



GÖTEBORGS UNIVERSITET  
INST FÖR SPRÅK OCH LITTERATURER

ENGLISH

# **Tag questions in sport television broadcasting**

A gender study

**Joel Fast**

BA thesis  
Spring 2014

Supervisor:  
Monika Mondor  
Examiner:  
Larisa Gustafsson  
Oldireva

**Title:** Tag questions in sport television broadcasting: A gender study

**Author:** Joel Fast

**Supervisor:** Monika Mondor

**Abstract:** The present study examines tag questions in relation to sport television broadcasting and its hosts. The material was provided by Liverpool Football Club's own television channel, LFC TV, and consists of 24 episodes of varied length. LFC TV offers both female and male hosts, something that does not cohere with the norm of the world of sport which otherwise is male dominated. The material provided by this channel agreed and disagreed with previous research regarding tag questions. The female host in this study did not dominate the discourse as much as the two male hosts did, which agrees with observations from previous research, but there were no significant differences regarding the amount of tag questions, which disagrees with earlier findings. At the same time, this study demonstrates that the female host uses tag questions for different reasons compared to the male hosts. She showed more concern for politeness and invitation to discourse whilst the men used tag questions due to a lack of certainty or to sustain the listeners' attention. The tag questions in this study carried a relatively restricted amount of functions, and politeness and uncertainty were functions of the great majority of tag questions. The use of tag questions in order to elicit minimal responses occurred as well, however, rarely. All in all, the environment of sport television broadcasting offers interesting data for a study of language behaviour of male and female hosts.

**Keywords:** tag questions, structure and functions, politeness, powerlessness, gender differences, television broadcasting, hosts, hosts, football

# Table of contents

1. Introduction .....	1
1.1 Background.....	1
1.2 Aim.....	2
1.3 Overview of study .....	2
2. Previous research.....	3
2.1 Forms and functions of tag questions.....	3
2.2 Tag questions in different English varieties and across time.....	7
2.3 Tag questions and gender.....	8
3. Material & Method .....	10
4. Results .....	12
4.1 Statistical observations on the use of tag questions by the panel show hosts.....	12
4.2 Types of tag questions.....	13
4.3 Polarity of tag questions .....	14
4.4 Functions of tag questions .....	15
4.5 Position of tag questions.....	17
5. Discussion .....	18
References .....	23
Appendices .....	25

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Background

Spoken language differs from written language in many ways. Usually it is not as formal, even though there are informal forms of written language as well. In addition, more can be said in less amount of time. There are several ways to keep the conversation going, to move it forward and to prevent it from stopping. A dialogue can be very direct, as though the only reason for it to happen is to express quick information between two, or more, participants. However, dialogues do not necessarily need to be hasty. Sometimes people might want to keep talking, and sometimes they have to keep talking to avoid awkward situations. In such cases, people may use a variety of options to keep it going or to invite others into conversation, either consciously or unconsciously. Tag questions may be used for these purposes. There are several ways to use tag questions, but Greenbaum and Nelson (2009) emphasize the main objective being either to seek acceptance or to invite others into conversation.

In terms of varieties, tag questions are much more common in British English than in American English. Tottie and Hoffman's (2006) study on present-day usage of tag questions in American and British English showed that British native speakers use tag questions nine times more frequently than their American counterparts. Tottie and Hoffman (2009) then chose to expand the study of tag questions and turned to the historical use of tag questions. The first historical discoveries of written tag questions date back to the seventeenth century. From the seventeenth century and onwards, the use of tag questions has increased heavily.

Tag questions have been explored in terms of differences between varieties, across time, but also in relation to gender and language. For example, Holmes (1985) mentions in her work that men use more tag questions than women (c.f. 1.3; 2.2), while Lakoff (1975) claims that women tend to use tag questions more than their male counterparts. Yet, Holmes and Lakoff agree on gender differences in how and for what reasons tag questions are used.

Most previous studies are related to a corpus of some sort. For example, Tottie and Hoffman's research from 2006 used the British National Corpus (BNC) and the Longman

Spoken American Corpus (LSAC) for their study on tag questions in different varieties of English. These corpora consist of excerpts from both spoken language as well as written formal and informal examples of English in different varieties and contexts. However, few studies have been made on tag questions in connection to television broadcasting in general and especially in relation to sport television broadcasting. Television engages participants to contribute to a discourse, either through a written script or more loosely and spontaneously. Thus, live broadcasting encourages open talk and long discussions which provide language features which are interesting in terms of gender-related usage, and most importantly to this essay, of tag questions. Even though the area of sport is not yet gender-equal, instances where equality has reached fairly tolerable standards do exist, and those are the instances in which a gender study would be appropriate to make.

## **1.2 Aim**

This study aims to examine gender differences in television broadcasting, in terms of tag questions used by hosts and anchors. Hence, a study of a football related panel show will be made.

The aim gives rise to the following research questions:

- Who uses tag questions the most? Male or female hosts?
- What functions do the tag questions carry and who uses what functions, in terms of gender-related preferences?
- What forms does the tag question take?

## **1.3 Overview of study**

First, chapter 2 and its subsections will provide a detailed study of previous research. The structure and functions of tag questions are presented as well as a description of tag question varieties in relation to gender. Chapter 3 will provide an outline of the material, and I will discuss how this study was approached and what methods were chosen and why. In chapter 4, the results from the study will be presented. The quantitative and qualitative results are discussed in relation to the research questions formulated above. Chapter 5 delivers a

discussion based on the results. The previous research is taken into account and discussed in relation to the results from this study.

## 2. Previous research

In this chapter, previous studies will be presented. Previous works (Quirk et al, 1985; Greenbaum and Nelson, 2009; Tottie and Hoffman, 2006; Thomas, 1989) regarding tag questions and their functions will be surveyed. In addition, a wider view on how tag questions work socially will be explained. Finally, there will be a section on the study of tag questions in relation to gender.

### 2.1 Forms and functions of tag questions

Tag questions have been of interest for many scholars throughout the years. Quirk et al (1985) and Greenbaum and Nelson (2009) took on a general approach regarding lexical and grammatical structures of tag questions. Their works were later developed and discussed by several experts, whose findings have been incorporated in the present study.

Tag questions have been explained in many ways. To begin with, a tag question, also known as a *canonical* tag question, consists of an operator (Op) and a pronoun (PrN), as seen in the example below (1.A). The canonical tag is built in this manner.

