

Date: 1 January 2018

Opposition: Burnley

Competition: League

Express

Telegraph

Echo

Guardian

Mirror

Burnley Express

Independent

Mail

BBC

1 January 2018



### Late Ragnar Klavan strike gives Reds perfect 2018 start

The Reds have played freeflowing football this season and had notched up more than 40 goals away from home in all competitions before yesterday.

But in the driving rain they gritted their teeth and scrapped for every ball against Burnley.

The Clarets put high balls into the box, chased lost causes and snapped at the heels of the visitors.

Liverpool matched them toe-to-toe and earned the three points when Ragnar Klavan headed home in injury time after Sadio Mané's brilliant opener had been cancelled out by a diving Johann Berg Gudmundsson header.

The win extended Liverpool's unbeaten run in the Premier League to 13 matches as they consolidated their place in the top four.

"I'm really happy about our attitude and character," said Klopp.

"You need to win your average games, win with attitude when you are not 100 per cent.

"Burnley were an opponent motivated at the highest level. We needed to be ready for the wind, rain. It was cold and you need first of all concentration, you need readiness to work really hard, organisation, discipline and a little bit of luck.

"We need the wins on the not sunny days. I was never in doubt about the character of my

Liverpool were without Philippe Coutinho who, officially at least, was unavailable because of a thigh injury, although rumours linking him with a £130million switch to Barcelona continue.

They were fuelled by pictures – subsequently removed – of a Barcelona shirt with Coutinho's name appearing on the website of Nike, the club's kit manufacturer.

Klopp insisted Coutinho was genuinely injured and laughed off the Nike story.

"I heard about it," he said. "But I couldn't be less interested in anything in the world. "Him and Mohamed Salah are injured – not massively – but enough for today and at least a doubt for Everton on Friday."

They greatly missed Coutinho pulling the strings in midfield and Salah's pace.

Liverpool needed Mané to step up and recapture his scintillating form of last season and, while he largely struggled, he provided a key moment of quality just after the hour.

Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain found Trent Alexander-Arnold and the full-back's cross reached Mané in the centre of the box.

He controlled the ball with his back to goal, turned and struck a shot past goalkeeper Nick Pope.

Klopp said: "He scores a goal like this and it is like, 'wow'. He comes into the dressing room and the whole team gives him a hand."

Burnley equalised in the 87th minute when Gudmundsson headed past Simon Mignolet after Sam Vokes had flicked on Charlie Taylor's cross.

But Liverpool scored again in added time when Oxlade-Chamberlain's free-kick was headed back across goal by Dejan Lovren to leave Klavan with the simplest of headers.



Ragnar Klavan's injury-time goal clinches dramatic Liverpool victory  
Liverpool's week has been defined by a centre-back. It was neither Dejan Lovren nor Ragnar Klavan, but two men who could be reduced to the rank of spectators when the world's expensive defender is deemed ready to make his debut wrestled back the attention from Virgil van Dijk by combining to defeat [Burnley](#) in dramatic style.

On the day the Dutchman's £75m move from Southampton was ratified, it was a rather cheaper stopper who turned match-winner even if, amid the confusion of a chaotic finale, he did not realise it himself. Klavan was a £4.2m buy from Augsburg and, if there is a temptation to say his first [Premier League](#) goal may prove his last if he becomes Jürgen Klopp's fourth-choice centre-back, at least it increased morale and momentum alike.

When Emre Can chipped a free-kick into the penalty area in the fourth minute of added time, Lovren leapt highest to meet it. His header may have been going in. Klavan made sure, thrusting himself forward to apply the last touch. A self-effacing figure ended up asking: "Is it true that it is my goal? Oh good. It was on the line so I wasn't sure."

If it brought back memories of Lovren's injury-time winner in 2016's [extraordinary comeback against Borussia Dortmund](#), it was another reminder that while Liverpool's centre-backs can be found wanting at set-pieces in their own box, they occasionally fashion victories in the other.

"A crazy game," Klavan concluded. More to the point, it was a crazy ending, constructed by two teams with a refusal to be cowed by fatigue or inclement conditions. "We need the wins on the not sunny days," said Klopp, and he was not just referring to the incessant rain. "It was not fantastic football but it was a fantastic attitude. You need to win with attitude when you are not 100%."

Burnley's mentality was impeccable but Sean Dyche was left with a "horrible feeling" at the end. It is also a familiar one after his side conceded a stoppage-time equaliser at Old Trafford on Boxing Day. Yet their own fightback was a sign of their relentlessness and their fitness levels.

Burnley had provided continuity and [Liverpool](#) change in a clash of selection policies. "I like rotation," said Klopp, whose 87 alterations to his league starting XI are by far the most in the division, but rotation produced frustration in last month's draw with Everton and more beckoned until Klavan's intervention. He began as Joël Matip was rested. Klopp also started with Roberto Firmino on the bench, while he was without the sidelined Mohamed Salah and Philippe Coutinho. Although cynics suggested the Brazilian's convenient summer back injury had flared up again as the transfer window reopened, a thigh problem accounted for his absence.

Liverpool were not at their blistering best, shorn of both rhythm and Salah's explosiveness. A dull match, when Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain had drawn the only meaningful save from Nick Pope, was enlivened by the lone member of Liverpool's supposedly "Fab Four" to start. If Sadio Mané had been the least fabulous part of the band, he prospered as a solo artist with a sweet hit. Mané accepted Trent Alexander-Arnold's pass, span and unleashed a ferocious shot. "The whole team applauded Sadio Mané when he came in," Klopp said. The Senegalese has been upstaged by Salah this season, the Egyptian taking on the mantle of the prolific, electric winger. Yet there have been glimpses of his virtuosity, such as his backheel to set up Salah's leveller against Leicester on Saturday and this was another instance of excellence at a pivotal moment. "We need him, we need him so much," added Klopp. "He is not playing at his most fluent but a great goal." Dyche put their absentees into context by arguing: "Four of their front five moved for £28m-plus."

