Opposition: Bournemouth Competition: League

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5 April 2017

THE TIMES

King puts paid to Liverpool fightback

Liverpool 2 Coutinho 40, Origi 59 Bournemouth 2 Afobe 7, King 86

The scenario was all too familiar. A long throw-in provoked panic, chances to clear were carelessly spurned and, by the end, Liverpool's quest for a crucial victory in their pursuit of the Champions League was gone. Just three minutes remained, a precious lead still in the grasp of Jurgen Klopp's side, when their propensity to fold under pressure resurfaced at the most inopportune moment as Steve Cook launched the ball into the penalty area. Following ricochets galore it was Josh King who proved to have the coolest head among a cluster of bodies as he spun and dispatched a shot that brought Bournemouth parity.

Klopp would have realised it was not a night for the purist, but having overturned Benik Afobe's seventh-minute opener with goals from Philippe Coutinho and Divock Origi he would have hoped to capitalise on Manchester City's defeat with a pivotal victory.

As it was, old habits continue to die hard; not simply in the slipshod defending but in Liverpool's insistence on making life difficult for themselves.

It was Bournemouth's feat in clambering off the canvas, turning a 3-1 deficit into a remarkable 4-3 success when the teams met in December, which has helped fuel the debate over Liverpool's ability to negotiate those assignments posed by opponents outside the top six.

The absence of Mane, along with Adam Lallana and Jordan Henderson and with Joel Matip only fit enough to be a substitute, allowed another dollop of doubt to fester. They were panicked by Bournemouth's pressing and Wijnaldum, confronted by Harry Arter, inexplicably sought to play the ball back to Simon Mignolet even though Afobe was lurking.

Afobe, unsurprisingly, prodded a smart left-foot finish beyond the advancing goalkeeper. Wijnaldum sunk to his knees and buried his face in his hands. It was Bournemouth's first goal at Anfield since Emlyn Hughes put one through his own net in an FA Cup tie in 1968. Marc Pugh and King had the chances to forge a greater advantage for Bournemouth while Liverpool failed to muster any semblance of rhythm Divock Origi, Mane's replacement, failed to connect at the far post when a Coutinho corner reached him inadevertently, but otherwise there were only shots from distance. Wijnaldum sought to make amends before Coutinho struck the side-netting with an ambitious free kick.

No Brazilian more Premier goals than Coutinho Anfield had held a minute's applause for the looming anniversary of the Hillsborough disaster before kick-off, but, thereafter, impatience from the stands greeted a disjointed first-half display on the field. The equaliser, when it arrived, owed everything to route-one football with Mignolet's clearance flicked on by Origi before landing at the feet of Roberto Firmino. A host of defenders surrounded him on the edge of the Bournemouth area, but the Brazilian managed to smuggle the ball down the side of Simon Francis where Coutinho evaded Adam Smith.

Coutinho brought the ball under control, almost stumbling at one point, and dispatched his effort into the corner of the net expertly.

Kenny Dalglish, the former Liverpool manager and player, had spent the first half sitting on The Kop as part of a documentary that he is filming, but he was back in his seat in the directors' box by the time a second-half siege towards that goal commenced.

It signalled a shift in momentum that would bring Liverpool the lead just before the hour mark.

29 has scored League Philippe (level with Juninho) Wijnaldum wriggled away from Jack Wilshere, turning him inside and out, on the left of the penalty area before standing up a delightful cross for Origi to head home from inside the six-yard box. Bournemouth responded by sending on Ryan Fraser, whose raw pace had sparked the fightback on the south coast before Christmas. Klopp countered by replacing Coutinho with Matip and switching to a back three, and in appeared that they would hold firm until familiar late panic set in.

Club's academy transfer ban

Liverpool have been banned from signing academy players from English sides for two years and fined PS100,000 after becoming the first club to fall foul of the Premier League's new rules on tapping up. The second year of the transfer ban is suspended for a three-year period.

The case relates to a 11-year-old Stoke City schoolboy whom Liverpool recruited for their under-12s having invited him to a game, along with his father, at Anfield and paid for their travel expenses -- an illegal inducement under the Premier League's five-step process. An investigation found that there had also been "regular communications between representatives of the club and members of the player's family". A spokesman said: "The club accepts the sanction." Liverpool (4-3-3): S Mignolet 6 -- N Clyne 7, D Lovren 6, R Klavan 6, J Milner 6 -- L Leiva 7, E Can 7, G Wijnaldum 6 -- R Firmino 7, D Origi 7, P Coutinho 7 (sub: J Matip 65, 6). Substitutes not used: L Karius, T Alexander-Arnold, A Moreno, M Grujic, B Woodburn, D Sturridge. Booked: Lucas.

Bournemouth (4-4-2): A Boruc 6 -- A Smith 6, S Francis 6, S Cook 6, C Daniels 6 -- J Ibe 6 (sub: R Fraser 61, 6), H Arter 7, J Wilshere 6, M Pugh 6 (sub: M Gradel 83) -- J King 7, B Afobe 7. Substitutes not used: R Allsop, B Smith, L Cook, L Mousset, B Cargill. Booked: Fraser. Referee: L Mason.

theguardian

Bournemouth's Joshua King preys on Liverpool nerves to share points By the end, with the <u>Bournemouth</u> players cavorting in front of their delirious supporters and an important step in the race for the Champions League squandered, Philippe Coutinho was not the only one in red feeling nauseous at Anfield. Liverpool had almost fulfilled Jürgen Klopp's pre-match instruction to start winning ugly when they strayed into the grotesque.

