

Date: 1 October 2016  
 Opposition: Swansea City  
 Competition: League

BBC	Sunday Times	Times	Telegraph
Echo	Sun Independent	Guardian	Mirror
Mail	Sun Telegraph	Independent	SW Evening Post

1 October 2016

# THE TIMES

## Klopp eyes Anfield history

Swansea City 1 Fer 8 Liverpool 2 Firmino 54, Milner 84 (pen) 2  
 Referee: M Oliver Attendance: 20,862

According to tradition, the symbol for a 20-year anniversary is china, while one year is represented by paper. But as Jurgen Klopp approaches 365 days at Anfield, what he is building feels like it could be every bit as substantial as Arsene Wenger's creations in two decades at Arsenal.

The final game of Klopp's first year in charge was expected to be a celebratory waltz past struggling Swansea City. After all, Liverpool had steamrollered Hull City 5-1 in their previous game. But as half-time arrived, it became clear that this was going to be something else entirely: a test of their title credentials.

Shorn after 17 minutes of the increasingly influential Adam Lallana, whose guile and quick thinking has often been the spark to light Liverpool's fuse this season, they were curiously subdued, as in their 2-0 defeat away to Burnley in August. Swansea led deservedly through Leroy Fer's close-range finish and may have been further ahead had record PS15.5 million signing Borja Baston taken either of two presentable headed opportunities.

Liverpool lacked wit, they lacked coherence, but most importantly, they lacked a Steven Gerrard-esque character who can grab a match by the lapels and turn it around through sheer strength of personality. But maybe they do still have a character like that. He just isn't on the pitch.

"Big credit to the manager," said James Milner, whose penalty sealed the comeback. "He was angry [at halftime] but he kept most of it in, said the right things and got us going."

In the second half, Liverpool were a team transformed. They flew at Swansea, a little raggedly at times, but with the sort of vigour, dynamism and intermittent fury that suggested a team moulded in Klopp's image. First Daniel Sturridge, on for Lallana, slid in Sadio Mane, whose shot was slowed by Lukasz Fabianski then cleared off the line by Jordi Amat.

It was a temporary reprieve. Leon Britton chopped down Mane, Philippe Coutinho's free kick was cleared and Jordan Henderson lobbed it cleverly back into the box, where Roberto Firmino beat the offside trap to flick a header into the corner.

Henderson's unostentatious industry was at the heart of Liverpool's revival. He doesn't quite offer Gerrard's unflagging propulsion, but he has become Klopp's trusted messenger and, in that deep-lying, shuttling midfield role, a focal point. This was another effective performance. He fought fires in defence -- at times dropping in as an auxiliary centre back -- ferried the ball forward, even hit long quarterback passes in the style of Gerrard. He wears the armband for Liverpool and if Gareth Southgate decides eventually to jettison Wayne Rooney, he would be a plausible candidate for the England captaincy.

He was not, however, involved for the winner. That came somewhat fortuitously, when Modou Barrow skied a clearance, Firmino got goalside of Angel Rangel as the ball dropped and the Spaniard pushed him over in desperation. Milner chipped the penalty down the middle for his fourth of the season from the spot. "The start was bad," Klopp said. "We weren't ready for this match."

"It was such a positive week. We had one [training] session where we had 22 players on the pitch and every single one was angry, greedy, clear, hot, and you think: 'Oh my God, it was so good!' "And then at the end of the week, Swansea is waiting with the knife between the teeth, and you have to go and perform again. We have to get used to that. To be a successful team you need to be challenging for three points in every game. We will learn to push the button in the right moment."

We knew Liverpool can be electric: that much they have proven in their wins over Arsenal and Leicester City. What we didn't know -- what this match hinted at -- was how well they might cope when the power shuts off. Title campaigns are built as much on the back-up generator as on the mains supply and displays like this add weight to the theory that they could be the main challengers to Manchester City and Tottenham Hotspur this season.

The other end of the table preoccupies Swansea. This was a creditable performance but a bad result -- a fifth defeat in six matches -- that leaves Francesco Guidolin's tenure precarious. "I am not worried for my position, but for ours in the table," he said. "I don't know if there will be a meeting [with the owners] in the next few days."

Klopp, though, is totally secure as he approaches Saturday, the anniversary of his appointment. "I am not in the mood for reflection," he said. "I'm not here for a year, I'm here for the long term. It's not about enjoying the history, it's about being part of it."

### RATINGS

Swansea City (4-3-3): L Fabianski 6 -- A Rangel 5, M van der Hoorn 5, J Amat 6, K Naughton 6 -- L Fer 7 (sub: J Fulton, 72min), J Cork 7, L Britton 5 (Ki Sung-Yueng, 63 5) -- W Routledge 6 (sub: M Barrow, 62 5), B Baston 6, G Sigurdsson 7. Substitutes not used: Taylor, A Mawson, K Nordfelt, O McBurnie. Booked: Britton, Cork.

Liverpool (4-3-3): L Karius 6 -- N Clyne 7, D Lovren 7, J Matip 7, J Milner 8 -- G Wijnaldum 5 (sub: E Can, 85), J Henderson 8, A Lallana 6 (sub: D Sturridge, 23 7) -- S Mane 7, P Coutinho 8, R Firmino 7 (sub: D Origi, 85). Substitutes not used: R Klavan, A Moreno, L Leiva, S Mignolet. Booked: Sturridge, Henderson.

# the guardian

## Liverpool's James Milner spot-on again to sink Swansea City

There was plenty to smile about for Jürgen Klopp in the end as his team climbed to second in the table on the back of a fourth successive Premier League victory, yet the Liverpool manager made no attempt to sugarcoat a first-half performance that prompted the temperature to rise in the visitors' dressing room at the interval.

Whatever Klopp said at half-time – the German admitted he was “very angry” – it did the trick as Liverpool, who were unrecognisable from the team that toiled in the opening 45 minutes, turned this game on its head to condemn Swansea to a defeat that leaves Francesco Guidolin clinging to his job.