- (1)
- |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| A. Isn't she?         |                     |
| -----                 | -----               |
| <i>Op</i>             | <i>PrN</i>          |
| B. Sara is beautiful, |                     |
| -----                 | <i>isn't she?</i>   |
| <i>Anchor</i>         | <i>Tag question</i> |

The operator and the pronoun of the tag are mirroring the subject and operator of the main sentence, sometimes referred to as the anchor (Tottie & Hoffmann, 2006:283), as seen in 1.B. The operators are either primary verbs (*be, do and have*) or modal verbs such as *may/might, can/could* and *shall/should*. In this case, the operator is *is* and the pronoun is *she*, referring back to Sara. A negation is usually added to the tag, as *n't* and *not* (Dehe & Braun, 2012:129), but more on that later on (p. 5). 1.A + B show us that the typical tag question is attached to

non-interrogative sentences. This type is called *declarative*. It allows the speaker to seek affirmation and acceptance to the yes-or-no feature of the tag, or simply to invite others to join the conversation (Greenbaum & Nelson, 2009:106).

Holmes (1995:80-82) discusses the functions of tag questions. She mentions four distinctive functions: *facilitative tags, epistemic modal tags, softening tags and challenging tags*.

Table 2.1. Types of tag questions (Holmes, 1995)

Type of tag	Function
<b>Facilitative tags</b>	Examples of hedges. Serve as a positive politeness device. Invite the addressee to contribute to the discourse. <i>You have got a new job Tom, haven't you?</i>
<b>Epistemic modal tags</b>	Express the speaker's uncertainty. Primary function is referential rather than affective with focus on accuracy. <i>Nordin's lecture is at two, isn't it?</i>
<b>Softening tags</b>	Negative politeness device. Used to attenuate the force of negatively affective utterances such as directives. <i>That was a really dumb thing to do, wasn't it?</i>
<b>Challenging tags</b>	Used for confrontational strategies. May pressure a reluctant addressee to reply or boost the force of a negative speech act. <i>Now you fully understand, don't you?</i>

As seen in Table 2.1, facilitative and softening tags are of the same type, inviting to conversations, and they are signs of concern for the addressee, which is, according to Holmes (1995), a function typical for women. She argues that facilitative tag questions are relevant in gender comparisons. In terms of politeness strategies, facilitative tags are of positive character, while softening tags tend to be negative. Epistemic modal tags express uncertainty; the speaker is claiming something and wants the statement to be affirmed. Challenging tags act to “force feedback when it is not forthcoming” (Thomas, 1989:27) and are not as common, according to Holmes (more on positive and negative politeness see in section 2.3).

To further show the complexity of tag questions, examples in (2) show that there is more to a tag question than the canonical declarative variant. A tag question can also be imperative (2A), exclamative (2B) and interrogative (2C) (Axelsson, 2011:177).

- (2)
- A. Come with me, will you?
  - B. How nice this city is, isn't it?
  - C. Are you coming, are you?

Moreover, the integrated and abbreviated form *innit*, as an *invariant* tag, should also be mentioned. *Innit* is a shortened form of *isn't it* or *ain't it*, not carrying the subject/operator attribute, which is the case for the more frequently used canonical variant. The use of this type is almost exclusively limited to British English. *Innit* is considered to be slang or non-standard English and differs from many other tags. Andersen (2001) and Palacios Martinez (2011) mean that *innit* can be used as a response that expresses reinforcement and surprise. Another invariant tag question similar to *innit* is *alright*.

Westlund (2013) gives an example (3) of the use of *innit* where it is used differently compared to the canonical tag question. Another example of *alright* is provided in (4).

- (3)
- A. Person 1: I'm all warm in my bedroom!  
Person 2: *Innit* (2001:143)
  - B. Person 1 (to person 3): What are you saying that for?  
Person 2: *Innit* (2001:146)
  - C. Person 1: Mhm, he's a dickhead in he?  
Person 2: *Innit*. Dad's a pig. (2001:147)
- Example cited from Westlund (2013)
- D. You are doing it like this, alright?

As shown so far, there is reversed polarity in most of the tag questions. Reversed polarity indicates that the main sentence (the anchor) is positive and the tag is negative, or vice versa. This is the usual characteristic of the tag question, either positive-negative or negative-positive. However, the polarities may not only be reversed. There are occasions of negative-negative/positive-positive, or constant polarity as it is called (Tottie & Hoffman, 2006:285).

- (4)
- | <i>Anchor</i>                        | <i>Tag</i>  | <i>Polarity</i>           |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| A. Makes you really think,           | doesn't it. | Positive – Negative (+/-) |
| B. Oh it's not very valuable         | is it?      | Negative – Positive (-/+) |
| C. So this is the letter he sent you | is it?      | Positive – Positive (+/+) |
| D. They don't come cheap             | don't they? | Negative – Negative (-/-) |
- Examples cited from Tottie & Hoffman (2006)



Quirk et al (1985:811) discuss the meanings of tag questions and intonation, which plays a great part of the speaker's intention. Tag questions with a rising tone at the end tend to be invitational tags, while a falling tone indicates statements rather than questions. Quirk et al. suggest that the sentence "I assume he likes his job, am I right?" with a rising tone, intentionally means the opposite, that he does not like his job, which may imply another common usage of tag question: irony. According to Kreuz et. al (1999:1685), a tag question can indicate verbal irony, as in 5.A+B:

- (5)           A. You think you're really something, *don't you?*  
              B. Wow, that was really hard, *wasn't it?*

Kreuz et. al imply that the tag "might serve as a cue that the utterance's meaning is somehow different than its literal meaning" and "might function to make the statement seem even more ironic" if the statement is nonliteral (1999:1688)

A tag's position may vary - the *turn position* is a term constructed for this. As mentioned previously, a tag question is attached to a clause, often as a succeeding tag. It is then referred to as *turn-final*. A turn in this case is when the speaker stopped talking and the conversation "turns". However, this does not mean that a tag necessarily has to succeed a clause; it may also be inserted between clauses, as in 6. This position of the tag is referred to as *turn-embedded* since it is embedded within clauses. *Turn-initial* stands for an initial position of the tag, even though that is a rare position (Coates, 1989). The turn-embedded position is often used as a rhetorical question and thus not expecting a response. In this case, the information that comes after the tag is often added if the speaker wants to add information. The anchor is often completed with the tag, the information coming after the tag is only added information (Axelsson, 2011:126).