There were three minutes of normal time remaining when Steve Cook launched a long throw into the Liverpool penalty area. Klopp's team had shown resolve, courage and the occasional moment of class to turn an early deficit into what would have been an invaluable lead against Eddie Howe's enterprising side. They had reverted to three at the back after the injured Sadio Mané's replacement, Divock Origi, put them ahead in the 59th minute as a protection policy and in response to Coutinho departing through illness. But that old failing of defending a set-piece cost <u>Liverpool</u> yet again.

Dejan Lovren, Emre Can and Ragnar Klavan all had opportunities to clear but Joshua King, collecting Harry Arter's shot from outside the area, was able to turn the Estonian defender far too easily and steer an equaliser beyond a furious Simon Mignolet. This season's other familiar flaw, struggling against teams in the bottom half of the table, had also reappeared to undermine Liverpool's hold on a top-four finish.

"We had to change Phil because he felt sick at half-time," said the Liverpool manager. "He vomited then said he felt better but it was clear when he made the sign that he has to change. It's no joy when you have to take off your best player. "We decided to organise a little differently, three at the back plus two in front with Lucas [Leiva] and Emre to give the full-backs opportunity to use the space on the wings. We could close the game in one moment, we didn't, we left it open — second goal after a set-piece and then nearly vomit from me. That is not nice. We have to take it. It is my responsibility all of this. I have to be more clear to my players but we will find a solution."

Liverpool still had chances to win after King's late leveller but Klavan headed straight at Artur Boruc from close range and Origi was unable to connect with Joël Matip's flick towards the far post.

Matip, shifted to the substitutes' bench as a result of a back problem suffered against Everton on Saturday, was the man chosen to replace Coutinho as Klopp opted for insurance over adventure at 2-1. Bournemouth's refusal to accept defeat has yielded four points against Liverpool this season but their manager insisted Klopp's defensive switch was not a factor in their latest impressive

"The game had changed and the scoreline was the more defining factor as we had to throw caution to the wind at the end," said Howe, who instructed his tireless forwards, King and Benik Afobe, to drop deep and congest midfield whenever Liverpool had possession. "It was human instinct for Liverpool to sit back on what they had rather than anything tactical."

Errors undermined Liverpool's victory prospects at the start and close of the contest. Before kick-off, with Kenny Dalglish on the Kop and Margaret Aspinall, chair of the Hillsborough Family Support Group, in the directors' box, the club paid tribute to the 96 people who were unlawfully killed at Hillsborough in 1989, the survivors and the families, in their final home game before the 28th anniversary of the disaster. Anfield will no longer hold a memorial service on 15 April at the request of the families.

On the pitch, Georginio Wijnaldum gifted the visitors an early lead with a back pass under pressure from Arter straight to the lurking Afobe. The former Arsenal striker made no mistake and Mignolet had no chance of reaching Wijnaldum's wildly optimistic pass.

Marc Pugh should have doubled Bournemouth's advantage but volleyed inches wide when found unmarked at a corner. A big miss, punished five minutes before half-time when Roberto Firmino released Coutinho with an exquisite pass into the penalty area and he beat Boruc with an expert finish from 12 yards. In the process, he equalled Juninho's record as the Premier League's highest scoring Brazilian.

Wijnaldum atoned for his error when he sold both Jack Wilshere and Adam Smith a dummy inside the Bournemouth area and floated a perfect cross on to the head of Origi, who made no mistake from four yards out. For Liverpool, however, it would not be enough.

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Klopp sick of tossing wins away LIVERPOOL 2 BOURNEMOUTH 2

JURGEN KLOPP feared it would end this way. When he saw Ragnar Klavan falter, Simon Mignolet spread anxiety and Gini Wijnaldum's passing malfunction all in the first seven minutes, he knew it could go wrong.

And it did. From a position of authority, from looking like they were taking a decisive step towards the Champions League, Liverpool did what they have a habit of doing and conceded a late equaliser to Bournemouth - and Klopp could not offer a rational explanation. Liverpool had enough chances to win this contest and looked poised to do so after goals from Philippe Coutinho and Divock Origi had cancelled out Benik Afobe's shock opener. But, with four minutes remaining, they made one mistake too many and Joshua King wreaked havoc. 'We had to change Phil (Coutinho) because he was sick at half-time,' said Klopp. 'He had vomited but then he said he feels better now but it is clear when he makes the sign he has to change; no joy when you have to take off your best player.

'We organised a little differently, played three at the back plus the two in front with Lucas and Emre to give the full backs space on the wings. We could close the game in one moment. We didn't. We left it open, then their second goal after a set piece. And then nearly vomit from me.' Klopp looked flummoxed and for good reason. In 13 games against the bottom eight teams in the Premier League this season, they have squandered 18 points. Here was an evening to show the flaws in their make-up. It began with the passage of play that Klopp highlighted when Wijnaldum, inexplicably, passed to Afobe when he was looking straight at him in the seventh minute. The striker punished the slip to the maximum.

It could have got even worse. Marc Pugh came within inches of doubling Bournemouth's lead with a fizzing left-foot volley that screamed past Mignolet's upright.

But, just before half-time, a lifeline arrived. It was at odds with much of what had gone before but in the 40th minute, a sublime pass from Roberto Firmino enabled Coutinho to sashay through a posse of blue shirts, readjusting his feet in the process to poke in his eighth goal of the campaign.

Liverpool started the second half in much better shape and when Wijnaldum surged to the byline and crossed for Origi to head his goal, the comeback looked to have been completed. Then, though, Klopp had to change his system, Liverpool began to retreat and in the 87th minute, Steve Cook's long throw caused mayhem. Liverpool could not clear their lines and King swivelled on a loose ball to silence the home fans. 'Everyone knows how precious every point is,' said Bournemouth boss Eddie Howe. 'I'm delighted.' Klopp, on the other hand, was anything but.