James Milner delivered the crucial blow six minutes from time with his fourth penalty of the season, after Roberto Firmino had equalised early in the second half, and from that point on it was tempting to wonder what was going through the minds of Steve Kaplan and Jason Levien, Swansea's American owners, as well as Guidolin's.

Kaplan and Levien had flown in to watch this match in a visit that had been planned for a while but which took on far greater significance amid the speculation about Guidolin's future. Ryan Giggs and Bob Bradley are both on a shortlist as part of a managerial search that has not always been conducted behind closed doors.

In fairness to Guidolin, Swansea were excellent in the opening 45 minutes and the Italian, judging from the number of times that his name was chanted, still has the support of a sizeable number of the club's supporters. Yet the harsh reality is that this was a fifth defeat in seven league games, with Swansea collecting only one point from a possible 18 since winning at Burnley on the opening day. Those are the sort of statistics to worry any Premier League owner, irrespective of the fact that Swansea have played extremely well in patches in their last two fixtures, against Manchester City and now Liverpool.

While the visitors were much the better team after the interval, Swansea should have had more to show for their first-half efforts than Leroy Fer's fourth goal of the season. Borja, the club's £15.5m record signing, squandered two excellent chances, the second of which came after Fer had put Swansea ahead. Mike van der Hoorn could still have salvaged a point in injury-time but the central defender – the wrong man in the right place – sliced wide with the goal at his mercy.

It was some turnaround from Liverpool in the second half and strange to reconcile the team that dominated that period with the one that looked so out of sorts early on. Liverpool were so pedestrian in their build-up in the first 45 minutes and seemed to be taken by surprise when Swansea played them at their own game by pressing aggressively all over the pitch.

To compound things for Liverpool they lost Adam Lallana to a groin injury early on and Daniel Sturridge was booked for diving. Klopp talked afterwards about how he sensed that his players had lost their discipline and composure, right down to “moaning about decisions that were absolutely right”.

Borja could, and should, have put Swansea ahead after five minutes but the Spaniard, who was totally unmarked as he got in between Joël Matip and Nathaniel Clyne, inexplicably headed over the bar from the edge of the six-yard box. It was a poor miss and there was another to come from the same player in the 26th minute, when he nodded Gylfi Sigurdsson's free-kick wide of the post. By that stage Swansea were ahead after Fer exposed a familiar weakness in Liverpool under Klopp. Sigurdsson's deep corner kick was headed back across goal by Borja and Fer, via a slight touch from Van der Hoorn, stabbed over the line. It was the 16th set-piece goal Liverpool have conceded since Klopp took over as manager last October – only Swansea have shipped more in that period.

The second-half, however, was a different story. Liverpool took control of the game and it was no surprise when Firmino levelled. Jordan Henderson lofted the ball back into the area after Philippe Coutinho's free-kick came back of the wall and Firmino, with the freedom of the penalty area as the Swansea defence pushed out, guided his header into the corner.

It was now one-way traffic, with Swansea pinned back. Coutinho stroked a lovely effort from the edge of the area inches wide and Sadio Mané saw his shot deflected over the bar by Kyle Naughton's superb challenge as Liverpool continued to press. Swansea looked like they might cling on but with the clock ticking down Angel Rangel clumsily bundled into Firmino and Milner made no mistake from the spot. Then came Van der Hoorn's awful late miss.

With that the game was up for Swansea and it remains to be seen if the same is true for Guidolin.

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## The Mail

Klopp: It's too soon to party

SWANSEA 1

LIVERPOOL 2

FOR all the parodies on Twitter suggesting he is boring, it was James Milner who came up with the most interesting take on Jurgen Klopp's first year at Liverpool.

'Definitely one of the best I have ever worked with,' he said. 'His organisation sessions are different to anything I have experienced.'

There was also praise for his 'passion', and the uplifting effect of seeing a manager 'bouncing' on the sideline. Then, with a straight face, he added: 'The only other thing you could say is that he is maybe too emotional.'

A fine understatement on a day in South Wales when Klopp was an eye-bulging, arm-waving, facecontorting, hair-swishing force. With it, and one half-time lecture, he woke up his team from 1-0 down at Swansea and ended his first year in charge with a fourth straight league win.

The anniversary of that first chapter is this Saturday, giving cause to take in how Liverpool have risen from the mid-table operation that saw Brendan Rodgers sacked to one that sits in fourth, fuelled by the power of their manager's personality.

Klopp has already told the club there ought to be no celebration, even if he did reluctantly reveal satisfaction with how that first year has gone. 'It's a year, I'm a year older and all this s\*\*\*, but everything else is good,' he said.

'There was doubt, there was a lot of rumour around me. People said, "Obviously he was good at Dortmund but a German managing here doesn't work". Things like this. That's better now.

'The thing is, I'm not here for a year, I'm here hopefully for the long term. My year is what, October 8? We will not celebrate, I can tell you that. Hopefully nobody brings me a cake.' There is nothing to celebrate at Swansea, who are likely to fire manager Francesco Guidolin this week. The 60-year-old flew home to Italy for a holiday on Saturday fearing the worst.

The club met Ryan Giggs and former USA coach Bob Bradley last week as they weigh up the first managerial change of the Premier League season.

SUPER STAT: James Milner has scored four penalties this season, the most in the Premier League.

SWANSEA CITY (4-3-3): Fabianski 7; Rangel 5.5, Van der Hoorn 5.5, Amat 7, Naughton 6; Fer 7 (Fulton 73min, 6), Britton 6.5, (Ki 63, 6) Cork 6.5; Routledge 6 (Barrow 63, 5), Borja 5, Sigurdsson 7. Subs not used: Taylor, Mawson, Nordfeldt, McBurnie. Scorer: Fer 8. Booked: Cork, Britton.

LIVERPOOL (4-2-3-1): Karius 6; Clyne 6.5, Matip 6, Lovren 6, Milner 7; Henderson 7, Wijnaldum 6.5 (Can 84); Firmino 7.5 (Origi 84), Coutinho 6.5, Lallana 6 (Sturridge 23, 6.5); Mane 7. Subs not used: Klavan, Moreno, Lucas, Mignolet.