One of them, Adam Lallana, made his first start of an injury-interrupted season and was outstanding, Klopp said. Lallana even produced what may have been a potentially goal-saving challenge on Johann Berg Gudmundsson.

Lallana's Burnley counterparts were decidedly cheaper. Scott Arfield, signed on a free transfer, had twice threatened to open the scoring and the £450,000 recruit Ashley Barnes came close to an equaliser.

Pope, another bargain, also denied first Alexander-Arnold and then Oxlade-Chamberlain a second goal, allowing Burnley to draw level. Charlie Taylor delivered a cross, Sam Vokes flicked it on and Gudmundsson headed in. "A sniffer's goal," said Dyche. The Icelander impressed again, but in vain, courtesy of Klavan.

"Six points in two days; I've never had that before," grinned Klopp. He was left with four days to consider whether to introduce Van Dijk against Everton. "No rush," he said. "He is on fire, really wants [it] but we have to make sure he can perform. Centre-half is a position which depends on the others in the pitch. That means you have to tune it so you work together. Pre-season is for that usually. It is not important when his first game is but how many good games [he has]." Perhaps, then, there will be a reprieve for Lovren or Klavan before they cede the limelight to their costlier colleague. They may be displaced but on Monday they showed their defiance.

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## The Mail

Ragnar Klavan snatches three precious points for Reds in stoppage time after Johann Berg Gudmundsson cancelled out Sadio Mane's rocket strike

Underneath the red baseball cap that had sheltered him from the elements, Jurgen Klopp had one of those megawatt smiles. Klopp had just been stood in front of the Fishwick Stand, where Liverpool's giddy supporters were housed, punching the air when, suddenly, he spun on his heels and charged to Ragnar Klavan. He engulfed the Estonian in a bear hug and then did exactly the same to Dejan Lovren. These two players are often derided, their suitability for Liverpool frequently questioned. But, on a filthy day in Burnley, they had emerged as the heroes. Klopp had hoped Virgil Van Dijk's £75m arrival would spark a response from Klavan and Lovren but he wouldn't have expected this.

Deep into injury time, with Liverpool looking like they were about to squander two more points, Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain hoisted a free-kick to the back post, Lovren rose to head the ball across the face of goal and Klavan slid in to bundle his first Premier League goal over the line. We are accustomed to Liverpool winning in flamboyant, free-scoring fashion but here was evidence to show they can do things the hard way, too. Klavan and Lovren epitomised the belligerence that was required to repel this season's surprise package. 'Maybe we didn't have too much of these wins,' said Klopp. 'In all the (eight) draws we have had this season, we would have pretty much deserved to win. We need the wins on the not sunny days. It was a fantastic moment when we scored.' Yet it was anything but fantastic for Klopp when Burnley had scored a similar goal of their own, through Johann Berg Gudmundsson, in the 89th minute, capitalising on some slack defending to cancel out Sadio Mane's stunning strike. Sadio Mane celebrates with Trent Alexander-Arnold and Adam Lallana after firing Liverpool into the lead at Burnley. It was also an unexpectedly dramatic conclusion to a game that, for long parts, had been sterile and without incident, with dreadful conditions and the impact of two games in 48 hours taking their toll. The first half, especially, made for grim viewing.

Liverpool tried to keep the ball on the floor but, without Mohamed Salah (groin) and Philippe Coutinho (thigh), they lacked fizz. Dominic Solanke, one of seven changes to the side that beat Leicester, deputised for Roberto Firmino but he found the going as heavy as the weather. It said everything that the most notable moment of the opening 45 minutes was a brilliant tackle from Adam Lallana, who timed his sliding challenge on Gudmundsson to perfection as the Iceland midfielder looked to scurry clear. His first start of the season was deeply impressive. 'Outstanding', was Klopp's succinct appraisal. 'Especially after we went 1-0 up, he played really good football. He was really enjoying the game. He was really strong in the beginning then average then back (to really strong) again. It is good news for us that he is back.' Burnley goalkeeper Nick Pope looks dejected after Mane's goal as the Liverpool man celebrates with his team-mates. Burnley had the best opportunity of the opening 45 minutes but, after Ashley Barnes had cushioned down a long ball from James Tarkowski, Scott Arfield's shot drifted just beyond Simon Mignolet's far post, much to the Liverpool keeper's relief. Things appeared to be following a similar pattern after the restart and one passage of play – which saw Emre Can hoist an aimless ball forward to Nick Pope, only for the Burnley keeper to smash his clearance all the way back to Mignolet – had all supporters groaning. Then, after 61 minutes, came the move that was at odds with everything that had gone before. A ball out to the right allowed Trent Alexander-Arnold to surge away and fire in a cross that looked to be headed for Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain until Mane stuck out his right leg.

Burnley's James Tarkowski manages to clear the ball ahead of Liverpool forward Dominic Solanke. His control was instant and before Oxlade-Chamberlain could throw up his hands in exasperation, Mane had thrashed a left-footed drive into the roof of the net. Liverpool looked to take control and Alexander-Arnold almost repeated the trick but Pope tipped his dipping shot tipped away.