@DominicKing_DM

MATCH FACTS LIVERPOOL (4-3-3): Mignolet 7; Clyne 7, Lovren 6, Klavan 5.5, Milner 6; Wijnaldum 7, Lucas 7.5, Can 7; Origi 7, Firmino 8, Coutinho 7 (Matip 65min 6). Subs not used: Karius, Sturridge, Grujic, Moreno, Woodburn, Alexander-Arnold.

Booked: Lucas.

Scorers: Coutinho 40, Origi 59.

BOURNEMOUTH (4-4-2): Boruc 7; A Smith 7, Francis 7, S Cook 7, Daniels 7; Ibe 6 (Fraser 61 6), Arter 7, Wilshere 6, Pugh 7 (Gradel 84); Afobe 7, King 7. Subs not used: Allsop, B Smith, L Cook, Mousset, Cargill.

Booked: Fraser. Scorers: Afobe 7, King 87. Man of the match: Roberto Firmino. Referee: Lee Mason 6.

The Daily Telegraph

King strike cuts Liverpool down to sighs

How Liverpool might rue late goals against Bournemouth when the Champions League places are settled. Eddie Howe's side was not quite able to repeat the heroics of the Vitality Stadium when they turned a 3-1 deficit into victory, but an 86th-minute equaliser from Josh King secured a point to prevent Jurgen Klopp's side outting distance between themselves and their toofour chasers.

As the Liverpool manager had suggested, there was more pragmatism than flamboyance on display and a tactical shift after the home side took a second half-lead backfired. Philippe Coutinho, who joined former Middlesbrough winger Juninho as the highest scoring Brazilian in English football with his 29th Liverpool goal, was substituted for another centre-back and the momentum

shift the home side had enjoyed came to a halt.

Divock Origi headed Liverpool's second after Benik Ofobe had given the visitors an early lead.

Kenny Dalglish was sitting on The Kop for the first half

as Liverpool commemorated the 28th anniversary of the Hillsborough disaster. The club legend was back in the directors' box as his side asserted their superiority in the early minutes after the break, but this was another evening for edging across the line. Liverpool were unable to see it through.

Having benefited from Liverpool's generosity earlier this season, Bournemouth were accepting gifts again. Georginio Wijnaldum was the culprit on seven minutes, underhitting a backpass to Simon Mignolot to enable Afobe to pounce. The striker read Wijanldum's intentions and prodded past the Belgian goalkeeper. This typified Bournemouth's early energy in contrast to Liverpool's initial lethargy. Eddie Howe opted for an ambitious 4-4-2 and pushed Liverpool back, forcing sloppy passing along the back four and impatient howls from the home crowd. Klopp, as is often the case in these less glamorous fixtures, was ticking visibly, noting the contrast in mood, tone and volume between this game and the recent visits of Everton, Arsenal and Tottenham. He notices every misplaced ball is greeted with more intolerance; he stares puzzled at his new Main Stand when a delay in possession provokes a guttural plea to hit the ball skywards.

Not for the first time this season, from one such moment of simmering tension Liverpool equalised. The crowd beseeched Mignolet to hit long and high but the keeper paused and the audience shrieked. Klopp held his arms to his side quizzically. Then Mignolet obliged, Firmino controlled and eased the ball towards Coutinho, and the Brazilian did the rest from close range five minutes before half-time.

Until then Artur Boruc had been restricted to dealing with longrange strikes, the most potent came from Wijnaldum seeking to make amends. This was Liverpool's latest attempt to excel without Sadio Mane, as well as Adam Lallana and Jordan Henderson. Inevitably, they were all missed.

Liverpool toiled without Mane in January and for all Klopp's bravado, he would have been monitoring Origi's performance in particular to establish if the young Belgian fit the bill as a replacement.

Origi should have equalised when he found space at the back post. The striker mis-kicked. Marc Pugh was similarly frustrated as he volleyed an inch wide. There was more tempo from Liverpool at the start of the second half and Nathaniel Clyne was close to a rare goal. He let rip from 20 yards but Boruc tipped it onto the bar.

Liver pool's second finally came with Wijnaldum superbly earning redemption with the assist for Origi.

The Dutchman delivered the perfect cross for the striker to head in from four yards. Taking the lead provoked a pragmatic move from Klopp, replacing Coutinho with centre-half Joel Matip. The Liverpool manager had promised compromise in the run-in, but this was an eye-catching defensive move.

Liverpool settled for playing on the counter-attack in a scrappy finale and succumbed on 86 minutes when after a scramble in the penalty area, King was able to turn and drill beyond Mignolet. Liverpoolhad paid for their caution. Liverpool (4-3-3) Mignolet 6; Clyne 7, Klavan 6, Lovren 6, Milner 7; Lucas 6, Wijnaldum 7, Can 7; Firmino 7, Origi 6, Coutinho 7 (Matip 65). Subs Karius, Sturridge, Grujic, Moreno, Woodburn, Alexander-Arnold.

Booked Lucas Bournemouth (4-4-2) Boruc 7; A Smith 7, Francis 6, Cook 6, Daniels 6; Ibe 5 (Fraser 61), Wilshere 5, Arter 7, Pugh 6 (Gradel 83); King 7, Afobe 7. Subs B Smith, Lewis Cook, Allsop, Mousset, Cargill. Booked Fraser Referee L Mason (Lancashire).

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Mirror

KLOPP KOPS KING STING IN THE TAIL; Jurgen anger as late Josh goal robs Reds

2017

PREMIER LEAGUE LIVERPOOL 2 BOURNEMOUTH 2 Coutinho 40, Origi 59 Afobe 7, King 87 ANFIELD ANFIELD BY DAVID MADDOCK JURGEN KLOPP was left cursing as Liverpool once again shot themselves in the foot through shocking defending. The Reds gifted Bournemouth an equaliser three minutes from time from a setpiece and raised further questions about their Champions League credentials. Manager Klopp took responsibility for the late calamity which saw Josh King grab a point for the Cherries, but surely he knows who the real culprits are. "It's hard to take but it's my responsibility," he said.