Scorers: Firmino 54, Milner 84 pen. Booked: Henderson, Sturridge. Man of the match: Roberto Firmino. Referee: Michael Oliver 6.

## The Daily Telegraph

Klopp may be best manager I have had, says Milner

A roll call of the men James Milner has played under reads like the guest list at a League Managers' Association dinner, but the Liverpool midfielder believes Jurgen Klopp may yet prove to be the best of the lot.

In a 14-year club career, the ex-England midfielder has worked under Terry Venables, Sir Bobby Robson, Graeme Souness, Martin O'Neill, Roberto Mancini, Manuel Pellegrini and Brendan Rodgers.

But after calmly chipping home the penalty that put his club second in the Premier League table, Milner revealed how Klopp's high emotional energy - and it was a thermal half-time team talk that inspired this victory - does not detract from the clarity of his message. "He [Klopp] is a top manager and he's definitely one of the best that I have worked with," said Milner. "His organisation sessions are different to anything that I have ever experienced. His passion can only be a good thing. Sometimes, when he is bouncing on the touchline with enthusiasm, the only thing you could say is that he is too emotional.

"That's something he could easily have been at half-time with the performance we'd put in. But he held it in just enough. It's easy to fly off the handle and not be very productive. We know how emotional he is but he did a great job. He said the right things and we came out and performed how we should. He deserves a lot of credit. There's a long way to go and it's early stages. We're pleased with the win and we know we can beat anyone on our day."

Klopp had every cause to vent his frustrations at the interval when Liverpool were 1-0 down and lacking urgency in so many areas. Swansea were responding to their own manager's needs with a tempo that suggested that even if the club's American owners have given up on Francesco Guidolin, the players have not. The opening early goal for Leroy Fer should have been added to by Borja Baston, the Spanish striker making his full Premier League debut.

But after a warm but methodical blast of Germanic air had revived them, a Philippe Coutinho-guided Liverpool dominated the second half and were worthy winners thanks to Roberto Firmino's equaliser and Milner's spot-kick.

Milner has now scored three penalties in Liverpool's last two games, but it has been the versatility and ease with which he has been converted to a left-back that has really caught the eye. The 30-year-old announced his retirement from international football on the eve of the season and has no plans to reverse that decision now that Gareth Southgate has taken charge.

"I'm playing left-back at the moment and there are a number of very good left-backs who would be ahead of me, I'm sure," he said."

For Swansea, goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski believes the time has come for pragmatism and points, rather than rigid principle. He said: "It is not about being nice to watch or anything like that. It is about winning and grinding things out, even if it means sacrificing nice football. We have been better on the ball but the results are not happening."

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## THE INDEPENDENT

James Milner scores fourth penalty of the season to give Reds a late win  
A late penalty by James Milner secured Liverpool a fourth consecutive Premier League victory to send Jurgen Klopp's team to second place in the table just two points behind Manchester City.

Milner's fourth successful spot-kick this season enabled Liverpool to complete an impressive comeback because Klopp's side had been given the run-around by Swansea in the first-half before a dramatic change of fortunes.

Leroy Fer had put the Welsh side ahead in the eighth minute as a fee-good factor returned to the Liberty Stadium and eased the pressure on Francesco Guidolin but things turned sour for the hosts after the break.

Roberto Firmino leveled and then won the penalty as Swansea struggled to match Liverpool in a game that was increasingly one-sided and ran out of energy as Klopp's team pressed for a winner.

Klopp made just one change to the side that demolished Hull City 5-1 at Anfield a week ago as his team went into search of a fifth consecutive victory.

Dejan Lovren came back into the starting line-up in place of Ragnar Klavan at centre-back but the Serbian's return to the fray did not have the desired effect.

The Liverpool defence was at sixes and sevens in the opening exchanges as Swansea took control of the contest.

Borja Baston, the only change to the Swansea 1st XI in the 3-1 home defeat by Manchester City due to Fernando Llorente's rib injury, was handed his full league debut following his club-record £15.5-million signing from Atletico Madrid.

The 24-year-old could not have asked for a nicer welcome to the Premier League than the one given to him by Liverpool's leaden and ponderous defence but he failed to capitalise and nodded Wayne Routledge's inviting cross over with just Loris Karius to beat.

That was a wake-up call for Lovren and his fellow defenders but they ignored it and this time there was no let-off as Fer put the hosts ahead in the eighth minute.

Borja made up for his earlier lapse when he towered above Joel Matip at the far-post to win Gylfi Sigurdsson's corner and the ball was helped on by Mike van der Hoorn before Fer tapped over from close range.

Swansea looked anything but a side who went into the game fourth-bottom of the Premier League against opponents who struggled to get into their stride and were regularly out-manoeuvred by their hosts.

Borja should have doubled the lead when he beat Lovren to Sigurdsson's delicious free-kick into the box but headed narrowly wide from just eight yards.

Things went from bad to worse for Klopp as it became apparent England midfielder Adam Lallana was struggling and he went midway through the first-half with a groin injury which puts in doubt his participation in the upcoming internationals against Malta and Slovenia.

Lallana was replaced by Daniel Sturridge but he found it tough going as well and was booked for diving in the Swansea penalty area by referee Michael Oliver as Liverpool resorted to desperate measures against measured opponents for whom Sigurdsson shone.

The half-time cups of tea in the Liverpool dressing room and the Klopp pep talk clearly did the trick because his team raised their game once the second half began.

There was a real feeling that the momentum had changed and that was especially the case once parity had been restored by Firmino in the 54th minute.

The Brazilian was the darling of the travelling Liverpool fans when he broke Swansea's off-side trap to nod in Jordan Henderson's chipped through-ball after Philippe Coutinho's free-kick had been charged down.

It was hardly the most stylish goal Firmino will score but no one would have been complaining the Liverpool camp as it prove to be the catalyst for Klopp's side to dominate while Swansea started looking like relegation candidates

Milner had the last word in the 84th minute with his penalty after Swansea's defence disintegrated and Angel Rangel carelessly fouled Firmino.

Swansea were not done, though, and Van der Hoorn could have equalised in stoppage time but he was out of luck while Guidolin could well be out of a job soon.