Pope came to his side's rescue again in the 85th minute when denying Oxlade-Chamberlain from point blank range and those interventions looked to be crucial when, four minutes later, Gudmundsson arrived on the blind side to bury Sam Vokes' flick on. 'I thought we had done enough to earn another point,' Burnley manager Sean Dyche lamented. 'Superb physically, tactically very good and I was particularly pleased with us defensively. So you can imagine how frustrated I am with a soft goal. It was a horrible feeling.'

But it was exactly the opposite for Liverpool. No wonder Klopp was smiling.

Match facts and ratings

BURNLEY (4-4-1-1): Pope 7; Bardsley 6, Tarkowski 7, Mee 7, Taylor 6.5; Gudmundsson 7, Defour 6, Cork 6, Arfield 7 (Wells 87mins); Hendrick 6.5 (Vokes 73mins); Barnes 6.5

Subs not used: Lindegaard (GK), Lowton, Westwood, Walters, Long  
Goals – Gudmundsson 87 Booked – none Manager – Sean Dyche 6.5

LIVERPOOL (4-3-3): Mignolet 6; Alexander-Arnold 8, Lovren 7.5, Klavan 7.5, Gomez 7; Can 6.5, Wijnaldum 6, Oxlade-Chamberlain 6.5 (Matip 90); Mane 7 (Firmino 73mins 6), Solanke 6, Lallana 7.5 (Milner 87mins)

Subs not used: Karius (GK), Robertson, Ings, Woodburn

Goals – Mane (61), Klavan (90+4)

Booked – none Manager – Jurgen Klopp 7 Referee – R East 7

Attendance – 21,756 Man-of-the-Match – Trent Alexander-Arnold

## The Daily Telegraph

Ragnar Klavan heads stoppage-time winner in dramatic finale at Turf Moor

These are heady days to be a Liverpool centre-half.

Much maligned, terrorised on social media, and effectively written off as surplus to requirements now Virgil Van Dijk is the most expensive Christmas gift in football history, you might have expected Ragnar Klavan and Dejan Lovren to prepare for the physical challenge of Burnley in sour, uncertain mood. Alongside Joel Matip, they can be under no illusions long-term they are competing to partner the £75 million man.

Instead, the pair combined to eke out a 94th minute winner, prompting their manager to proclaim any doubts about their character were exclusively external. The dent in Liverpool's club accounts would suggest otherwise.

Nevertheless, Klavan wrote a piece of history by becoming the first Estonian to score a Premier League goal. Lovren took all the credit for the assist, redirecting Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain's floaty free-kick goalwards. This after Johann Gudmundsson had struck an 88th minute equaliser for Burnley to cancel out a Sadio Mane stunner. It was a suitably scruffy finish to a shabby game, but no less satisfying for the visitors.

The irony of two Liverpool defenders combining for the decisive moment will not be lost. It was one of Lovren's finest games of the season. Aside from the matchwinning assist, he had admirably resisted the force of Ashley Barnes and Sam Vokes.

'I was never in doubt about the character of my boys. I never thought we had a defence problem or thought we need an extra player though Virgil will help us a lot,' said Jurgen Klopp.

Klopp had early compared a trip to Turf Moor to a war. For a while he must have felt like a general without any ammunition as Philippe Coutinho and Mohamed Salah were absent.

The exciting finale was not in keeping in a broadly low quality game, but Liverpool have shown a different face in this festive period. There was less of their attacking zest, but more fortitude than recently shown in similarly arduous circumstances.

There will be sympathy for the host, largely due to the cruel circumstances of defeat. Sean Dyche must have thought there was plenty going for his side, not least a weakened opponent and terrible conditions. But while Klopp made seven changes, Dyche retained most of the players who played 48 hours earlier. They banished fatigue. That made Burnley's efforts commendable.

'I thought we had done enough to earn another point. I am frustrated with a soft goal right at the end but impressed with the mentality,' said the Burnley manager.

Whatever the outcome, Dyche and Klopp knew there would be obsession with Liverpool's main absentees, Salah suffering with a thigh strain and Coutinho out with a groin problem. In normal circumstances, omitting a player with a slight injury less than 48 hours since his last game would not be an issue.

In Coutinho's case, nothing is so straightforward – particularly as his and Barcelona's sponsors seem able to announce his arrival without the courtesy of an acknowledgement of their error.

'I could not be less interested,' was Klopp's sparky response to Nike's advertising. There was nothing to indicate the unravelling of a grand conspiracy leading Coutinho to the Nou Camp this month.

Inevitably the Liverpool duo were missed. It felt like a game contaminated by daft timing and selection concessions.

Klopp could at least call on Adam Lallana for his first Premier League start of the season – the England midfielder was encouragingly better as the game progressed – but this was an unfamiliar Liverpool in personnel and style.

Mane was striving for form, often taking the easiest passing option where once he would have sped at terrified defenders, but he rediscovered confidence with a brilliant strike on 61 minutes. He controlled Trent Alexander-Arnold's right wing cross, before turning and finding the top corner.

'It is obvious. Sadio is unbelievably important for us. He is strong, quick, so many things,' said Klopp.

'He scores a goal like this and it is like wow. He comes into the dressing room and the whole team gives him a hand.'

Intriguingly, Klopp confirmed Mane and Salah will be permitted to travel to Africa on Thursday for the African Player of the Year awards, returning hours before the Merseyside derby. Expect more selection questions later this week.

Until Mane's strike the game was dreadful, the ball bobbling from one toe to the other, interrupted by the occasional long diagonal from one centre-back for his opposite number to enthusiastically fight over.

The game opened up as Burnley chased it sending on Vokes and going more direct. Liverpool should have punished on the counter-attack but succumbed when Charlie Taylor's cross was flicked on by Vokes and Gudmundsson was free at the back post.