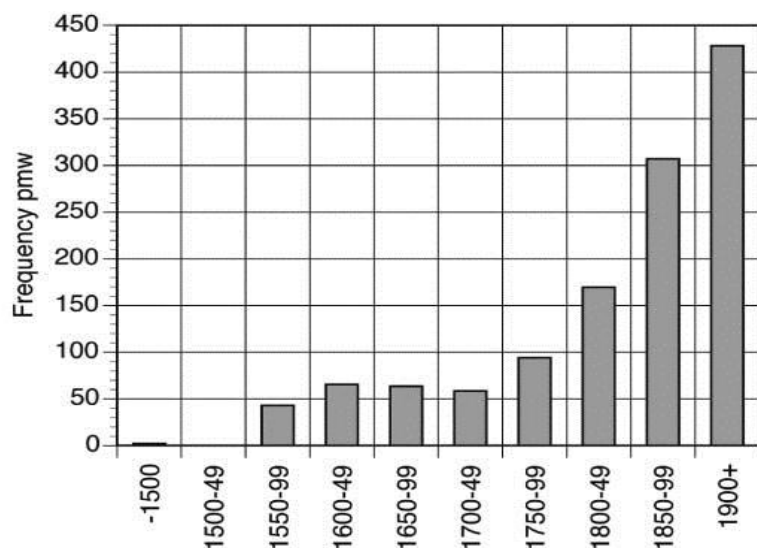
- (6)           You did understand, *didn't you*, the intended meaning of that question?

According to Axelsson (2011:125), many describe the tag question as a feature existing almost exclusively at the end of sentences, with its main objective being invitation. She goes on claiming that there is no evidence of other positions of tag questions than final in fiction dialogue, hence tag questions were thought as being used only at the end of sentences. However, that is not true. In spoken conversation, there are many recordings of turn-embedded tag questions, and both the findings from Axelsson's study and the present study (see section 4) will show that.

## 2.2 Tag questions in different English varieties and across time

To get another perspective on tag questions and their contextual behaviour, Tottie and Hoffman (2006, 2009) have provided two important studies on tag questions in recent years. Firstly, they presented a study of present-day use of tag questions in American and British English (Tottie and Hoffman, 2006). The study focused on two corpora, British National Corpus for the study of frequency in British English and for the American study, Longman Spoken American Corpus was used. The study presented an interesting result showing that British people use tag questions nine times more than Americans: 4,383 instances per million words vs. 455 per million words (Tottie and Hoffman, 2006:131). Secondly, the study from 2009 focused on the historical evolution of tag questions. The study was based on texts of seventeenth century plays. In the 1600s, they found 50 tags per million words, compared to the 425 tags per million words in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. That is an increase of 750% in three hundred years.

Figure 2.2: The use of tag questions in English drama across five centuries (Tottie and Hoffman, 2009:132).



The increase in the use of tag questions is significant. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the amount of tag questions almost doubled compared to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and a century later, in the 20<sup>th</sup>, the amount of tag questions was almost three times as high as in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Today,

especially in Britain, the use of tag questions is remarkably high and is considered by some scholars as a variety-specific feature of speech behaviour.

### 2.3 Tag questions and gender

Several experts have studied gender-related aspects regarding the use of tag questions. The recognized feminists Lakoff (1975), Holmes (1995) and Cameron (2006) have conducted research on language and gender, power and politeness. In their works, they analysed tag questions in different contexts with a particular focus on gender. Studies were made on the functions of tag questions in speech acts. Thus Lakoff focuses on the area of politeness and power in connection to tag questions, while Holmes is more interested in the area of functionality and what functions are related to either of the sexes. Cameron's text, on the other hand, is related to Lakoff's ideas of power and powerlessness. She examines Lakoff's work and develops its ideas further.

As far as power is concerned, several studies show that tag questions are used more frequently in speeches made by people with some sort of responsibility. Holmes means that both women and men use tag questions more frequently when are endowed with power and responsibility, i.e. the use of tag questions is status-related. She claims that "regardless of gender, 'powerful' participants use more of the facilitative tags" (1995:85-86). Reversely, powerless speakers adopt epistemic modal tags in their speeches. Holmes further states that the correlation between "leadership" and the use of tag questions is strong. Tag questions are supposed to help and motivate interaction, and leaders tend to use them as an important tool in their work. Lakoff, on the other hand, claims that the use of tag questions is a sign of powerlessness, thus not entirely agreeing with Holmes.

Moore and Podesva (2009) review Lakoff's (1975:15) ground-breaking study of women's language and power where she states that tags are "midway between an outright statement and a yes-no question", and thus convey signals of low confidence and powerlessness from the speaker's part. She further suggests that "women are expected" to use this kind of feature more than men reflecting on the power differences. Hosman and Siltanen (2011:342) discuss, based on Lakoff's study, that tag questions are used in a similar manner as hedges and are thus seen as "powerlessness markers". Hedges are additional words that soften and lessen the importance of an utterance, such as *like* and *somewhat*. Hosman and Siltanen further mean that tag questions can be perceived in different ways depending on who

is using them. Their analysis found that the credibility of sources was dependent on how an utterance was perceived, which led them to distinguish between *affected persuasion* and *message processing*:

When a high credibility source used tag questions, the questions indicated certainty, increased message processing, and enhanced or hurt persuasion depending on the quality of message arguments. When a low credibility source used tag questions, these questions indicated uncertainty, hurt persuasion, and negatively biased message processing. (Hosman and Siltanen, 2011:342).

However, Lakoff (1975) states that tag questions are not only a sign of low confidence but may as well function as a strategy which facilitates discourse. There is a distinction between epistemic modal tags and affective tags, she continues, as the former may indicate uncertainty while the latter may indicate a concern for the other person by being facilitative.

According to Holmes (1995:83) study of New Zealand corpora, facilitative tags (can be compared with Lakoff's affective tags) are the only type of tags that is more common amongst women, while epistemic, softening and challenging tags are more common amongst men. She agrees with Hosman and Siltanen on that facilitative tag questions function as a form of hedges, but she means that they also serve as politeness: "they invite the addressee to contribute to the discourse" (1995:81). Men, in turn, use epistemic modal tags and challenging tags more often, suggesting that men are less polite, or at least that men are more in favour of negative politeness. In her analysis of tags, Holmes applies the theory of positive and negative politeness of Brown and Levinson (1987), where the negative variant is referred to behaviour "which avoids imposing on others", whereas positive politeness communicates concern and warmth towards an addressee. For example, both advice and suggestions are categorized as negative politeness even though they can be seen as positives.

Moreover, Lakoff claims that women are generally more polite than men and refers to politeness as "developed by societies to reduce friction in personal interaction" (1975:87). On the other hand, an American would consider a British person polite by their British accent and frequent use of *please* as well as by frequent omitting of the first person singular. Even so, Holmes (1995) argues that women use more pragmatics that serve positive politeness than men. There are several speech styles characteristic of women that cohere to the general view of politeness, or sometimes even powerlessness. Intensifiers and hesitations, to which tag questions are related, are by all means a sign of this. Jespersen (1922), though, refers to women as conservative, wanting "maintain the purity" in the language, which in turn

leads to exclusion of rude language, for example. Men, on the other hand, are after innovation in language, according to Jespersen.