"The bad things are my responsibility, the good things are the responsibility of the players. I have the shoulders to take it, the experience to take it. But we have to work on it."

Klopp had suggested his side should change their mentality on the run-in, do whatever it takes to get over the line in the remaining games - in short, win ugly. But what was most ugly was the manner of King's late equaliser.

The striker pivoted on to a weak shot from Harry Arter to ram home but the defending was not worthy of a Champions League side. Not worthy in fact of a Sunday league side.

And it shows why Liverpool have dropped 18 points in 13 matches against teams in the bottom eight of the Premier League.

It is not good enough and may yet deprive them of a place in the top four - which will have serious implications in terms of summer recruitment.

Klopp, for all his willingness to take the blame, must ask himself if this team needs major surgery.

It certainly seemed that way during a depressing opening when the Reds looked sluggish - just days after they were so vibrant against Mersey rivals Everton. Bournemouth's opener came from a howler from Georginio Wijnaldum, who passed blindly back towards his keeper in the seventh minute but succeeded only in setting up Benik Afobe, who converted with ease.

Bournemouth, who came from 3-1 down to beat Liverpool 4-3 earlier in the season, should have had a second from another set-piece but Marc Pugh volleyed wide at a corner

That seemed to galvanise the Reds, who forced a stunning equaliser just before half-time when Roberto Firmino produced a moment of genius to find Philippe Coutinho, who finished with equal class.

The second Liverpool goal after the break was equally brilliant.

Wijnaldum atoned for his early sin as he jinked into the box past Adam Smith and the disappointing Jack Wilshere and crossed with his left foot for Divock Origi to smash his header into the roof of the net.

But with Coutinho going off after barely an hour through illness, Liverpool went back into their shell, and to a system of three centre-halves that ultimately gifted the initiative to the visitors.

Three times the Liverpool defence had the chance to clear a long throw. Three

times they failed. They paid the ultimate price when King swivelled and shot for what Bournemouth boss Eddie Howe claimed was a deserved equaliser. MOTM NATHANIEL CLYNE BOURNEMOUTH BORUC 7 Unlucky to be exposed and could do nothing for goals SMITH 6 Found himself exposed on right but usual strength and aggression FRANCIS 6 Couple of uncomfortable moments, struggled on the ball COOK 7 Suited to the system, used skills to bring out ball and read game DANIELS 7 Has a lot of power down left and worked hard, needs more finesse IBE 6 Pretty quiet game and ridiculous booing from Liverpool fans ARTER 6 $\,$ Great spirit and energy to press mistake for first goal, industrious WILSHERE $\boldsymbol{6}$ Lots of energy, but didn't provide link between defence and attack PUGH 7 Played in wide role, but worked hard back in middle to contain KING 7 Has class, was team's biggest threat, eventually got equaliser AFOBE 7 Showed good touches to link play, great anticipation for goal SUBS: Fraser (Ibe 61) 6 Gradel (Pugh 83) LIVERPOOL MIGNOLET 6 Had little to do despite conceding the two goals, looked solid CLYNE 8 Couple of searing runs down the right, deserved goal for fierce shot LOVREN 7 Looked assured advancing on ball but problems again at set-pieces KLAVAN 6 Another solid display against strong forward, passing awry MILNER 6 Hard work down flank and took up brilliant positions, delivery not top CAN 6 Not best display. Working hard in middle to show he can be anchor LUCAS Booked 7 Lots of energy in middle and held things together for his side WIJNALDUM 7 Running from deep a real threat, assist made up for early mistake ORIGI 6 Quiet game from the Belgian, but produced moment that mattered FIRMINO 7 Stuck at task well and fought hard. Produced great assist for leveller COUTINHO 8 Some great skills from the little Brazilian, produced game's best SUBS: Matip (Coutinho 65) 6



Bournemouth snatch late point at Liverpool

And the doubts creep back. This was the latest attempt by Liverpool to prove they could win games they were expected to albeit without Sadio ManA[c], their leading goalscorer who began the day by posting a picture of himself in the unpromising position: on the couch, wearing a knee brace.

Jurgen Klopp confirmed before kick-off that at the moment it looks as though ManA[c] will be incapable of playing "one more game this season," and so, it was imperative that Liverpool won this one -- giving them the confidence that they might just about be ok without him. Joshua King's equaliser, which arrived four minutes from the end arrived like a stab through in the side, reminding of tender narts.

It is understandable why ManA[c]'s absence had caused so much concern. The Senegalese did not play when Liverpool lost at Burnley in August. He was taken off when Liverpool were 3-1 up at Bournemouth in December -- which transpired to be their second defeat of the season. In the month he was away at the Africa Cup of Nations, Liverpool lost four in seven games, were knocked out of both domestic cup and saw their hopes of securing a title diminish.

Liverpool missed him here as well. His replacement Divock Origi might have scored but he simply does not pose the same threat. When the visitors took an early lead, indeed, the signs were not good. Bournemouth, of course, had been beneficiaries of sub-standard Liverpool goalkeeping earlier in the season, which allowed them to make an improbable full-recovery. This time, their opening goal was a gift. There had been several misplaced Liverpool passes before Benik Afobe became the first Bournemouth player to score at Anfield since 1927 but none were quite as under-cooked as Georginio Wijnaldum's, who's was directed at Simon Mignolet but fell woefully short. Afobe was sniffing around and in front of the Kop, he flicked past the Liverpool goalkeeper.