Instead of another tale of Liverpool alarmingly dropping points they responded. Centre-backs excelling and Liverpool winning with a set-piece at Burnley? These really are encouragingly changing times for Klopp.

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## THE INDEPENDENT

Philippe Coutinho missing as Liverpool welcome back Adam Lallana for the victory over Burnley

Liverpool overcame the absences of both Philippe Coutinho and Mohamed Salah - with Roberto Firmino on the bench - to beat Burnley at Turf Moor.

The fourth member of the attacking quartet, Sadio Mane, got the opener at Turf Moor before Ragnar Klavan stole a late winner as the Reds put six points between themselves in fourth and fifth-placed Arsenal.

### A much needed break for Salah

While Liverpool fans – and some Fantasy Football managers – wouldn't have been too pleased to see Mohamed Salah not included in Jurgen Klopp's match-day squad against Burnley, the Egyptian was handed a much-needed break today, albeit one induced by injury.

Salah is expected to be out for around two weeks to allow his body to recover while he also receives treatment on his knee. Klopp has spent Christmas rotating his attackers to ensure the second half of Liverpool's season doesn't follow the same pattern as last season where they completely fell away in the league. A minor injury to Salah will likely be a relief, rather than a cause for concern.

### Coutinho kept out of the limelight

After the blunder of Nike, chief sponsors of both Barcelona and Coutinho, announcing the playmaker as having joined the La Liga side before swiftly deleting it, more doubts were left about his future at Anfield today. Coutinho has been in the form of his life over the last few months and Sunday's events could easily have derailed that.

However, the Brazilian was left out against Burnley, officially because of a thigh injury, meaning the focus would be taken off him and would be on the team instead. Coutinho's attitude has been superb since having his transfer request rejected in the summer and Liverpool will be expecting him to continue right through January.

### Burnley's home defence

Burnley's home results this season have looked like a piece of binary code given all the 1-0s, 1-1s and 0-0s at Turf Moor this season where they have managed to keep an impressive six home clean sheets in 10 games. In fact, they have only conceded six and scored seven at home in 2017/18.

But when free-scoring Liverpool arrived in Burnley, it was expected that they would significantly add to the number in the 'goals against' column – but that was far from the case. Ben Mee and the returning-from-suspension James Tarkowski were again brilliant against Liverpool's rotated forward line, despite the late, late goal they conceded.

### Lallana's return

He may have tired in the second-half – allowances have to be made after five months out with injury – but Adam Lallana impressed on his first start for the club this season. Alongside Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, he was one of Liverpool's better players and he will surely play a significant role in the second half of the season, as the Reds chase a spot in the top-four and look to prolong their run in the Champions League.

Crucially, Lallana also showed little fear of aggravating the thigh injury which ruled him out for so long. Against Bournemouth he was booked just moments after coming on and here his defensive contributions particularly caught the eye. He has lost none of his bite and continues to be an invaluable player at both ends of the pitch for Liverpool.

### All about the Mane

With three of the so-called 'Fab Four' not involved, it was left to the one who has probably been the least effective to break the deadlock and wake up a few of those dropping off into a New Year's Day nap at Turf Moor. And what a way to do it, with a fantastic turn and finish into the roof of the net.

Mane hasn't received the plaudits that Salah, Coutinho and Firmino have received – and rightly so, the other three have outshone him so far this season – but he looks like he is starting to find the form that made him so crucial last term. Two assists against Leicester on the weekend and a goal today is exactly the sort of responsibility Klopp will want him to be showing as he rotates.

## DAILY MIRROR

Ragnar Klavan scores late winner to break hosts' hearts at Turf Moor  
Sadio Mane defied the elements to produce a wonder strike as Liverpool edged out Burnley in a see-saw encounter.

On horrible Lancashire afternoon where the wind and rain screamed off the Moor Tops above this ground, there was virtually no chance of the open football Liverpool favour.

Instead it was the battle Jurgen Klopp had predicted, with Burnley matching their wealthy rivals for long periods, and sensing blood as the game ground on.

After an afternoon of frustration and disappointment, Mane shrugged off his indifferent form of late with an incredible turn and shot that screamed into Nick Pope's net.

Johann Gudmundsson looked to have ensured the spoils would be shared with an 89th-minute leveller before Ragnar Klavan struck late on.

Here, we look at some of the key issues from an enthralling contest...

### 1. It wasn't pretty...

You know that cliché asking if sides can do it on a wet, windy night in a hostile football outpost? Well Turf Moor on a wild New Year's Day was that cliché. The wind howled off the moor top, the rain drove sideways from crow-black skies, and the fans bayed for blood. Liverpool blood. It was a horrible, horrible afternoon to play football on, and so it was no surprise when little football was played, with even the visitors resorting to long, hopeful balls at times.

### 2. Klopp gets away with squad rotation

It didn't help Liverpool's fluency that manager Jurgen Klopp made seven changes, which is certainly wise given the crowded fixture list at this time of year, but hardly helps momentum. It is a problem for all top flight managers, but Klopp is adamant it will deliver huge benefits later in the season when other less able squads will struggle with injury and tiredness, and his squad is fresher.

### 3. Lallana impresses on first start

Interestingly, the visitors' most lively contributor was Adam Lallana, who made his first start of the season after being sidelined with a thigh injury. The midfielder looked sharp, and showed his usual energy in leading Liverpool's press, as well as a willingness to work back in defence, as one fine last ditch tackle on Scott Arfield proved. His fitness is good news for Klopp, and also for England boss Gareth Southgate.