Lakoff also touches upon the field of expectancy. In her work (1975:73-74), she brings up how an utterance is perceived. A woman's utterance on an object's colour is expected to be clear and precise, while if a man would have stated the same sentence she suggests that "one might well conclude he was imitating a woman sarcastically or was a homosexual or an interior decorator". According to Lakoff, men consider such subjects "irrelevant to the real world". Nevertheless, she also suggests that women are becoming more likely to adapt to the language of men. However, according to other studies (Coates, 1989; Cameron et al, 1989) based on the British Survey of English Usage, men use in general more tag questions than their New Zealand counterparts. Even though men used more tag questions, there is a distinct pattern in the women's use of facilitative tag questions. This, though, can be related to the difference in English varieties and the fact that British people are more likely to use tag questions, as the survey of American and British English corpora by Tottie and Hoffman (2006) demonstrates.

The present study will show that its data does not entirely agree with the findings mentioned above.

### **3. Material & Method**

The material consists of 24 episodes from a sport television channel. The process of data collection started with scanning obtainable British television shows on the Internet that might serve the purpose of this thesis. To get access to foreign television material, some sort of payment is typically compulsory and, therefore, Liverpool Football Club's own television channel, LFC TV, was chosen thanks to an already existing subscription from my part. LFC TV holds the right to broadcast live coverage of friendly and academy teams' matches, interviews and studio material, such as analyses of matches and so forth. After each match, invited pundits reflect on the events from the match together with a host. Due to a restricted amount of shows available that would serve this thesis in terms of gender examination, the number of shows was limited to one, even though I am aware of the fact that the study itself would benefit from, in terms of accuracy, examining more than one show, and thus more hosts.

Several factors were taken into account regarding the choice of shows. At first, a study of an American talk show would be seen as the natural choice since the vast majority of

foreign representations on Swedish television are America-related. Though this study aims to examine the use of tag questions, the shows studied should preferably contain as many tags as possible. I therefore chose to study a British panel show. In addition, I chose not to study a sitcom due to a probable ignorance of certain spontaneous linguistic devices, such as tag questions, in written manuscripts (a scriptwriter's own language use might be reflected on the manuscript). I am aware of the fact that talk show hosts or anchors often are prepared with questions as well, but there will always be impulsive interruptions in such shows, hence my choice of a panel show.

Preferably, a show with an existing transcript would be ideal, but due to the lack of transcriptions available from the British television, a transcription had to be made. More episodes than the 24 included in the material were studied, but four or five episodes were omitted due to the fact that they did not contain any tag questions. After choosing shows that should be included in my research, they were transcribed with the focus on the hosts' speech. I chose not to transcribe what the pundits said since the focus was on the television hosts' language use. When watching the shows on the Internet, a recording of only the hosts was made, thus stopping the recorder while the pundits had the word. A word-for-word transcription was made, even though pauses and hesitations, such as "erm", were omitted. In addition, recording only the hosts also helped me compare the speaking time with the total time of the particular episode. Even though this study does not focus on the examination of speaking time but rather on the quantitative and qualitative analysis of tag questions, the speaking time variable was taken into account regarding how many tag questions the hosts used in relation to their speaking time. It also provided comparable data on the percentage of tag questions used by each host in relation to time and words.

Every episode under study was of different length, with three minutes at least, reaching up to 11 minutes at most. In total, the episodes counted 161 minutes (2 hours, 41 seconds) of which the hosts were recorded for approximately 21% each. Depending on how long the episodes were, between six and ten shows per host were recorded and transcribed. The percentage of their total speaking time was then calculated in order to compare them to each other. Thereafter, the transcriptions were examined to find the number of tag questions each interview provided. The tag questions were then classified in terms of their structure and function. Thus, from the material a distinction between the three hosts could be made.

Regarding the informants of this study, LFC TV offers a hosting which is divided between the sexes, which in turn leads to an optimal staging in terms of gender examination. One week, LFC TV's main anchor and host, Claire Rourke, is leading the show,

whilst another week, Mark Benstead or Peter McDowall are invited to guide us through the process.

The information below about these hosts is relevant for the study of their speech behaviour discussed in section 4:

- Claire Rourke: 30- year old, employed since 2007. Worked for Real Madrid TV for two years before joining LFC TV.
- Peter McDowall: 36-year old, came back recently after a few years in absence. One of the original hosts from 2007.
- Mark Benstead: Employed since summer 2013, freelancer before that.

The fact that only three hosts have provided the data for this gender study makes it a case study, as a sociolinguistic study would require several hosts of both sexes to reveal gender-related tendencies in the use of tag questions. This was not possible, however, in terms of the availability of shows on the Internet. The fact that there is only one female host makes it difficult to generalize on the use of tag questions in television shows, even though the present data has provided some interesting observations and results. Moreover, there are other shows available on the Internet of similar type, i.e. sport television shows, but, the fact that no woman was involved in the shows made it impossible to include them in a gender study.

## **4. Results**

In this chapter, the results from the study will be presented and it will answer the research questions from the aim section. Who uses tag questions more often, a male or a female host? What sorts of tag questions were used and what functions did they carry? Findings discussed in the previous chapters will be taken into account in this chapter.

### **4.1 Statistical observations on the use of tag questions by the panel show hosts**

The statistical observations from the study are presented in this section. Table 4.1 below shows contrasts in the use of tag questions per host. . Out of the three hosts, Mark was the one who spoke the most in each episode, with an average figure of 23.5 %. The only female host, Claire, spoke the least reaching an average figure of 18.9 % of the total time in each episode.

Moreover, as seen in Table 4.1, the number of words used by each host clearly relates to the average speaking time. Mark was recorded for the highest number of words while Claire used the fewest words and thus had the lowest average speaking time. Claire, who used the least number of words, used more tag questions than Mark, who in turn used over a thousand words more than Claire even though the total time of episodes was fairly equal. Peter, however, used the largest number of tag questions, reaching up to 20 instances of tag questions.

The percentages in brackets in the number of tags column are percentages of tags in relation to the number of words spoken by each host. 14 tags used by Claire are thus 0.87 % of 1613 words.