## DAILY MIRROR

I'M HERR TO STAY; Klopp celebrates a year in England and declares:  
They said a German boss wouldn't work and all this s\*\*\*.. not perfect but it's what I had hoped for

SWANSEA 1

Fer 8

LIVERPOOL 2

Firmino 54, Milner 84 pen

AS the game which concluded the first year of his Liverpool reign, this was not just a milestone for Jurgen Klopp, but also a landmark.

It marked not only the distance his team has travelled in those 12 months since he arrived at Anfield to much fanfare, but also perhaps the most significant indicator yet he is fashioning a side eventually capable of challenging for the title. His team were awful in the first half here, the home side out-Klopping the Reds in their energetic pressing and swift passing, to take a deserved lead that could easily have been trebled but for the wastefulness of Borja.

Those are the contests Liverpool have, for so long, invariably lost, even since Klopp arrived; buckling under the pressure of their underperformance, just as they did here last season when they were walloped. Just as they did at Burnley in August.

Just as you expected them to again when Leroy Fer again exposed a setpiece weakness that makes Liverpool the side to have conceded the most goals in the Premier League over the past year, with the exception of the Swans themselves. But this seems a very different stage of the evolution under Klopp even from that Burnley game, and the compelling way they fought back in the second half suggests something significant - Klopp himself thinks so - even if there is still caution in his words. He has at least proved wrong those who doubted a German manager could cut it in the Premier League.

"There was doubt, there was a lot of rumour around me. People said, 'obviously he was a good coach at Dortmund but a German managing here doesn't work' things like this.

That's better now," said Klopp.

"After one year standing here, we can talk like this now - it's a year, I'm a year older and all this s\*\*t, but everything else is good. Not perfect, but in a good way. It's what we hoped for.

"The thing is, I'm not here for a year, I'm here hopefully for the long term, and it means we have to use all the information we have until now and learn from it. That's how life works - being ready for the next challenge."

That challenge is winning Liverpool's first Premier League title. And despite those defensive frailties, you would not bet against the German doing it because of all the attacking options he has. They've scored more goals than any other Premier League side in those 12 months, but perhaps even more impressively, top the list for most goals away from home by some distance.

They did not have a shot on target during the first half, but Roberto Firmino, Sadio Mane and Philippe Coutinho ran riot in the second.

Firmino levelled with a brilliant header, before winning the penalty for James Milner to win the game.

So what do the next 12 months hold for Liverpool? Klopp knows what is required.

He added: "Yes, the history of this club was important to me - when they called me, even when I was ready for a year on holiday, I knew that it would be difficult to say no, to stay on holiday.

"But it's not about enjoying the history, it's about being part of it. That's what we have to do."

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### Stirring comeback sees Reds leap to second in the table

Liverpool staged a stirring second-half comeback to beat Swansea City 2-1 at the Liberty Stadium.

James Milner's late penalty - his fourth of the season - secured a fifth straight win in all competitions as Jurgen Klopp's side moved up to second place in the Premier League.

The Reds showed great powers of recovery after a dismal first-half display. Leroy Fer put Swansea in front but once Roberto Firmino equalised early in the second half it was one-way traffic.

The only downside for Klopp was the sight of Adam Lallana limping off.

Swansea deservedly went into the break ahead having out-worked and out-played the Reds during the opening 45 minutes.

Liverpool were way off the pace as passes went astray and they made a string of careless errors.

Borja had already wasted one chance when Swansea took the lead on eight minutes. Once again Liverpool's weakness at defending set-pieces was exposed. Gylfi Sigurdsson's corner was nodded down by Borja and helped on by Mike van der Hoorn for Fer to convert from close range.

The Reds still haven't kept an away clean sheet in the Premier League since they went to Villa Park in February.

Klopp's side looked rattled with composure in possession in desperately short supply. After Roberto Firmino gave the ball away cheaply, Fer lashed a 25-yarder over the bar.

Liverpool suffered a further blow midway through the first half when Lallana went off in discomfort.

Daniel Sturridge replaced him with Philippe Coutinho dropping into an advanced central midfield role.

Borja should have made it 2-0 but nodded wide after rising to meet Sigurdsson's free-kick. Sturridge was booked for diving as Liverpool continued to toil.

Sadio Mane looked the one most likely to make something happen but after breaking clear his shot was expertly blocked by Jordi Amat.

Whatever was said at half-time did the trick as Liverpool finally came to life.

Lukasz Fabianski kept out Firmino's 25-yarder but he was beaten by the Brazilian nine minutes into the second half.

After Coutinho's free-kick had struck the wall, Henderson lofted the ball back into the penalty box and the unmarked Firmino nodded into the bottom corner.

Suddenly, Liverpool were dominant. Coutinho curled narrowly wide before Nathaniel Clyne forced a save from Fabianski.

With 20 minutes to go James Milner did brilliantly to dispossess Mike van der Hoorn inside the box but the opening was wasted.

Rather than put it on a plate for Mane, the left-back's pass was behind him and the attacker was closed down.

Sturridge sent a glancing header wide before Liverpool finally got their reward. Firmino was shoved over by Angel Rangel and Milner stepped up to send the travelling Kop into raptures.

There was a late scare when Van der Hoorn volleyed wide from close range but Liverpool held on.

#### MATCH FACTS

Swansea : Fabianski, Rangel, Amat, Van der Hoorn, Naughton, Britton (Ki 63), Routledge (Barrow 62), Fer (Fulton 72), Cork, Sigurdsson, Borja.

Not used : Nordfeldt, Taylor, Mawson, McBurnie

Liverpool : Karius, Clyne, Matip, Lovren, Milner, Henderson, Lallana (Sturridge 23), Wijnaldum (Can 85), Mane, Coutinho, Firmino (Origi 85).

Not used : Mignolet, Klavan, Moreno, Lucas.

Referee : Michael Oliver

Goals : Fer 8, Firmino 54, Milner 84

Bookings : Henderson, Cork, Sturridge

Man of the match : Sadio Mane.