### 4. Mee for England?

It may just be good news for Southgate too, that Burnley defender Ben Mee continues to show such fine form at the heart of his side's defence. Many thought the Clarets would be fatally weakened by the departure of Michael Keane in the summer, but if anything they are stronger...thanks to Mee's commanding approach. He has yet to be called up into the full England squad, but if team-mate Jack Cork deserved his selection last time, then surely the 27 year old can't be far off.

### 5. Mane rediscovers his form

With the conditions so bad, it was either going to be a mistake, or a touch of class which turned the game, and in the end, it was the return of the real Sadio Mane that changed the contest, just as Burnley smelt blood. He has been strangely out of sorts since his bad miss in the Mersey derby, and his confidence has looked drained. Yet the instinctive take, turn and thunderous strike was outstanding, and showed the quality Liverpool's money can deliver.

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Klavan's late heroics ensures second place is now a realistic target for Klopp's Reds

A drenched Jurgen Klopp was in serious danger of enduring another bout of the January blues. Johann Gudmundsson's late equaliser appeared to have wrestled two points from Liverpool's grasp. It would have been one of those draws which felt like a crushing defeat. But deep into stoppage time up stepped a couple of unlikely heroes to kick-start the new year with memorable scenes of unbridled joy in front of the travelling Kop. There was no hangover here.

Dejan Lovren headed Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain's free-kick goalwards and [Ragnar Klavan](#) stooped to force it home from close range.

It was the veteran Estonian defender's first Premier League goal and only his second for the Reds in 44 appearances.

The sense of irony won't have been lost on Klopp. On the day that [Liverpool](#) unveiled [£75million signing Virgil van Dijk](#), the two centre-backs arguably most at risk of dropping down the pecking order following the Dutchman's arrival delivered a dramatic late twist in the tale at Turf Moor.

No wonder Klopp, who has worked so hard to instil that kind of never-say-die spirit, unleashed a flurry of fist pumps after the final whistle.

A gruelling festive schedule of four games in the space of 10 days has yielded 10 points out of a possible 12. But for that five-minute meltdown at the Emirates it would have been perfect. Liverpool's hopes of retaining their top-four status have been significantly strengthened. Catching Manchester City might be a pipe dream but second spot is a realistic target between now and May.

This triumph was arguably the sweetest of the lot as Liverpool had to dig so deep amid monsoon conditions to achieve it.

No Mohamed Salah, no Philippe Coutinho, no problem. That gifted duo were absent with 23-goal top scorer Salah nursing a groin problem and Coutinho hampered by a thigh problem. The conspiracy theorists will have a field day but [Klopp is adamant that it was injury](#) rather than Barcelona's sustained pursuit which kept Coutinho away. With Roberto Firmino given a breather, Liverpool were without three of the front four who have inflicted so much damage so far this term. The other member, Sadio Mane, enjoyed a much needed injection of belief as his stunning strike broke the deadlock.

In the main this was a day for those on the fringes to step up and deliver and they didn't disappoint. Liverpool weren't particularly fluent or pleasing on the eye, but in terms of organisation, attitude, desire and discipline this was a truly gutsy team effort. A year ago Liverpool's season went off the rails following the turn of the year as a lack of depth was exposed. In fact prior to this contest, Klopp had won just four out of 18 matches in the month of January during his Anfield reign. But this time around they look so much better equipped to cope with the demands facing them. Klopp made seven changes but was also able to call upon proven class. There was the welcome sight of Adam Lallana making his first start of the campaign after finally overcoming the thigh injury he suffered in pre-season. The England international will need time to get up to speed but his creative spark and work ethic will be a massive bonus over the weeks and months to come. Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, who departed to a warm ovation from the away end late on, was the pick of the bunch as he continues to look every inch a Liverpool player. Playing on the left of the front three, the £35million man was positive and direct throughout.

Lovren, Joe Gomez, Emre Can and Mane were the only players retained by Klopp following Saturday's hard-fought 2-1 win over Leicester City.

Dominic Solanke was tasked with leading the line and the young striker, who is still learning his trade, could hold his head high. He had precious little service during a scrappy contest but he put himself about and gave everything for the cause. Liverpool dominated possession in the first half but did precious little with it. Moves repeatedly broke down on a heavy surface as passes went astray.

Clearly wary about a repeat of last season when the Reds were undone on the counter by the Clarets, Klopp had both Can and Gini Wijnaldum sitting deep and providing protection for the back four.

Oxlade-Chamberlain's sweetly struck 25-yarder was kept out by Nick Pope as chances remained at a premium. The combative Solanke chased lost causes and won his share of aerial duels but showed his inexperience by giving away some cheap free-kicks. As the rain hammered down, it wasn't pretty but Liverpool refused to be bullied as they stood up to the physical challenge in all departments. Lallana actually made his most important contribution tracking back, sliding in to make a crucial last-ditch tackle on Gudmundsson as he hooked the ball to safety. Stand-in skipper Simon Mignolet clung on to Scott Arfield's header after Can's misplaced pass had left Liverpool outnumbered.

Lovren and Klavan both shone as they coped admirably with the menace of Ashley Barnes, whose knock down was drilled just wide by Arfield.

When Liverpool attacked a combination of the conditions and the absence of key personnel ensured they lacked their usual potency. Trent Alexander-Arnold picked out Mane, who drifted in field but dragged tamely wide of the post.

The second half brought more of the same as the Reds huffed and puffed. They were crying out for some inspiration and it arrived just past the hour mark.