Table 4.1: The use of tag questions by the three hosts under study

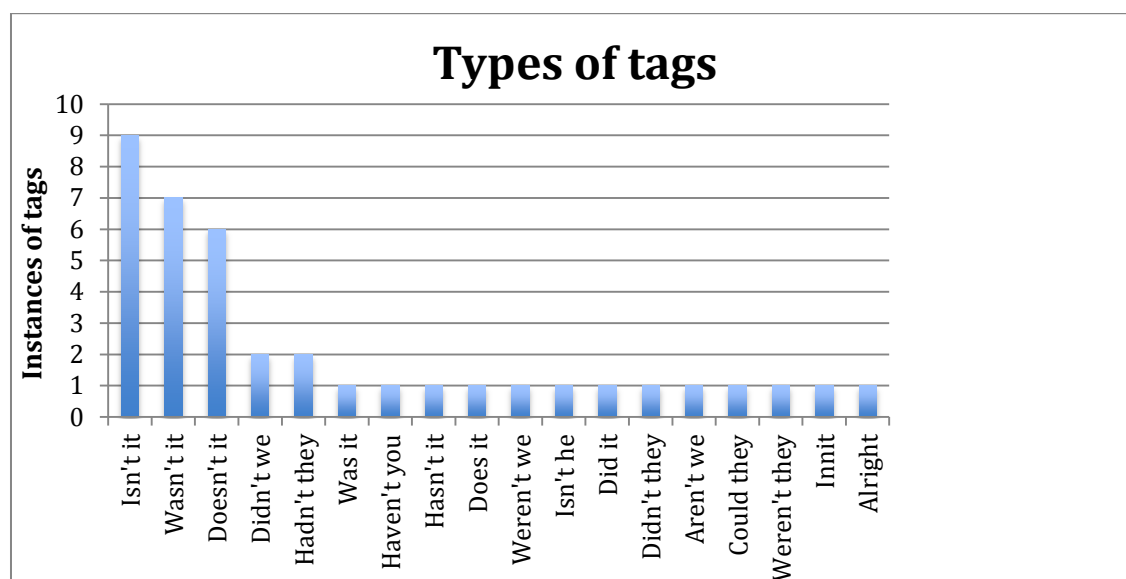
	Claire	Mark	Peter
<b>Total time of episodes (minutes)</b>	53	54	54
<b>Average speaking time (%)</b>	18.9	23.5	20.0
<b>Words (n)</b>	1613	2719	2231
<b>Tags (% of total words)</b>	14 (0.87)	5 (0.018)	20 (0.90)
<b>Tags per thousand words (n)</b>	8.7	1.8	9.0

## 4.2 Types of tag questions

In total, 18 types of tag questions were used. As seen in Figure 4.2A, there were only two invariant tags used, *innit* and *alright*, and they were only encountered once each. Otherwise, the canonical tag questions carrying subject and operator, which reflect the anchor, represented the majority. The most common tag question was *isn't it*, which was used on nine occasions. Coming close to that number, *wasn't it* and *doesn't it* were used seven and six times respectively. The other types had lower occurrence with either one or two instances.



Figure 4.2: Types of tag questions used by the hosts in the panel show



Regarding the use of invariant versus canonical tag questions, there is a distinctive difference between the two. Canonical tag questions, where the subject of the tag reflects the subject of the main sentence, represented 37 instances, 94.9%, of the tag questions used in the study, only two (5.1%) were invariant tags. In addition, there was only one host who used invariant tags and that was the female host Claire, as seen in 8A + B.

- (8) A. Liverpool deserved the victory, Ronnie, **alright**?  
 B. It's not a bad day when you can bring on a full Welsh international in the second half, **innit**?

### 4.3 Polarity of tag questions

In total, three out of four types of polarity were found, with the reversed polarity holding the majority. 36 of the 39 tag questions were in reversed polarity with the positive/negative as the most used. Only three carried constant polarity with two of them positive/positive and one negative/negative, as seen in Figure 4.3. Below, 9A, is an example of an embedded constant polarity tag used by Mark in on of the interviews and 9B + C show reversed polarity, positive/negative and negative/positive.

- (9) A. A positive, **was it**, the manager was very positive (+/+)  
 B. We are always striving for perfection, **aren't we**? (+/-)  
 C. But it didn't much materialize, Dave, **did it**?" (-/+)



Figure 4.4: Functions of tag questions

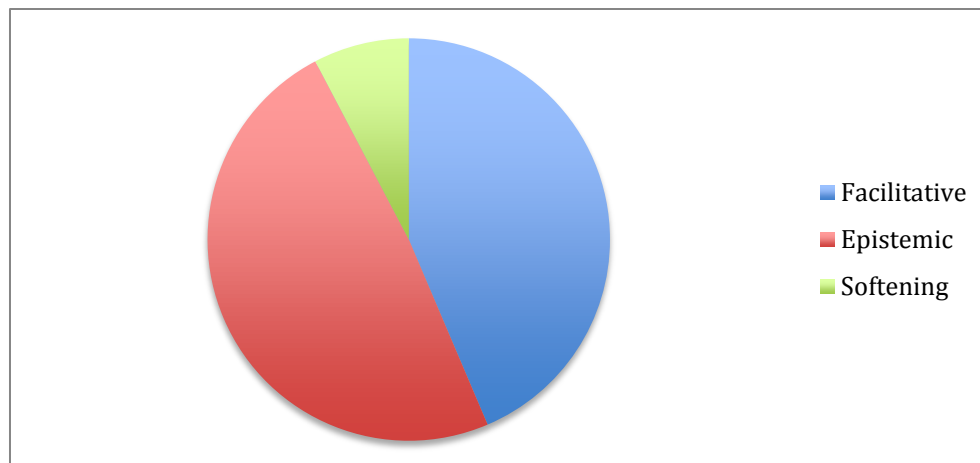


Figure 4.4 shows how the functions were distributed. On 17 occasions (43.6%), the tags carried a facilitative function, i.e. they were used to facilitate the discourse by an invitation in form of a tag. On 19 occasions (48.7%), the tag questions were epistemic modal tags, which function in situations of uncertainty. In this study, there were no occasions where challenging tag questions were used, but three softening tag questions were reported and only the male hosts used them. Contrasts between the hosts, thus gender-related, are shown in table 4.4.

Table 4.4: Functions of tags questions used by the hosts

	Claire	Mark	Peter
<b>Facilitative tags</b>	9	1	7
<b>Epistemic modal tags</b>	5	3	11
<b>Softening tags</b>	0	1	2
<b>Challenging tags</b>	0	0	0

Table 4.4 also shows that the female host, Claire, uses facilitative tags to a larger extent than epistemic modal tags, almost twice as many. Reversely, the male representatives favoured epistemic modal tags. Mark uses almost exclusively epistemic modal tags, even though one occasion when he used a facilitative tag and one occasion when he used a softening tag were recorded. Regarding Peter, he seems to follow his own pattern. He favoured the epistemic modal tags but used facilitative tag questions relatively frequently as well.