A late James Milner penalty ensured Liverpool picked up their fourth consecutive Premier League win and left Swansea hovering just above the relegation spots.

The Swans put in a strong show today and were well worth their 8th minute lead through midfielder Leroy Fer.

Playing Liverpool at their own game early on, Swansea pressed high and seemed to catch Klopp's side cold.

With the majority of possession and their tails up Swansea won a corner in the 7th minute after Sigurdsson had played Baston through on the right.

Sigurdsson's resulting corner was headed back across goal by Borja Baston and Van der Hoorn seemed to get a slight touch before Fer stabbed over the line to put the Swans ahead at the break.

Whatever Jürgen Klopp said at half-time did the trick however, as Liverpool, unrecognisable from the team that toiled in the opening 45 minutes, turned the game on its head.

It was one-way traffic in the second half and a Roberto Firmino header and a late James Milner penalty saw the Reds take the three points back to Merseyside.

Steve Kaplan and Jason Levien, Swansea's American owners, had flown in to watch the match and would be hard pressed not to recognise the spirited performance.

Yet the harsh reality is that this was a fifth defeat in seven league games for Swansea

What the result means for Francesco Guidolin's future, we'll just have to see.

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# THE INDEPENDENT

ON SUNDAY

Another Milner penalty hands Liverpool late win

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Klopp made just one change to the side that demolished Hull City 5-1 at Anfield a week ago as his team went into search of a fifth consecutive victory.

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The 24-year-old could not have asked for a nicer welcome to the Premier League than the one given to him by Liverpool(tm)s leaden and ponderous defence but he failed to capitalise and nodded Wayne Routledge(tm)s inviting cross over with just Loris Karius to beat.

That was a wake-up call for Lovren and his fellow defenders but they ignored it and this time there was no let-off as Fer put the hosts ahead in the eighth minute.

Borja made up for his earlier lapse when he towered above Joel Matip at the far-post to win Gylfi Sigurdsson(tm)s corner and the ball was helped on by Mike van der Hoorn before Fer tapped over from close range.

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There was a real feeling that the momentum had changed and that was especially the case once parity had been restored by Firmino in the 54th minute.

The Brazilian was the darling of the travelling Liverpool fans when he broke Swansea(tm)s off-side trap to nod in Jordan Henderson(tm)s chipped through-ball after Philippe Coutinho(tm)s free-kick had been charged down.

It was hardly the most stylish goal Firmino will score but no one would have been complaining the Liverpool camp as it prove to be the catalyst for Klopp(tm)s side to dominate while Swansea started looking like relegation candidates Milner had the last word in the 84th minute with his penalty after Swansea(tm)s defence disintegrated and Angel Rangel carelessly fouled Firmino.

Swansea were not done, though, and Van der Hoorn could have equalised in stoppage time but he was out of luck while Guidolin could well be out of a job soon.

## The Sunday Telegraph

Firmino answers call after Klopp's blast lifts Liverpool

Swansea City 1 Fer 8 Liverpool 2 Firmino 54, Milner 84 Att: 20,862

Jurgen Klopp had reason to thank Roberto Firmino for the blossoming of Liverpool's title credentials even before the autumn leaves have started to fall.

The Liverpool manager had talked before this game of how collective confidence was a delicate flower that needed care and nurturing if it was to grow. Swansea threatened to stamp on Klopp's green shoots for periods in this game but, by the time Firmino had equalised Leroy Fer's opener for a gallant Swansea and then earned the penalty from which James Milner won the game, everything in Klopp's garden was looking far more rosy. This was a fourth straight victory for Liverpool and the German could at least take some satisfaction from his team's powers of recovery after a sluggish start that he could not account for.

"We were not ready for that first half and I take responsibility for that, but I cannot tell you why," said Klopp. "We were too static in our build-up. Swansea did well but we should not allowed it to be that that easy. No movement. We were never compact enough and lost a lot of balls."

It needed some harsh words from their manager to revive Liverpool at half-time and their response was a far more urgent performance that produced an equalising goal within nine minutes of the restart.

Philippe Coutinho had his free-kick blocked but, when Jordan Henderson hoisted the ball into the Swansea penalty area, Firmino was left alone. The Brazilian expertly beat Lukasz Fabianski with a precise header.

That might have been all the reward Liverpool departed with had Swansea substitute Mo Barrow not put Angel Rangel under pressure with a reckless, aimless clearance six minutes from full-time.

Rangel got the wrong side of Firmino and, although it may have been harsh judgment to have awarded the penalty for the push on the Brazilian, Klopp's side just about deserved it for the sheer dominance of their second-half display. They will face tougher assignments than this, but their refusal to accept a bad day at the office with a shrug of the shoulders was an indicator of how things have changed at Anfield. The past inconsistencies were not allowed to reappear and they duly built on thumping win over Hull City.

The only downside for Klopp were injuries to Adam Lallana and Dejan Lovren, who both suffered groin injuries. Both are expected to be out for two weeks, which denies Lallana the chance of playing in England's forthcoming World Cup qualifiers. "We got better in the second half and when we let the ball roll it became difficult for Swansea," added Klopp. "The second half was better, but still not brilliant. But we deserved to win - even with that late chance for Swansea."

"I was very angry at half-time. I have lost a lot of football games, but today was making no sense. It was not a day when we should lose."

"I told the players it was not allowed for us to just accept a bad day. We have to fight against it. We have to strike back. We lost patience and were moaning about decisions. We need to stop that. We were angry with ourselves, but we got cooler. No doubt about it. It's important that when not brilliant, you are still able to win. "I can count brilliant games in a season on one hand, but it's important to win regularly. I didn't think this would be a bad day, because there was no sign in training."

Firmino's pace and the probing of Coutinho swayed the second half in Liverpool's favour after Swansea had taken a deserved lead after only eight minutes. The visitors' defence looked pedestrian from the opening stages and it was no real surprise when they reacted slowly at a corner allowing Fer to sweep home the opening goal. It was the Dutch midfielder's fourth of the season. Swansea, however, ran out of steam early in the second half and, although Barrow provided some energy when he came on, it was his miscued clearance that led to Milner's winning penalty in the 84th minute.