Alexander-Arnold's first time cross was deflected into the path of Mane on the

edge of the box. The Senegal winger controlled with his right foot, turned and hammered an unstoppable left-footer beyond Pope for his eighth goal of the season. Mane soon made way for Firmino as Klopp sought to kill off the contest. Alexander-Arnold's fierce 25-yarder was clawed away by Pope, who then thwarted Oxlade-Chamberlain to ensure that Burnley stayed in the game. With Sam Vokes on to partner Barnes, Liverpool had to deal with an aerial bombardment. Mignolet turned away Vokes' header but was left helpless when the substitute nodded on Charlie Taylor's cross and Gudmundsson arrived at the back post to convert. A dry January? Lovren and Klavan had other ideas. Liverpool started 2018 the way they finished 2017 - the buzz continues.

#### MATCH FACTS

**Burnley:** Pope, Bardsley, Tarkowski, Mee, Taylor, Arfield (Wells 86), Cork, Hendrick (Vokes 71), Defour, Gudmundsson, Barnes.

**Not used:** Lindegaard, Lawton, Westwood, Walters, Long.

**Liverpool:** Mignolet, Alexander-Arnold, Klavan, Lovren, Gomez, Can, Wijnaldum, Oxlade-Chamberlain (Matip 90), Lallana (Milner 86), Solanke, Mane (Firmino 71).

**Not used:** Karius, Robertson, Ings, Woodburn.

**Referee:** Roger East **Attendance:** 21,756 **Goals:** Mane 61, Gudmundsson 87, Klavan 90+3 **Bookings:** none

**Man of the match:** Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain. Led the charge throughout.

## Burnley Express

Late drama at Turf Moor denied the Clarets a first point of 2018 as Liverpool ran out 2-1 winners on New Year's Day.

Johann Berg Gudmundsson looked to have secured a point for Burnley when cancelling out Sadio Mane's strike with two minutes of normal time remaining but defender Ragnar Klavan left it late to snatch the spoils. Johann Berg Gudmundsson levelled for the Clarets before Klavan's late equaliser. The Clarets had kept 10 clean sheets in the Premier League going in to the New Year's Day fixture, with just shipped in 10 outings on home soil, and it looked as though they were heading for another with the game goalless at the interval. It perhaps didn't help Liverpool's cause that they had to adapt to being without Mohamed Salah, Philippe Coutinho and Roberto Firmino who were all missing from Jurgen Klopp's XI. The trio had 33 goals between them so far this season in the top flight but Salah missed out with a groin injury, Coutinho was ruled out with a thigh strain while his Brazilian compatriot was dropped to the bench. Burnley made just one change with James Tarkowski returning from a three match suspension to replace Kevin Long at the heart of the home side's defence. The hosts were the first to threaten when Scott Arfield closed Trent Alexander-Arnold high up the pitch and delayed his pass to suit Ashley Barnes's run but, when the pair did eventually combine, the striker fired wide. The Reds had netted 48 times this term but were only able to register one shot on target against the Clarets in the first half. Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, one of seven changes made from the 2-1 win over Leicester City at Anfield, was the man responsible for that when collecting Adam Lallana's raking crossfield pass, travelling infield and forcing Nick Pope to save to his right. Sean Dyche's side don't score many on home soil, just seven in 10 to be exact, but they tend to go on to win games when they do. That moment almost arrived in the 18th minute when superb vision from Barnes and an even better execution looked to have set Johann Berg Gudmundsson free until Lallana made a vital interception. Burnley came again when Emre Can's error put the visitors under pressure but Mignolet held on to Arfield's flick on at the near post after Steven Defour had clipped the ball in to the box. After Mane dragged his shot wide when being afforded space to run in to, the home side went within a whisker of taking the lead. And it was almost a carbon copy of the goal that had given them a surprise lead at Anfield back in September. Again Arfield went for placement when the ball was cushioned in to his path on the edge of the penalty area by Barnes, stroking the ball towards the corner, but the attempt grazed the outside of the post with Mignolet stationary. Liverpool took the lead on the hour and it was Mane that took a stand to prove that the club can cope without its three musketeers when necessary. The Senegalese forward gave Pope no chance when bringing Alexander-Arnold's cross under control on the edge of the box before thumping the ball in to the roof of the net on the turn. Defour tried to restore parity for the hosts almost immediately when allowing Arfield's pass to roll across on to his right boot but Mignolet was equal to the low drive. The horrendous weather conditions would have been a goalkeeper's worst nightmare but Pope did phenomenally well to stay nimble to keep Alexander-Arnold's pile-driver out as the ball threatened deviate. As play continued to switch Burnley went close again when Barnes adjusted his body position superbly to connect beautifully on the volley but his attempt sailed just wide of the upright. When Pope showed a strong hand to prevent Oxlade-Chamberlain's thunderous strike from sneaking inside the near post and Mignolet kept substitute Sam Vokes's header out it seemed the one goal would decide this encounter. However, there was still time for plenty of late drama. The Clarets equalised in the 88th minute and looked to have salvaged a point when Vokes flicked on Charlie Taylor's cross and Gudmundsson pounced, unmarked, at the far post to head home. The Icelandic winger's first goal in over 13 months should have been enough but in the final minute of four added on in stoppage time the Reds added a other twist to the tail.

Date: 1 January 2018

Opposition: Burnley

Competition: League

Express

Telegraph

Echo

Guardian

Mirror

Burnley Express

Independent

Mail

BBC

1 January 2018



Ragnar Klavan scored in injury time to give Liverpool a dramatic Premier League victory over Burnley and extend their unbeaten run to 16 matches.

The hosts looked to have earned a point when Johann Gudmundsson equalised with just three minutes of normal time remaining.