The game was six minutes old. Wijnaldum has been a good signing so far for Liverpool but this was a real character test -- how would he react? How would Liverpool react? In Afobe and King, Eddie Howe was bold enough to start with two players in attack, so surely Liverpool would have the space in midfield to create openings.

Philippe Coutinho's touch, though, was off. Emre Can was taking too many touches. Klopp was unhappy with the movement of Origi. Bournemouth were working very hard to narrow the angles and Harry Arter, a pest of the worst kind. King's pace and hunger to hunt down Liverpool's defenders was causing Ragnar Klavan problems particularly and he nearly extended Bournemouth's advantage. This came after Marc Pugh skidded a volley across Mignolet's six-yard box, beating Mignolet but not the post.

Because Bournemouth have been a Premier League team for two seasons it is easy to forget their defence began their careers at the club in League Two. When opponents like Roberto Firmino and Coutinho find their groove, it is too much for them and it proved to be the case here, with the pair combining to allow Coutinho to score his 29th Premier League goal, meaning he joins Juninho as the most successful Brazilian scorer in English football history.

Liverpool's equaliser came a few minutes before the break, just as it did against Burnley on this ground three weeks ago. Liverpool set a blistering pace in the second half and would have been ahead quickly had it not been for the finger-tips of Artur Boruc who nudged Nathaniel Clyne's Josimar style shot from the corner of the eighteen-yard box onto the crossbar.

Liverpool kept coming at Bournemouth. It was clear that Clyne had been instructed by Klopp to play further forward and this gave Liverpool greater width. The genesis of Liverpool's lead, though, came from the other side of the pitch, with Wijnaldum redeeming himself following his earlier mistake by turning beautifully past Jack Wilshere and supplying a cross for Origi to head in. Klopp had said that he would think with more tactical conservatism in order to see Liverpool into the Champions League and this was evident when he withdrew Coutinho and introduced Joel Matip — the centre-back who had not started the game because of a niggling back injury. With that, Liverpool's defence became a three. Klopp had surrendered an advantage better than this to Bournemouth already this season. Liverpool would not lose this time. But drop points, they did. Liverpool (4-3-3): Mignolet; Clyne, Lovren, Klavan, Milner; Can, Lucas, Wijnaldum; Firmino, Origi, Coutinho (Matip 65). Subs not used: Karius, Sturridge, Grujic, Moreno, Woodburn, Alexander-Arnold.

Bournemouth (4-4-2): Boruc, Smith, Francis, S Cook, Daniels; Ibe (Fraser 61), Arter Wilshere, Pugh; King, Afobe. Subs not used: Allsop, Gradel, Smith, L Cook, Fraser, Mousset, Cargill.

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Anfield shakes its head in disbelief as Liverpool shoot themselves in Achilles heel

Talk about shooting yourself in the foot. Liverpool squandered two precious points in the race for Champions League football as for the second time this season Bournemouth delivered a dramatic late twist in the tale. Unlike at the Vitality Stadium back in December, Jurgen Klopp's men weren't beaten at Anfield but it certainly felt like a defeat. The depleted Reds were on the cusp of a crucial victory when familiar frailties returned to haunt them. Another set-piece caused mayhem. There was more woefully hesitant defending. Ragnar Klavan was caught napping and Josh King cashed in to earn the Cherries a share of the spoils.

It was careless in the extreme. Liverpool only had themselves to blame. They had worked so hard to establish a position of control after Gini Wijnaldum's early blunder had enabled Benik Afobe to open the scoring.

Goals from Philippe Coutinho and Divock Origi had transformed the contest. But when the stage was set for them to kick on and wrap up the points they retreated. Klopp has made many positive game-changing decisions this season but taking off Coutinho, bringing on Joel Matip and going to three at the back midway through the second half wasn't one of them. Liverpool effectively surrendered the initiative. At a time when they were threatening to kill the game off, they suddenly sat back - seeking to protect what they had and inviting pressure. It cost them dear. It should have been a gutsy win to lift spirits following the devastating news that 13-goal top scorer Sadio Mane is unlikely to play again this season. But, ultimately, it's another underwhelming result against limited opposition to add to Liverpool's growing collection. Context is important. The Reds remain inside the top four and with rivals dropping points they remain well placed to achieve their target. However, this was a night that exposed Liverpool's Achilles heel. They have the worst defensive record in the top seven and with Stoke and West Brom next up they simply have to tighten up. Klopp had spoken before the game about needing to take a different approach in the absence of the injured Mane, Adam Lallana and Jordan Henderson. The manager talked about making Liverpool more compact and difficult to break down. Giving away gifts wasn't part of the plan but the Reds were behind inside seven minutes. Wijnaldum's backpass sold Simon Mignolet horribly short and Afobe nipped in to tuck it away.

The devastated Dutchman sank to his knees, wishing the ground would swallow him up. Typically, Lucas Leiva was there first to pull him back to his feet. Liverpool had actually started pretty brightly with Roberto Firmino's strike being tipped over before Lucas's glancing header from Coutinho's corner just evaded Dejan Lovren. However, going behind in such infuriatingly avoidable fashion was a body blow and initially the hosts struggled to summon a response. Given something to cling on to, Eddie Howe's side sat deep and defended in numbers. After the intensity of Saturday's Merseyside derby triumph, it was a classic case of after the Lord Mayor's show for Liverpool. Their approach play

lacked either the fluency or the guile to find a way through.