In the end, they paid the price for not taking further opportunities when they were ahead. Spanish striker Borja Baston was especially guilty as he twice sent tame headers wide of the target when he should have scored.

The Swans also had a late chance to earn a point, but defender Mike van der Hoorn fluffed another effort from in front of goal in added time. The result leaves Swansea still looking for their first victory since the opening day of the season and their manager Francesco Guidolin admitted they had wasted an opportunity. "Against a team like Liverpool, it was important to score again," said the Italian. "It wasn't easy but I am disappointed. It was the same situation as last week against Manchester City. "Our first half was better than the last game, though. We deserved to lead, but we know Liverpool is a strong team."

"In the second half, the right result would have been draw. The first half was ours, the second belonged to Liverpool."

"At the end, we had a big chance, but that is football. You can play a good game, but not get a good result. But I am confident because I saw my team play for 95 minutes with character and quality."

Swansea City (4-2-3-1) Fabianski 7; Rangel 6, Van der Hoorn 6, Amat 7, Naughton 6; Britton 7 (Ki Sung-yueng 63), Fer 6, (Fulton 71) Cork 6, Routledge 6 (Barrow 61), Sigurdsson 7; Borja 6. Subs Nordfeldt (g), Taylor, Mawson, McBurnie. Booked Fer, Britton.

Liverpool (4-2-3-1) Karius 6; Clyne 6, Matip 5, Lovren 6, Milner 6; Henderson 6, Lallana 5 (Sturridge 23); Wijnaldum 5 (Can 84), Mane 6, Coutinho 7; Firmino 7 (Oriji 84). Subs Mignolet (g), Klavan, Moreno, Leiva. Booked Henderson, Sturridge. Referee: M Oliver (Ashington).

Date: 1 October 2016

Opposition: Swansea City

Competition: League

BBC	Sunday Times	Times	Telegraph
Echo	Sun Independent	Guardian	Mirror
Mail	Sun Telegraph	Independent	SW Evening Post

1 October 2016



## THE SUNDAY TIMES

Milner calms nervy Reds

SWANSEA 1 Fer 8 LIVERPOOL 2 Firmino 54 Milner 84 pen

LIVERPOOL moved to second in the Premier League, but they were disjointed at the Liberty stadium and flattered by the victory that came gift-wrapped from the opposition courtesy of two bad defensive errors in the second half.

Rarely this season will Jurgen Klopp's side have to work so lightly for their goals away from home. First Roberto Firmino and then James Milner, from the penalty spot, punished Swansea's sloppiness after Leroy Fer gave the home side the lead in the first half. At least Liverpool shook themselves from a lethargic start to display the type of urgency required to unsettle the opposition, to the extent that Swansea failed in the basics of defending a lead. Milner remarked afterwards that Klopp had been as angry as he had seen him at half-time and the manager did little to alter that impression himself. "I cannot change a lot in a game. Half-time I can but only when the players have open ears. They had, so that was good. It's very important that on not brilliant performance days we're still able to win, but I was not happy with the start." Liverpool's winner six minutes from the end followed some particularly egregious errors, first by the substitute Modou Barrow, who miscued his clearance so badly that it brought the ball closer to his own goal. To make matters worse, Angel Rangel then swung at the ball and, having missed, the defender barged into Firmino as the Liverpool striker bore down on Lukasz Fabianski's goal. Milner's spot kick deceived Fabianski and was a proper reward for the left-back, who was one of the few Liverpool players to do himself justice. For Swansea the presence at the stadium of the new American owners fuelled the suspicion that the meeting they are to have later this week with the manager, Francesco Guidolin, could spell curtains for the likeable Italian. Guidolin was entitled to feel a little let down that his side were only a goal ahead at halftime as Borja Baston, Swansea's record PS15m signing from Atletico Madrid, missed a couple of excellent opportunities with his head on his full league debut. The first came after only five minutes from Wayne Routledge's cross and then the second from a wickedly delivered free kick from Gylfi Sigurdsson on 26 minutes which he sent wide. By that stage, however, Swansea were buoyant and already a goal up. Leon Britton's corner to the far post was headed back across goal by Borja, who beat Nathaniel Clyne in the air, and Fer poked the ball in from point-blank range. Liverpool, after their 5-1 demolition of Hull City the previous weekend, appeared to be resting on their laurels and conceded possession far too easily as Swansea pressed them all over the pitch. They were slow too in replacing Adam Lallana, who sustained a groin injury early on and was replaced by Daniel Sturridge. It was not long before Sturridge was booked for diving as Liverpool made a rare foray into the box, then Jordi Amat produced a brilliant tackle to whip the ball from the feet of Sadio Mane as the Liverpool striker looked set to score. Mane was the liveliest of the Liverpool players, but he could not do it all by himself. However, the huge effort put in by Swansea did not sustain itself beyond the first half. At the start of the second, Firmino had a shot saved by Fabianski and Britton then conceded a free kick in a dangerous area when he fouled Mane. Philippe Coutinho's effort slammed into the Swansea wall, and rebounded out to Jordan Henderson. At this point, Swansea made an illadvised effort to rush out and catch Liverpool offside, but Firmino was clearly not infringing the rules when the ball reached the penalty area on Liverpool's second attempt. Unmarked, he placed a smart header past Fabianski. At last, first-half passengers such as Coutinho and Georginio Wijnaldum were spurred into meaningful action and combined to almost give Liverpool the lead. Mane then had another effort well blocked by Kyle Naughton as Liverpool further increased the intensity. Still it required something of a meltdown in the Swansea defence to present the winner on a plate to Liverpool and put them in good cheer for their next league game at home to Manchester United. Swansea are without a win since the opening game of the season and though the level of performance improved against Liverpool from their earlier lamentable form, Guidolin is under pressure. "I am not worried for my position but for our place in table," he said. "I thought we deserved a draw today. Our team is a good one and we have the ability to turn things round. There are things we have to improve, but we are working hard for this as well."