An interesting example (11A) of a facilitative tag question was given by Claire in one of the episodes, whereas 11B is an example of an epistemic modal tag where Peter's

uncertainty is expressed rather than politeness. In turn, 11C shows an example of a softening tag lessening the importance of the argument that the situation was bizarre.

- (11)           A. It feels pretty good, **doesn't it?**  
                  B. They had to really dig in to that result, **didn't they?**  
                  C. And this was bizarre, **wasn't it**, this one.

Interestingly, Figure 4.3 (c.f. 4.3) shows that three of the tag questions carried reversed polarity with a negative anchor and a positive tag. Out of these three, two carried the function of facilitative tags and were positioned (see more in section 4.5) in a final position and thus showing that positive tags in this study tend to carry a facilitative function.

- (12)           A. But it didn't much materialize, Dave, **did it?**  
                  B. It doesn't look too bad, **does it?**

Both of these examples come from the statements in which the hosts are claiming the obvious. Hence, these uses are considered to be facilitative tag questions rather epistemic modal tags. The hosts' intention with these utterances is to keep the conversation flowing by inviting the pundits into the discourse.

#### **4.5 Position of tag questions**

As discussed in section 2.1, the tag normally takes a final or embedded position, i.e. they either finish the sentence, functioning as an invitation, or they are used in the middle of a sentence as a rhetoric device. While Axelsson (2011) discusses the *turn-position*, this study will only take on the *position* of the tag, leaving out the number of turns in the conversation.

To judge from the data analysed in the present study, the amount of final tags and embedded tags is next to equal: 19 instances of final tag questions and 20 instances of embedded tag questions have been reported. . The general view discussed in Axelsson (2011) that tag questions tend to take final position is thus challenged in this study.

- (13)           A. We'll have a look at the league table, as it stands in the minute, to be top on Christmas Day and then to be out of the top four is tough to take, **isn't it?**  
  
                  B. We saw a late rally from Liverpool, **didn't we**, that was encouraging in one sense and they maybe had two or three opportunities to score the goal before they did.

Example 13A illustrates a final position of tag questions. In this case, it carries the function of epistemic modal tag, i.e. it expresses uncertainty. 13B, on the other hand, shows an embedded tag question, not to facilitate the discourse but rather used rhetorically, which agrees with Axelsson's (2011) study.

Table 4.5: Position-related usage of tag questions

	Claire	Mark	Peter
<b>Final</b>	10	2	7
<b>Embedded</b>	4	3	13

Further reflection on the position shows that Claire, who used most facilitative tag questions, placed the tag in a final position most frequently. Mark and Peter, on the other hand, used more epistemic modal tags, and Table 4.5 shows that both of them inserted their tag questions within the clauses. The embedded tag questions thus tend to be epistemic modal tags whilst the facilitative tags tend to appear at a final position, when used by the hosts.

Another reflection on the position of the tag might be that embedded tag questions might function to elicit minimal responses, or seeking support.

- (14) "That start has been so key for Liverpool this season, **hasn't it**, because nine times out of ten..."

In 14, *hasn't it* might very well function as a device questioning the accuracy of the statement. However, it might also function as a form of question used in order to see if the listeners are following or not. From a listener, a simple nodding or *mm* would fit as a minimal response as the speaker continues.

## 5. Discussion

The aim of this study was to examine a field with little previous research related to it - the use of tag questions in sport television broadcasting. Sport television is undoubtedly male dominated, even though female representatives are growing in numbers. However, the world of football is still seen as masculine. Television programmes regarding football are mainly

held by well-dressed men, connected to the sport in one way or another, good at analysing matches. The main goal of the present study was to examine gender differences in this area, to see how a woman behaved in an environment dominated by men. Did she act in a way which can be seen as customary for that field? Or did she take a step back, letting the men play the greater part? This study only shows if she did so linguistically, namely using tag questions.

The choice of television profiles and the use of tag questions in TV shows were interesting thanks to several aspects. First, to see how television show hosts use language in different situations in relation to gender stereotypes and conventional environments was revelatory. The analysis of tag instances has shown that leadership and power situation of hosts influence their language.

Since the study applied quantitative and qualitative methods of data analysis, , this required a general understanding of what tag questions are and how they behave. Previous studies showed that men and women use tag questions differently, both in terms of quantity and in terms of quality. For instance, Lakoff (1975) claimed that women use more tag questions than men due to their concern for politeness, but also as a sign of powerlessness. Holmes (1995), on the other hand, found through her study of a New Zealand corpus that men use tag questions to a larger extent than women, as did Cameron et al (1989) with their study on the British Survey of English Usage. But, Holmes did agree with Lakoff on why women use tag questions. The facilitative function was found to be the only function in which women used tag questions more frequently than men. Holmes also maintained that epistemic modal tags might reflect powerlessness to a larger degree than facilitative tags, which in the case of this study would indicate that Peter McDowall's use of tag questions reflect his powerlessness (see Table 4.4). Furthermore, Axelsson (2011) argued that the position of the tag is connected to functionality as well, meaning that final positioned tag questions can carry any function whilst embedded tag questions usually do not. In this study, however, the embedded tag questions did carry a function in some instances; not only were they rhetorical, they also carried the function of epistemic modal tags.

In terms of involvement, Claire Rourke did not dominate the discourse as much as the men did. According to Schmid Mast (2002:421), dominance is often seen in two ways: your personal traits and the hierarchical positions within a group. She goes on claiming that dominance in relation to group settings and size is much more relevant in larger groups compared to small groups. Many people are nervous when speaking in front of large audiences, which in turn brings a leader, hence the dominance factor. Smaller groups allow more participants to contribute and thus less dominance is involved. Schmid Mast also refers

to a certain level of expectancy. She suggests that stereotypical roles within groups determine discourse patterns. Therefore, it is relevant to assume that Claire allowed herself less space, than Mark Benstead and Peter McDowall due to the male dominated environment. It can also relate to politeness or professionalism since she, due to respect towards the pundits, gave the pundits more space – ultimately, they are there to give their thoughts on the subject, not the host.

Interestingly, Claire's speaking time is fairly equal to the other hosts, but the amount of words is not. From that one can conclude that even though the hosts spoke for roughly the same amount of time, the male hosts interrupted more, or at least spoke faster and perhaps more spontaneously, possibly due to being more at ease. Again, the issue of dominance is manifest. Dominance does not only have to do with how much you actually speak, it also has to do with how much you allow others to speak. Interruptions are a successful tool for making others speak less, which coheres with the question of dominance in relation to this study: Mark and Peter interrupted more than Claire (Schmid Mast, 2002:440).