The Reds could hardly blame fatigue having had an extra 24 hours rest than the Cherries. Wijnaldum scuffed straight at Artur Boruc and Origi fired wastefully wide after King had inadvertently flicked on Coutinho's corner. As passes continued to go astray, the groans grew ever louder and Klopp's gesticulating on the touchline grew ever wilder. Bournemouth had their chances to add to their tally. James Milner was alert to clear off Afobe's toe after the big frontman had got away from Klavan. The unmarked Marc Pugh then volleyed narrowly wide after Liverpool hadn't dealt with Simon Francis' corner. Belatedly, Liverpool flickered into life. Origi started to put himself about and occupy defenders, while Coutinho drifted inside to find pockets of space. Wijnaldum and Firmino were denied by Boruc before Coutinho threatened with a curling free-kick. The Reds were in urgent need of

inspiration and it arrived five minutes before the break. Firmino was the creator as he collected Mignolet's long punt downfield and picked out Coutinho's run with an exquisite pass.

Coutinho sorted his feet out and coolly planted it beyond Boruc for his ninth goal of the campaign. The equaliser lifted morale both on the field and in the stands. In the second half there was a much better tempo to Liverpool's work as they moved the ball quicker and really stretched the Cherries' backline.

Nathaniel Clyne was inches away from celebrating his 26th birthday in style by ending a 14-month goal drought. The Reds right-back unleashed a thunderous piledriver from the edge of the box which Boruc tipped on to the underside of the bar. With the rise of teenager Trent Alexander-Arnold, Clyne's place in the side has been the subject of increasing debate. For a player given so much licence to attack the England international hasn't made enough of an impact in the final third this season. But Clyne was much more of a threat here — his deliveries from wide areas much improved. Momentum was building and just before the hour mark Liverpool led. For Wijnaldum, it represented redemption of sorts.

The £25million midfielder skipped away from Jack Wilshere and sent over the kind of cross strikers dream of. Origi, who was handed the chance to shine in place of Mane, timed his leap perfectly to power a header past Boruc.

Once in front, Klopp opted to shuffle his pack. Matip, who was only deemed fit enough for a cameo due to back pain, was the unlikely replacement for Coutinho as the Reds switched to a three-man backline.

Liverpool lost their attacking thrust. Bournemouth, having looked beaten, sensed their opportunity. It arrived three minutes from time. The Reds failed to clear Steve Cook's long throw and when Harry Arter's shot was blocked, it dropped to Klavan and King. Klavan should have dealt with it but his awareness was poor. King was allowed to turn and he fired beyond Mignolet.

Klopp shook his head in disbelief. He wasn't the only one. What a waste.

Liverpool: Mignolet, Clyne, Klavan, Lovren, Milner, Lucas, Can, Wijnaldum, Origi, Coutinho (Matip 65), Firmino.

Not used: Karius, Moreno, Alexander-Arnold, Grujic, Woodburn, Sturridge **Bournemouth**: Boruc, Smith, Francis, Cook, Daniels, Ibe (Fraser 61), Arter, Wilshere, Pugh (Gradel 83), King, Afobe. Not used: Allsop, Smith, Cook, Mousset, Cargill. **Referee:** Lee Mason **Goals:** Afobe 7, Coutinho 40, Origi 59, King 87 **Bookings:** Lucas, Fraser **Man of the match:** Divock Origi. Grasped his chance.

DAILY ECHO

Bournemouth stun Liverpool again as Jurgen Klopp's men suffer Anfield blow

Liverpool let a lead slip away late on to draw 2-2 against Bournemouth and miss the chance to strengthen their grip on third place.

Goals from Philippe Coutinho, equalling Juninho's tally of 29 to become the joint top-scoring Brazilian in the Premier League, and Divock Origi appeared to have put the hosts on course to open up a four-point gap on fourth-placed Manchester City.

However, Josh King struck in the 87th minute, to follow Benik Afobe's early opener, as Bournemouth earned a point.

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp: "Usually you close the game in one moment, we didn't, we left it open. Then it's a second ball after a set piece and that made me nearly vomit. That's of course not nice. We have to take it. It's my responsibility, all of this, and I have to be clear in this situations. I will find a solution for this."

Bournemouth boss Eddie Howe: "There's really good signs for us. When you are 2-1 down, you have to keep believing, keep the focus that you can score. We did that and that will further enhance us in further games."

Star man – Divock Origi

The Belgian was promoted to the starting line-up in Sadio Mane's absence and was an effective spearhead of the Reds' attack. He laid the ball off for Roberto Firmino to set up Liverpool's first-half equaliser before timing his run to perfection to nod in the winner from close range.

When Bournemouth introduced Ryan Fraser just after the hour, Jurgen Klopp's instant response was to bring on Joel Matip and switch to a back three. In the reverse fixture Fraser's introduction turned the tide in the Cherries' favour during their 4-3 triumph as he scored one and made another, and his presence clearly had a lasting effect on Klopp. It did not prove to be a case of strength in numbers, though, as Ragnar Klavan and his colleagues failed to prevent King turning and firing in an equaliser late on.

Poor defending costs Reds

The hosts were architects of their own downfall at Anfield having gifted Bournemouth an equaliser before making it all too easy for King to rifle in a late leveller. They had fought back from going behind following Georginio Wijnaldum's dreadful back-pass but never looked as if they were going to put the game to bed with a killer third goal. The Cherries had few opportunities and Klavan had to do better than allow King to turn into a shooting position inside the area.

Liverpool: Simon Mignolet 6, Nathaniel Clyne 7, Dejan Lovren 7, Ragnar Klavan 4, James Milner 6, Lucas 6, Emre Can 7, Georginio Wijnaldum 7, Philippe Coutinho 7, Divock Origi 8, Roberto Firmino 7, Substitutes: Joel Matip (for Coutinho, 65) 6.

Bournemouth: Artur Boruc 8, Adam Smith 6, Simon Francis 6, Steve Cook 8, Charlie Daniels 6, Jordon Ibe 6, Jack Wilshere 5, Harry Arter 7, Marc Pugh 6, Benik Afobe 7, Joshua King 6. Substitutes: Ryan Fraser (for Ibe, 61) 6, Max Gradel (for Pugh, 83) 6.