But Klavan headed home from almost on the goalline as the Reds snatched all three points.

Sadio Mane had given Liverpool the lead earlier in the second half with a superb shot from the edge of the area.

Burnley goalkeeper Nick Pope made several good saves to keep his side in the match, while opposite number Simon Mignolet denied Sam Vokes just before Gudmundsson's equaliser.

Victory moved the fourth-placed Reds within a point of third-placed Chelsea on 44 points, while Burnley stay seventh.

Liverpool have not lost in their past 13 Premier League matches, but the Claretts are on a run of five without a win.

Van Dijk rivals make timely mark

Klavan and defensive partner Dejan Lovren could find their places under threat following the [arrival of Virgil van Dijk from Southampton for £75m](#).

So their combination for Klavan's 94th-minute winner, with Lovren providing the assist with a flicked header, was timed to perfection.

The duo were part of a Liverpool side showing seven changes from the one that started the 2-1 win over Leicester, with injuries keeping Mohamed Salah and Philippe Coutinho out for this match and - [as Klopp revealed later](#) - possibly for the FA Cup derby with Everton on Friday.

The Reds were not quite as fluent as they have been at times in their unbeaten run, and it took a moment of class from Mane to break the deadlock, with a spin and shot on the turn - following a good cross from Trent Alexander-Arnold - giving Pope no chance.

Adam Lallana impressed on his first start of the season following a thigh injury, producing an energetic performance before he was replaced just before the equaliser.

Burnley close to deserved point

Had Klavan not intervened, Gudmundsson's goal would have give Burnley a point that a tenacious performance would have merited.

Sean Dyche's side have a reputation for doing well without the ball, and conceded just over 62% of possession to Liverpool before the interval.

They had threatened on the break in the first half, and the momentum was with them by the time of the equaliser.

Pope helped to keep them in touch with several important saves, including a one-handed effort to deny Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain at close range just before Gudmundsson struck.

But a lapse in concentration allowed Liverpool in, and while talk of a top-four finish may have faded, Burnley's resilience could still see them push for a place in the Europa League.

Man of the match - Dejan Lovren (Liverpool)

'We grew into it' - what the managers said

Burnley manager Sean Dyche: "We grew into the game, the second half was an even affair.

"On and off the pitch we have moved forward in a calendar year. We are becoming assured of ourselves in this division.

"We are playing a more mixed game now. Last year we got it forward more often but we are calmer now. We are resolute defensively, we have added to what we had. The quality has risen.

"To be on 34 points and be unfortunate to not have 35 shows what a season we have had."

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp: "A fantastic finish to the game. This is one of the toughest places to play all season.

"I like rotation, I love the quality of my squad and I am really pleased. It was not fantastic football but it was a fantastic attitude.

"Today it wasn't possible to play brilliantly but it was an open game, we had a massive setback with the equaliser but we changed it again - we haven't done that too often this year."

Klopp's best run so far - the stats you may have missed

Liverpool have now gone 16 games unbeaten in all competitions (W11 D5), their longest run under Jurgen Klopp.

This is also Klopp's longest run of matches without a defeat in the Premier League (13 games).

Burnley have conceded more goals in their past two Premier League games at Turf Moor (five) than they did in in their first nine of the season (three).

The Claretts have not won any of their past five league games (D3 L2); they last went longer without a victory in the top-flight in April last season (seven games).

Gudmundsson has been directly involved in six Premier League goals this season, at least two more than any other player for Burnley.

Mane has had a hand in five goals in his past four Premier League games away from Anfield (two goals, three assists), as many as his previous 15 combined. Klavan scored his first Premier League goal for Liverpool in his 34th appearance in the competition; it was the first goal by an Estonian in Premier League history. Following Klavan's goal, players of 97 different nationalities have now scored a Premier League goal (excluding own goals).

What's next?

Burnley face Man City in the FA Cup on Saturday at 15:00 GMT, and are back in Premier League action on 13 January, when they travel to Crystal Palace at 15:00.

Liverpool host Everton in a Merseyside derby in the FA Cup on Friday at 19:55.

Their next league outing is at home to Manchester City on Sunday, 14 January at 16:00.

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Match ends, Burnley 1, Liverpool 2.

90'+6' Second Half ends, Burnley 1, Liverpool 2.

90'+6' Substitution, Liverpool. Joel Matip replaces Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain.

90'+4' Goal! Burnley 1, Liverpool 2. Ragnar Klavan (Liverpool header from very close range to the bottom left corner. Assisted by Dejan Lovren with a headed pass following a set piece situation.

90'+3' Emre Can (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

90'+3' Foul by Phil Bardsley (Burnley).

87' Goal! Burnley 1, Liverpool 1. Johann Berg Gudmundsson (Burnley header from the right side of the six yard box to the bottom right corner. Assisted by Sam Vokes.

87' Attempt missed. Sam Vokes (Burnley header from the centre of the box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by Charlie Taylor with a cross.

86' Substitution, Liverpool. James Milner replaces Adam Lallana.

86' Substitution, Burnley. Nahki Wells replaces Scott Arfield.

86' Hand ball by Steven Defour (Burnley).

85' Attempt saved. Sam Vokes (Burnley header from the centre of the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Johann Berg Gudmundsson.

84' Attempt saved. Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain (Liverpool right footed shot from a difficult angle on the right is saved in the bottom right corner. Assisted by Dominic Solanke.

83' Foul by Adam Lallana (Liverpool).

83' Jack Cork (Burnley wins a free kick in the defensive half.

82' Attempt missed. Ashley Barnes (Burnley header from the centre of the box misses to the right. Assisted by Johann Berg Gudmundsson with a cross following a corner.