Swansea City: Fabianski, 6 Rangel 5, Van der Hoorn 6, Amat 6, Naughton 6, Fer 6 (Fulton 72min, 6), Britton 5 (Ki Sung-yeung 63min, 5), Cork 6, Routledge 6 (Barrow 62min, 6), Borja 5, Sigurdsson 6

Liverpool: Karius 6, Clyne 6, Matip 6, Lovren 6, Milner 7, Henderson 6, Lallana 5 (Sturridge 23min, 5), Wijnaldum 5 (Can 85min, 5), Mane 7, Firmino 7 (Origi 85min, 6), Coutinho 5

### SET-PIECE COUNT RISES FOR KLOPP

Jurgen Klopp's coaching masterclass on Sky Sport's Monday Night Football last week touched on why Liverpool concede so many goals from set-pieces. 'We don't have the tallest team in the league. We don't have the physical quality for set-piece defending,' he said. When told that his side had conceded 15 league goals from set-pieces since he joined the club, the German added: 'That number from set-pieces isn't good. It's an issue for us.' The total rose to 16 yesterday when Leroy Fer tapped in from Borja Baston's knock-down. It was the 50th league goal Liverpool have conceded since Klopp joined the club a year ago this week. They have kept only one clean sheet in 15 away Premier League games in 2016, but have scored more away goals (28) this year than any other top-flight side

## The Observer

Date: 1 October 2016

Opposition: Swansea City

Competition: League

BBC	Sunday Times	Times	Telegraph
Echo	Sun Independent	Guardian	Mirror
Mail	Sun Telegraph	Independent	SW Evening Post

1 October 2016



James Milner's late penalty gave Liverpool a hard-fought victory over Swansea, increasing the scrutiny on Swans boss Francesco Guidolin.

Leroy Fer gave the hosts a first-half lead when he steered the ball home from close range at the back post after Baston Borja's knockdown from a corner.

Roberto Firmino levelled shortly after half-time when he headed in from Jordan Henderson's cross.

Milner netted the winner six minutes from time after Firmino was fouled.

The Liverpool midfielder's goal was just reward a dominant second half from his team, who have now won four Premier League games in a row.

It was, however, a little cruel on Swansea, whose spirited performance has probably bought Guidolin a little more time to turn things around.

The Swans are above the relegation zone on goal difference and have not won in the league since the opening day of the season.

But the club's owners had indicated before the game that the manner of performances would have as much of a bearing on Guidolin's future as the results.

Reds show powers of recovery

Liverpool arrived in south Wales on a high, winning their past three league games and scoring 11 goals in the process.

Despite his side's fluency in attack, manager Jurgen Klopp had expressed concerns about the Reds' fragility from set-pieces, and his fears proved well founded as they fell behind in scrappy circumstances.

Rattled by their opponents' energetic pressing, Liverpool conceded a corner and, from it, Swansea's £15m record signing Borja headed across goal for Fer to turn the ball in from a yard out.

The ragged visitors could have conceded another had Borja not been so wayward with a free header - and Liverpool fans may have feared another hard lucky story, akin to their only defeat of the season at Burnley, on 20 August.

However, the visitors were vastly improved in the second half as they recaptured their recent impressive form and equalised thanks to more unsteady set-piece defending, as Firmino headed in from close range.

Klopp's side dominated from that point and, after they were initially thwarted by dogged Swansea defending, they eventually struck when Angel Rangel pushed Firmino in the back and Milner calmly converted the penalty.

Guidolin's uncertain future

In stark contrast to their high-flying opponents, Swansea entered the game in the midst of a torrid spell chairman Huw Jenkins described in the match programme as the hardest of his 12 years at the helm.

Guidolin's future remains in the balance, with his side just one point above the relegation zone and without a league win since beating Burnley on 13 August.

His players responded to his plight superbly, harassing Liverpool with a high-octane first-half display.

However, they were overwhelmed after the interval and were powerless to stop Guidolin suffering a third successive league defeat for the first time in his tenure. His position is now as uncertain as ever.

Although Swansea's owners have started compiling a shortlist of potential successors in the event of Guidolin's sacking, they indicated beforehand that the Italian would be given time to turn the club's fortunes around.

After yet another game without a win, though, that time may be running out for Guidolin.

Man of the match - Roberto Firmino

Swansea boss Francesco Guidolin:

"The players gave me a good answer. Our relationship is good. There is no problem between me and my players.

"I don't know [about the future]. It's not my decision. It's just for me to prepare for the game and the team. I know the situation. It's a possibility. The important thing is to prepare with patience.

"Before the game I saw the new owners Jason [Levien] and Steve [Kaplan] just to say 'hello'. I don't know if in the next day there's meeting."

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp:

"I thought we could have done better in the first half. Our body language was not good, we were static and it was easy to defend against us. We are not as good as we should have been.

"You have to show why we are here. We showed a reaction, were more organised, clear in all situations and we deserved to win. Of course I am happy we have had two or three brilliant games in a row.

"If Milner is our top scorer at end of the season with penalties, I have no problem with it. All is good. The performance was not perfect but it was good enough."

Stats of the day

Swansea led in this game for 46 minutes longer than in their six previous top-flight games this season combined (27 minutes).

Liverpool failed to have a single first-half shot on target for the first time in the Premier League this season.

The Swans have conceded twice or more in four consecutive Premier League home games for only the second time, following a four-game run in September 2013.

James Milner has scored four penalties in the Premier League this season, more than any team.

Liverpool have now gone 10 away games without a clean sheet in the Premier League - their longest since a 12-game run in 1998.

What's next?

After the international break, Swansea face another tough game in the Premier League when they head to Arsenal on Saturday, 15 October (15:00 BST). Liverpool face fierce rivals Manchester United at Anfield on Monday, 17 October (20:00 BST).

Date: 1 October 2016

Opposition: Swansea City

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1 October 2016



Match ends, Swansea City 1, Liverpool 2.

90'+5' Second Half ends, Swansea City 1, Liverpool 2.

90'+3' Attempt missed. Mike van der Hoorn (Swansea City right footed shot from the centre of the box misses to the left. Assisted by Angel Rangel with a cross.

90'+2' Attempt saved. Divock Origi (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.