Who's up next?

Stoke v Liverpool (Premier League, April 8)
Bournemouth v Chelsea (Premier League, April 8)

Opposition: Bournemouth Competition: League

Times	Telegraph	Echo
Guardian	Mirror	B'Mouth Echo
Independent	Mail	ввс

BBC

Joshua King scored a dramatic late equaliser for Bournemouth as Liverpool dropped two crucial points at Anfield.

The Cherries took a surprise lead when Benik Afobe pounced on Georginio Wijnaldum's poor back-pass before rounding Simon Mignolet to score. The visitors went close through Marc Pugh's volley and King before Philippe Coutinho equalised after Roberto Firmino's pass.

Divock Origi, <u>starting ahead of injured forward Sadio Mane</u>, headed Liverpool ahead but King struck four minutes from the end of normal time from close range. Liverpool remain third in the table, two points ahead of fourth-placed Manchester City, who have a game in hand. At one stage on Wednesday, Jurgen Klopp's side were level on points with second-placed Tottenham only to finish the night five points behind Spurs, who scored <u>three late goals to beat Swansea 3-1</u>. The Reds had come from behind to take the lead against a well organised Bournemouth team but there was disappointment at the final whistle as Liverpool once again failed to register a win against a team from the bottom half of the table. Wijnaldum's dreadful back-pass gifted the Cherries their first goal at Anfield since 1968 before Coutinho's composed finish after a lovely pass by his fellow Brazilian Firmino.

Artur Boruc pushed Nathaniel Clyne's swirling attempt onto the bar before Wijnaldum made up for his error to set up Origi to head Liverpool's second. However, Klopp's side paid the price for failing to see the game out. King, who had gone close to making it 2-0 after a powerful run, was allowed to wiggle free inside the Liverpool box to plant the equaliser.

Reds show soft under-belly

Liverpool's impressive record against the Premier League's top six this season is well documented - unbeaten in 10 games and five wins. Yet their last six league defeats have come against teams in the bottom half of the table. Although they have equalled last season's points tally with seven games remaining, this result will feel like a defeat for a team looking to qualify for the Champions League for the first time since 2014. Burnley, Bournemouth, Swansea City, Hull City and Leicester City have all beaten the Reds this season, while bottom club Sunderland have also held Liverpool. This will go down as another missed opportunity. Cherries rise to the occasion

After an eight-match winless league start to 2017, Bournemouth are now unbeaten in five as they edge towards securing a third successive season in England's top-flight. Eddie Howe's side showed character and spirit as they added another big name to their list of creditable draws. Tottenham, Manchester United and Arsenal have all been frustrated by the Cherries this season, while Liverpool have taken just one point off the south coast team. Back in December, Nathan Ake struck a 93rd-minute winner to earn Bournemouth, who had trailed 0-2 and 1-3, a 4-3 win over the Reds. King's late equaliser sparked similar scenes of jubilation among Bournemouth's fans as they secured a first-ever point at Anfield. Man of the match - Artur Boruc (Bournemouth)

'Coutinho was sick'

Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp: "Philippe Coutinho felt sick at half-time. He vomited. It's no joy when you have to take off the best player in this moment on the pitch, because he played really well.

"The result is not what we wanted but it could have been worse, actually. We all know we have lost games like this in the season and tonight we didn't. Maybe we can take this as a positive.

"It's my responsibility, all of this, and I have to be clear in this situation. I will find a solution for this." $\,$

Bournemouth manager Eddie Howe: "It took the win at Chelsea last year to really get the players to believe we could win anywhere in the division but I think this season the big results against those teams have reinforced that belief.

Howe praises Bournemouth 'mentality'

"That showed here, when you are 2-1 down, you have to keep believing, keep the focus that you can score. We did that and that will further enhance us in further games."

'Two points in four games without Mane'

Liverpool have won just two points in four Premier League games without Sadio Mane appearing this season (won none, drew two, lost two). No Brazilian has scored more Premier League goals than Philippe Coutinho (29 - level with Juninho).

Joshua King has doubled his Premier League goal tally from last season (six) with 12 goals, scoring nine goals in his last 10 Premier League appearances for the Cherries

Divock Origi now has 10 goals in all competitions for Liverpool this season - only Sadio Mane (13) has more for the club.

Liverpool have scored 41 goals in 16 Premier League games at Anfield this season (average of 2.56 goals per game) - only in the 2013-14 season have they averaged more goals at home (2.79 goals per game).

Premier League games involving Liverpool this season have seen 105 goals - the most of any team in the division.

What's next?

Liverpool are back in action at 15:00 BST on Saturday when they are away at midtable Stoke City, who they have beaten three times since losing 6-1 away in May 2015. Bournemouth entertain leaders Chelsea on Saturday (17:30 BST).

Date: 5 April 2017 Opposition: Bournemouth Competition: League

Times	Telegraph	Echo
Guardian	Mirror	B'Mouth Echo
Independent	Mail	ВВС

2017

Match ends, Liverpool 2, Bournemouth 2.

90'+5' Second Half ends, Liverpool 2, Bournemouth 2.

90'+3' Attempt blocked. Adam Smith (Bournemouth left footed shot from outside the box is blocked.

90'+2' Attempt saved. Ragnar Klavan (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Joel Matip with a headed pass

90'+1' Ryan Fraser (Bournemouth is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

90'+1' Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool wins a free kick on the right wing.

90'+1' Foul by Ryan Fraser (Bournemouth.

90'+1' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Adam Smith.

89' Attempt missed. Joel Matip (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is close, but misses to the left. Assisted by James Milner with a cross following a corner.

88' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Max Gradel. 87' Goal! Liverpool 2, Bournemouth 2. Joshua King (Bournemouth right footed shot from

the centre of the box to the bottom left corner. Assisted by Harry Arter. 87' Attempt blocked. Harry Arter (Bournemouth right footed shot from outside the box is blocked.

86' Attempt missed. Charlie Daniels (Bournemouth left footed shot from the left side of the box misses to the right.

84' Delay over. They are ready to continue

83' Delay in match Lucas Leiva (Liverpool because of an injury.

83' Substitution, Bournemouth. Max Gradel replaces Marc Pugh.

81' Foul by Deian Lovren (Liverpool.

81' Joshua King (Bournemouth wins a free kick in the defensive half.

78' Foul by James Milner (Liverpool.

78' Ryan Fraser (Bournemouth wins a free kick in the defensive half.

76' Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool. 76' Jack Wilshere (Bournemouth wins a free kick in the defensive half.

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

75' Foul by Charlie Daniels (Bournemouth.

73' Foul by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool.

73' Jack Wilshere (Bournemouth wins a free kick in the attacking half.

73' Offside, Liverpool. Ragnar Klavan tries a through ball, but Dejan Lovren is caught offside.

72' Emre Can (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.

72' Foul by Adam Smith (Bournemouth.

71' Divock Origi (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.

71' Foul by Simon Francis (Bournemouth.

70' Foul by Roberto Firmino (Liverpool.

70' Harry Arter (Bournemouth wins a free kick in the defensive half.

65' Substitution, Liverpool, Joel Matip replaces Philippe Coutinho.

62' Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool.

62' Charlie Daniels (Bournemouth wins a free kick in the defensive half.

61' Substitution, Bournemouth. Ryan Fraser replaces Jordon Ibe.

59' Goal! Liverpool 2, Bournemouth 1. Divock Origi (Liverpool header from very close range to the high centre of the goal. Assisted by Georginio Wiinaldum with a cross. 58' Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box misses to the right.

57' Attempt missed. Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the left. Assisted by Roberto Firmino

56' Attempt missed. Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box misses to the left. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho.

55' Lucas Leiva (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

55' Foul by Jordon Ibe (Bournemouth.

53' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Adam Smith.

50' Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool.

50' Benik Afobe (Bournemouth wins a free kick in the defensive half.

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

48' Attempt saved. Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the top left corner. Assisted by Roberto Firmino.

Second Half begins Liverpool 1, Bournemouth 1.

45'+4' First Half ends, Liverpool 1, Bournemouth 1.

45'+3' Ragnar Klavan (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

45'+3' Foul by Benik Afobe (Bournemouth.

45'+2' Delay over. They are ready to continue.

45'+1' Delay in match Adam Smith (Bournemouth because of an injury.

45'+1' Attempt blocked. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Roberto Firmino with a cross.

40' Goal! Liverpool 1, Bournemouth 1. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom left corner. Assisted by Roberto Firmino with a

40' Delay over. They are ready to continue.

39' Delay in match Divock Origi (Liverpool because of an injury.

39' Attempt saved. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is saved in the centre of the goal.

36' Corner, Bournemouth. Conceded by Nathaniel Clyne.

34' Attempt missed. Philippe Coutinho (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the right from a direct free kick.

34' Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

34' Foul by Marc Pugh (Bournemouth.

32' Attempt saved. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the centre of the goal. Assisted by Divock Origi.

31' Attempt missed. Joshua King (Bournemouth right footed shot from the right side of the box is just a bit too high. Assisted by Harry Arter following a fast break.

30' Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool.

30' Jack Wilshere (Bournemouth wins a free kick in the defensive half.

28' Lucas Leiva (Liverpool is shown the yellow card for a bad foul.

28' Foul by Lucas Leiva (Liverpool.

28' Joshua King (Bournemouth wins a free kick in the defensive half.

27' Delay over. They are ready to continue

25' Delay in match Adam Smith (Bournemouth because of an injury. 25' Attempt saved. Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom left corner.

24' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Simon Francis.

22' Attempt missed. Marc Pugh (Bournemouth left footed shot from the centre of the box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by Steve Cook following a corner

22' Attempt missed. Steve Cook (Bournemouth header from the centre of the box misses to the left. Assisted by Simon Francis with a cross following a corner.

22' Corner, Bournemouth. Conceded by James Milner.

21' Foul by Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool.

21' Jordon Ibe (Bournemouth wins a free kick in the defensive half.

20' Offside, Liverpool. Nathaniel Clyne tries a through ball, but Divock Origi is caught

19' Attempt missed. Divock Origi (Liverpool left footed shot from the left side of the six yard box misses to the left following a corner.

19' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Steve Cook.

19' Attempt blocked. Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Emre Can with a cross.

18' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Steve Cook.

17' Foul by Emre Can (Liverpool.

17' Marc Pugh (Bournemouth wins a free kick in the defensive half.

14' Attempt missed. Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the left. Assisted by Emre Can.

12' Delay over. They are ready to continue.

11' Delay in match Harry Arter (Bournemouth because of an injury.

11' Attempt missed. Divock Origi (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by Emre Can.

7' Goal! Liverpool 0, Bournemouth 1. Benik Afobe (Bournemouth left footed shot from the centre of the box to the bottom right corner

3' Dejan Lovren (Liverpool wins a free kick in the defensive half.

3' Foul by Benik Afobe (Bournemouth.

2' Attempt missed. Lucas Leiva (Liverpool header from the left side of the box misses to the right. Assisted by Philippe Coutinho with a cross following a corner.

1' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Artur Boruc.

 1^{\prime} Attempt saved. Roberto Firmino (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the box is saved in the top right corner. Assisted by Divock Original

First Half begins. Lineups are announced and players are warming up