Furthermore, it is necessary to take into account the question of employment period. Claire Rourke is LFC TV's official presenter and has been there since the start in 2007, whereas Peter McDowall recently came back after a few years in absence; he was also one of the original presenters. Mark Benstead, on the other hand, was employed only last summer. In addition, Claire had been working for another football team's TV channel before joining LFC TV, Real Madrid TV, and gained some experience from that. This might lead to a certain level of comfort for each of the hosts. Claire and Peter, who are comfortable in their position and used to the task that involves interviewing previous and modern football stars, might have a small advantage in terms of how much floor they allow themselves. However, the study does not completely correlate with that idea; it actually refutes the argument that Claire and Peter would allow themselves more space. They do use more tag questions than Mark, but Mark, on the other hand, is the one speaking the most, which leads to an interpretation that, in this case and study, employment does not entirely impact the way of speaking, it might even has the reverse effect. Perhaps, Mark feels that he must impress, and the least number of question tags in his speech could be interpreted as a sign of nervousness.

Interestingly, as mentioned in the result section (see section 4.2), Claire Rourke was the only one who used invariant tags. This can very well be related to the feeling of comfort but also related to how the host approaches the task. Claire, in this case, uses *alright* and *innit* once each, and these tags might reflect her long service for the channel, showing that she is at ease with what she is doing. Being employed since the start of something gives

confidence and self-respect. The pundits who are there a few times per year know the woman, and she considers herself knowing them; they have built a relationship off the formal record. Furthermore, as invariant tag questions are more common on informal occasions, they can be an indicator of what personal background the person has. However, we do not know very much about Claire and cannot judge about the reasons behind her choice of these colloquial tags. , but her many years in service probably had an effect on her.

Another aspect under study was what functions the tag questions carried. According to Lakoff (1975), women tend to use more tag questions than men because they are more polite. She refers to tag questions as a marker of politeness, or even an indicator for powerlessness. She compares tag questions to hedges, which are markers of hesitation and doubt, meaning that this is a reason why women use more of that device than men. As seen in Table 4.4, the functions of the tag questions differ from host to host. Claire, however, correlates with Lakoff's view on how women use tag questions – to facilitate a discourse and to invite, being polite as it were, or even being doubtful and hesitant. Nine out of her 14 tag questions were facilitative. This also agrees with Holmes' (1995) study in which she states that women use more tag questions than men in only one category of functions, namely the facilitative.

The present study also agrees with Holmes' findings on men's use of tag questions. According to her study, men tend to use epistemic modal tags, which, in turn, might indicate powerlessness. Mark Benstead did not use a significant amount of tag questions in relation to his word count, but for the few he used, he follows the pattern described by Holmes. Peter, used epistemic modal tags to some extent as well, but he had several instances of facilitative and softening tag questions as well. Nevertheless, does their use of epistemic modal tags indicate that they are powerless? My interpretation is that it does not due to the position of the tag.

Regarding the position of the tag, an interesting agreement between previous studies and the present study was found. In television broadcasting, the purpose of having a host is to raise questions and to keep the conversation going. Since many of the tag questions used in the present study were embedded, we can conclude that the hosts' intentions were to raise questions even though they came out as declarative statements. Coates (1989) and Axelsson (2011) discuss the position of the tag question, maintaining that a final tag question can carry all functions while the embedded tag questions tend to be there as a rhetorical device, testing if the listener is following. These studies agree with the studies of Lakoff (1975) and Holmes (1995) who claim that women use facilitative tag questions as a sign of



politeness and thus place the tag question in a final position, which my study confirms. Claire used several final and facilitative tag questions while the male counterparts Mark and Peter did not. Hence the conclusion that Claire is more concerned with politeness, whereas Mark and Peter use tag questions rhetorically, i.e. to elicit minimal responses, which confirms my view of them not being powerless in their speech behaviour.

The decision of what function a tag question carries came with a data-based interpretation of findings from previous studies. Holmes' four definitions of functions were the base for the classification of the tag questions provided by the case study of three hosts' speech. A distinction between the three types (epistemic modal, facilitative and softening) was sometimes difficult, and on numerous occasions the question of whether a tag carried only a facilitative function or if it was a sign of uncertainty occurred. That judgement, though, had to be made not only on the written transcripts but also on the intonation and other contextual factors within the discourse. This helped to identify the function of tags as some of the embedded tag questions were added in utterances where an underlying uncertainty could be heard. This might very well be an indication of pure uncertainty but also a sign of agreement with the idea that an embedded tag is rhetorical rather than a question or invitation itself.

To conclude, the field of sport television broadcasting is an interesting area in terms of gender examination and pragmatics. It is widely known as a male dominated area but things are about to change. To continue this type of research and to develop it even further, more studies can be made in the area of sport broadcasting shows. A broader material will provide a greater amount of data and thus elicit a more general conclusion of how women and men actually behave in this environment. First and foremost though, the amount of women participating in sport broadcasting should increase to make that possible. This study provided an analysis of individual strategies used by television hosts. To see linguistic gender-related patterns, however, a comprehensive corpus of data provided by an equal number of informants of both sexes is needed.

## References

- Andersen, G. 2001. *Pragmatic Markers and Sociolinguistic variation: A Relevance-theoretical Approach to the Language of Adolescents* [Electronic Resource]. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamin's Publishing Company
- Axelsson, K. 2011. "Tag Questions in Fiction Dialogue". PhD thesis, Department of Languages and Literatures, University of Gothenburg.
- Cameron, D. 2006. *On Language and Sexual Politics*. New York: Routledge.
- Cameron, D.; McAlinden, F.; O'Leary, K. 1989. "Lakoff in context". In Jennifer Coates and Deborah Cameron (eds). *Women in their Speech Communities*, 74-93.
- Coates, J. 1989. "Gossip revisited: language in all-female groups". In Jennifer Coates and Deborah Cameron (eds). *Women in their Speech Communities*, 110-131.
- Dehé, N.; Braun, B. 2013. "The Prosody of Question Tags in English". *English Language and Linguistics* 17, 129-156.
- Greenbaum, S.; Nelson, G. 2009. *An Introduction to English Grammar*, 3rd ed. Harlow: Pearson Education Limited.
- Holmes, J. 1995. *Women, Men and Politeness*. New York: Longman Publishing.
- Hosman, L.A.; Siltanen, S.A. 2011. "Hedges, Tag Questions, Message Processing, and Persuasion". *Journal of Language and Social Psychology* 30, 341-349.
- Jespersen, O. 1922. *Language, Its Nature, Development and Origin*. London: Allen and Unwin.
- Kreuz, R.J.; Kessler, M.A.; Coppenrath, L.; Mclain Allen, B. 1999. "Tag Questions and Common Ground Effects in the Perception of Verbal Irony". *Journal of Pragmatics* 31, 1685-1700.
- Lakoff, R. 1975. *Language and Woman's Place*. New York: Harper & Row.
- Palacios Martinez, Ignacio M. 2011. "The Language of British Teenagers. A Preliminary Study of Its Main Grammatical Features". *Journal of the Spanish Association of Anglo-American Studies* 33, 105-126.
- Moore, E.; Podesva, R. 2009. "Style, Indexicality, and the Social Meaning of the Tag Question". *Language in Society* 38, 447-485.
- Palomares, N.A. 2008. "Explaining Gender-Based Language Use: Effects of Gender Identity Salience on References to Emotion and Tentative Language in Intra- and Intergroup Contexts". *Human Communication Research* 34, 263-286.
- Quirk, R.; Greenbaum, S.; Leech, G.; Svartvik, J. 1985. *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language*. New York: Longman Inc.