86' Attempt saved. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool left footed shot from a difficult angle on the left is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Divock Origi.

85' Substitution, Liverpool. Divock Origi replaces Roberto Firmino.

85' Substitution, Liverpool. Emre Can replaces Georginio Wijnaldum.

84' Goal! Swansea City 1, Liverpool 2. James Milner (Liverpool converts the penalty with a right footed shot to the high centre of the goal.

83' Penalty Liverpool. Roberto Firmino draws a foul in the penalty area.

83' Penalty conceded by Angel Rangel (Swansea City after a foul in the penalty area.

81' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Borja Bastón.

81' Attempt blocked. Joel Matip (Liverpool header from the right side of the six yard box is blocked. Assisted by Jordan Henderson with a cross.

80' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Jack Cork.

80' Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by James Milner.

78' Foul by Joel Matip (Liverpool).

78' Gylfi Sigurdsson (Swansea City wins a free kick on the left wing.

77' Delay over. They are ready to continue.

77' Delay in match Loris Karius (Liverpool because of an injury.

76' Corner, Swansea City. Conceded by Joel Matip.

75' Corner, Swansea City. Conceded by Joel Matip.

75' Attempt blocked. Jay Fulton (Swansea City header from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Modou Barrow with a cross.

73' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Modou Barrow.

72' Substitution, Swansea City. Jay Fulton replaces Leroy Fer.

69' Attempt missed. Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool header from the centre of the box misses to the left. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho with a cross following a corner.

69' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Kyle Naughton.

69' Attempt blocked. Sadio Mané (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by James Milner.

68' Attempt saved. Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Georginio Wijnaldum.

65' Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

65' Foul by Modou Barrow (Swansea City.

64' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Jordi Amat.

64' Jordan Henderson (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

64' Foul by Gylfi Sigurdsson (Swansea City.

63' Substitution, Swansea City. Ki Sung-yueng replaces Leon Britton.

62' Substitution, Swansea City. Modou Barrow replaces Wayne Routledge.

59' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Angel Rangel.

59' Attempt blocked. Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Nathaniel Clyne.

58' Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by Georginio Wijnaldum.

56' Sadio Mané (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

56' Foul by Jack Cork (Swansea City.

54' Goal! Swansea City 1, Liverpool 1. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool header from the centre of the box to the bottom left corner. Assisted by Jordan Henderson following a set piece situation.

54' Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked.

53' Leon Britton (Swansea City is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

53' Sadio Mané (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

53' Foul by Leon Britton (Swansea City.

48' Attempt blocked. Sadio Mané (Liverpool right footed shot from a difficult angle on the right is blocked.

48' Attempt saved. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.

47' Sadio Mané (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

47' Foul by Jordi Amat (Swansea City.

Second Half begins Swansea City 1, Liverpool 0.

45'+3' First Half ends, Swansea City 1, Liverpool 0.

45' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Jordi Amat.

44' Attempt saved. Gylfi Sigurdsson (Swansea City right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the top centre of the goal.

43' Foul by Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool).

43' Leon Britton (Swansea City wins a free kick in the attacking half.

42' Attempt blocked. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Dejan Lovren.

42' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Jordi Amat.

40' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Mike van der Hoorn.

40' Attempt blocked. Sadio Mané (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho with a through ball.

39' Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool is shown the yellow card.

39' Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool has gone down, but that's a dive.

38' Jack Cork (Swansea City is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

38' Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

38' Foul by Jack Cork (Swansea City.

37' Foul by Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool.

37' Borja Bastón (Swansea City wins a free kick in the defensive half.

36' Attempt blocked. Dejan Lovren (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Georginio Wijnaldum.

35' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Jordi Amat.

31' Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

31' Foul by Mike van der Hoorn (Swansea City.

29' Foul by Sadio Mané (Liverpool.

29' Kyle Naughton (Swansea City wins a free kick in the defensive half.

29' Foul by Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool.

29' Leroy Fer (Swansea City wins a free kick in the defensive half.

26' Foul by Sadio Mané (Liverpool.

26' Mike van der Hoorn (Swansea City wins a free kick in the defensive half.

26' Attempt missed. Borja Bastón (Swansea City header from the centre of the box is close, but misses to the left following a set piece situation.

25' Jordan Henderson (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

25' Foul by Jordan Henderson (Liverpool.

25' Jack Cork (Swansea City wins a free kick in the attacking half.

24' Offside, Liverpool. Georginio Wijnaldum tries a through ball, but Daniel Sturridge is caught offside.

23' Substitution, Liverpool. Daniel Sturridge replaces Adam Lallana because of an injury.

23' Foul by Roberto Firmino (Liverpool.

23' Jack Cork (Swansea City wins a free kick in the defensive half.

22' James Milner (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.

22' Foul by Wayne Routledge (Swansea City.

21' Attempt saved. Jack Cork (Swansea City right footed shot from the centre of the box is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Gylfi Sigurdsson with a through ball.

20' Delay over. They are ready to continue.

20' Delay in match Adam Lallana (Liverpool because of an injury.

19' Delay over. They are ready to continue.

18' Delay in match Adam Lallana (Liverpool because of an injury.

18' Offside, Swansea City. Lukasz Fabianski tries a through ball, but Borja Bastón is caught offside.

17' Adam Lallana (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

17' Foul by Leroy Fer (Swansea City.

15' Offside, Liverpool. Sadio Mané tries a through ball, but Roberto Firmino is caught offside.

14' Attempt missed. Leroy Fer (Swansea City right footed shot from outside the box is too high.

10' Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

10' Foul by Gylfi Sigurdsson (Swansea City.

9' Attempt missed. Adam Lallana (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box misses to the left. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.

8' Goal! Swansea City 1, Liverpool 0. Leroy Fer (Swansea City left footed shot from very close range to the centre of the goal following a corner.

7' Corner, Swansea City. Conceded by Dejan Lovren.

5' Attempt missed. Borja Bastón (Swansea City header from the centre of the box is high and wide to the left. Assisted by Wayne Routledge with a cross.

First Half begins.

Lineups are announced and players are warming up.