.

And they added a late fourth when Kasper Schmeichel - who made seven saves in an otherwise good performance - came flying out of his goal with Mane rounding him and unselfishly passing to Firmino to steer the ball past several Leicester defenders. After record deadline day signing Islam Slimani only returned from Algeria duty on Friday night, Leicester boss Claudio Ranieri decided to wait before giving the striker his debut. Leicester lined up with 10 of their 11 regular starters from last season's title-winning team, with Daniel Amartey in for N'Golo Kante, who was sold to Chelsea earlier this summer.

And they were outplayed throughout the game, with their only good spell inspired by Lucas' mistake. Ranieri's side only had three shots on target, including the goal, with Vardy also forcing a save from Mignolet from Riyad Mahrez's ball forward. Last season that combination ended so often in a goal - but this year they might need new ideas, so Ranieri will be eager for [£29m Slimani](#) to give them fresh impetus up front.

Former Foxes captain Matt Elliott, in his role as BBC Radio Leicester summariser, said: "I didn't see anybody have a glaring howler of a game for Leicester, it was more of a general lack of quality.

"At times last year maybe the intensity was a little bit more, and the opposition weren't as good as Liverpool, Manchester United, Manchester City are going to be this season."

Bumper crowd enjoy brilliant performance

The game was played in front of Anfield's biggest crowd since 1977, with a 54,000 sell-out in the newly expanded stadium. Some 8,500 seats were added to the Main Stand this summer.

Man of the match - Roberto Firmino

Manager reaction

Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp told BBC Sport: "It was a tough game against a really strong opponent. "This team is really capable of a lot of exciting things. We played quick but then we conceded and had to show we could fight and stay in the game. "I don't think about where we can reach. We have to be really strong in this league. We have had four away games to begin with, so let's go for it, enjoy it and today I saw some really wonderful things."

Leicester boss Claudio Ranieri: "Liverpool played well and deserved to win. We started well, but after the first goal we lost our shape a little. "We tried in the second half, but everything Liverpool tried came good. We created chances, but were a little unlucky. "We have to clear our minds for the next match. When we have lost in the past, we have always had a good reaction."

Match stats

Liverpool have won more games against reigning Premier League champions than any other side has (20).

This is the 14th time that a reigning Premier League champion has conceded four or more goals in a single match.

Liverpool have scored more Premier League goals in 2016 than any other team (50).

Mane has scored eight goals in his past eight Premier League appearances.

Vardy has found the net three times in his past two Premier League games against Liverpool. He has scored seven in his past eight league games.

Since the start of last season, Firmino has netted more Premier League goals than any other Liverpool player (12).

<