82' Corner, Burnley. Conceded by Dejan Lovren.

81' Attempt missed. Ashley Barnes (Burnley left footed shot from the centre of the box is close, but misses to the left. Assisted by Scott Arfield following a set piece situation.

80' Foul by Joseph Gomez (Liverpool).

80' Johann Berg Gudmundsson (Burnley wins a free kick in the defensive half.

78' Foul by Dominic Solanke (Liverpool).

78' Ben Mee (Burnley wins a free kick in the defensive half.

77' Attempt missed. Ben Mee (Burnley header from the centre of the box is high and wide to the left. Assisted by Phil Bardsley with a cross following a corner.

76' Corner, Burnley. Conceded by Joseph Gomez.

76' Attempt missed. Dejan Lovren (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is close, but misses to the right. Assisted by Adam Lallana with a cross following a corner.

75' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Ben Mee.

74' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Nick Pope.

74' Attempt saved. Trent Alexander-Arnold (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the top right corner. Assisted by Adam Lallana.

73' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Phil Bardsley.

73' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Scott Arfield.

73' Attempt blocked. Adam Lallana (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Emre Can.

72' Substitution, Liverpool. Roberto Firmino replaces Sadio Mané.

71' Substitution, Burnley. Sam Vokes replaces Jeff Hendrick.

71' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Charlie Taylor.

66' Attempt missed. Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool right footed shot from the right side of the six yard box is too high. Assisted by Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain with a cross following a corner.

66' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Charlie Taylor.

63' Attempt saved. Steven Defour (Burnley right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Scott Arfield.

61' Goal! Burnley 0, Liverpool 1. Sadio Mané (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box to the top left corner.

59' Offside, Burnley. Phil Bardsley tries a through ball, but Jeff Hendrick is caught offside.

58' Foul by Dejan Lovren (Liverpool).

58' Ashley Barnes (Burnley wins a free kick in the defensive half.

55' Attempt blocked. Adam Lallana (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain with a cross.

54' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Ben Mee.

53' Attempt missed. Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is too high. Assisted by Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain with a cross following a corner.

52' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Ben Mee.

52' Attempt blocked. Adam Lallana (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Emre Can.

47' Attempt blocked. Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain (Liverpool left footed shot from the centre of the box is blocked. Assisted by Adam Lallana.

Second Half begins Burnley 0, Liverpool 0.

45'+2' First Half ends, Burnley 0, Liverpool 0.

45'+1' Offside, Liverpool. Ragnar Klavan tries a through ball, but Sadio Mané is caught offside.

44' Attempt blocked. Ashley Barnes (Burnley left footed shot from a difficult angle on the left is blocked. Assisted by Steven Defour with a cross.

44' Corner, Burnley. Conceded by Ragnar Klavan.

43' Foul by Sadio Mané (Liverpool).

43' James Tarkowski (Burnley wins a free kick in the defensive half.

42' Attempt blocked. Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain (Liverpool right footed shot from the left side of the box is blocked. Assisted by Dominic Solanke.

41' Offside, Liverpool. Ragnar Klavan tries a through ball, but Sadio Mané is caught offside.

40' Hand ball by Emre Can (Liverpool).

38' Attempt missed. Scott Arfield (Burnley left footed shot from outside the box is close, but misses to the left. Assisted by Ashley Barnes.

37' Foul by Trent Alexander-Arnold (Liverpool).

37' Jack Cork (Burnley wins a free kick in the attacking half.

35' Attempt blocked. Johann Berg Gudmundsson (Burnley left footed shot from outside the box is blocked.

34' Foul by Dejan Lovren (Liverpool).

34' Ashley Barnes (Burnley wins a free kick in the attacking half.

32' Attempt missed. Sadio Mané (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box misses to the right. Assisted by Trent Alexander-Arnold.

31' Attempt missed. Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Adam Lallana.

30' Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain (Liverpool wins a free kick on the left wing.

30' Foul by Phil Bardsley (Burnley).

29' Foul by Dejan Lovren (Liverpool).

29' Ashley Barnes (Burnley wins a free kick in the defensive half.

28' Attempt saved. Scott Arfield (Burnley header from the centre of the box is saved in the top left corner. Assisted by Steven Defour.

28' Attempt blocked. Scott Arfield (Burnley right footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Jeff Hendrick.

27' Attempt missed. Dominic Solanke (Liverpool header from the centre of the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Joseph Gomez with a cross.

24' Foul by Dominic Solanke (Liverpool).

24' James Tarkowski (Burnley wins a free kick in the defensive half.

18' Corner, Liverpool. Conceded by Ben Mee.

18' Attempt blocked. Adam Lallana (Liverpool left footed shot from outside the box is blocked. Assisted by Emre Can.

17' Attempt saved. Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is saved in the bottom left corner. Assisted by Adam Lallana.

12' Foul by Dominic Solanke (Liverpool).

12' Phil Bardsley (Burnley wins a free kick in the defensive half.

9' Attempt missed. Ashley Barnes (Burnley left footed shot from the left side of the box is close, but misses the top left corner. Assisted by Scott Arfield.

4' Foul by Joseph Gomez (Liverpool).

4' Johann Berg Gudmundsson (Burnley wins a free kick in the defensive half.

2' Attempt missed. Adam Lallana (Liverpool right footed shot from outside the box is high and wide to the right. Assisted by Dominic Solanke.

1' Dominic Solanke (Liverpool wins a free kick in the attacking half.

1' Foul by James Tarkowski (Burnley).

First Half begins.

Lineups are announced and players are warming up.