- Schmid Mast, M. 2002. "Dominance as Expressed and Inferred Through Speaking Time: A Meta-Analysis". *Human Communication Research* 28(3), 420-450.
- Thomas, J. 1989. "Discourse Control in Confrontational Interaction". In Leo Hickey (ed.) *The Pragmatics of Style*, London: Croom Helm, 133-156.
- Tottie, G.; Hoffmann, S. 2006. "Tag Questions in British and American English". *Journal of English Linguistics* 34, 283-311.
- Tottie, G.; Hoffmann, S. 2009. "Tag Questions in English: the First Century". *Journal of English Linguistics* 37 (2), 130-161.
- Westlund, A. 2013. "The Formal and Functional Features of *Innit*". BA thesis, Department of Language and Literature. University of Gothenburg.

# Appendices

## Transcriptions from LFC TV's 24 analysis episodes

### Show 1

Liverpool 4 West Ham 1

5 Minutes 30 seconds

Mark Benstead

Mark: *"Welcome to the match day, Liverpool have beaten West Ham United by four goals to one, here at Anfield [...]."*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *"Yeah, a 4-1 victory for the Reds. Two successive victories here at Anfield. (We're here) to reflect on the action and take your calls, I'm joined by Gary Gillespie and Jason McAteer. Jason, it was a mixed bag today at times, there were a few times frantic moments at times, but Liverpool worthy of the three points."*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *"Plenty of chances created, if not taken. Plenty of possession for Liverpool today Gary."*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *"It's definatley short of entertainment on trips to Anfield these days, goals are almost guaranteed, it has to be said. In terms of the overall match, I guess, there will be some concerns defensively once again, Gary. We want the defence to look a little bit tighter."*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *"It was an important three points, let's have a look how it affects the Premier League table: Liverpool return to second spot, in the standings after that victory. Elsewhere in the Premier League today, finished Man United nil, Newcastle one, at Old Trafford. Crystal Palace two, Cardiff nil, important win for them in the bottom of the table. Liverpool won 4-1 at West Ham of course here at Anfield, as we know. Southampton one, Man City one. Stoke City three, Chelsea two, at the Britannia. West Brom nil, Norwich two. Norwich bouncing back from the big defeat here on Wednesday night. The late kick off in the Barclay's Premier League is Sunderland against Spurs. We look at the standings there, and that was a really crucial three points for a chance to, for once, to capitalize where others have slipped up around this season."*

Guest pundits: [...]

### Show 2

Liverpool 5 Norwich 1

5 minutes 13 seconds

Mark Benstead

Mark: *"Full time here at Anfield today, Liverpool 5 Norwich City 1. Four goals for Luis Suarez as he becomes the first Liverpool player to score a hattrick of hattricks in the league against one side. He is an incredible player, a stunning performance from him, and a stunning performance from the team. To reflect on that and take your calls, I'm delighted to say I'm joined by Jason McAteer and Roy Evans. Roy, incredible stuff by Luis Suarez, he will steel the headlines, and rightly so today. A bit of everything of him, and four stunning goals."*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *"Jason, from the off, the team were off and started right away and he looked up for this after maybe a quieter performance against Hull City, he wanted to turn it on today, you could see that from the first go."*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *"Luis Suarez reminds us of his credentials though, a stunning performance from him and the goals were, I mean different, but great goals from him."*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *"Is that what sets him apart, his vision, anticipation. Is that what it is that differs between him and the other players?"*

Guest pundits: [...]

### **Show 3**

Liverpool 2 Aston Villa 2

5 minutes 57 seconds

Mark Benstead

Mark: *"Liverpool 2 Aston villa 2. The Reds having to come from two down to earn a point in this one on this evening. To take reflections on today's action I'm joined by Mark Wright and Didi Hamann. Gentlemen, not Liverpool's most impressive performance this season, Didi, what did you make of the action across the 90 minutes?"*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *"Obviously they went into a two goal lead, good goals by Weimann and Benteke. But to be fair, they hit the post before that, and Agbonlahor had a one-on-one he didn't capitalize on in the opening couple of minutes."*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *"Talking today, Mark, about the formation, the tactics, the personnel. It was a very positive, very attacking deployment from the manager. Did you today see the value of that holding midfield role, the sitter and Lucas Leiva who does that role so very well?"*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *"What do you think Brendan would have learnt from today, Didi, how it panned out and the fact that perhaps we were a little overexposing in the first half at least, anyway?"*

Guest pundits: [...]

### **Show 4**

Liverpool 2 Oldham Athletic 0

5 minutes 23 seconds

Mark Benstead

Mark: *"The scoreboard here at Anfield makes the pleasant reading tonight, Liverpool proceed into the fourth round of the FA Cup with a victory over Oldham Athletic. Iago Aspas with his first goal of the season and an own goal by Oldham's James Dekowski, giving the Reds a victory. If you've been listening to the game or indeed you've been at Anfield, give us a call to have your say on the match or indeed any Liverpool based issue. Joining me tonight to reflect on the 90 minutes we've seen and to look ahead further on into Liverpool's season, I'm joined by Jason McAteer and Phil Babb. Gents, great to have you with us here at Anfield this evening. Jason, job done in the end, Liverpool progressing in the cup, that was the goal today and it has been achieved."*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *"Yeah, they'd obviously set up to trying to contain Liverpool and defend quite... They defended quite well, it has to be said, for a good part of that game."*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *“Well, that is the most important thing, of course, on a day like this you want to progress through those early rounds and keep yourself in the equation. In terms of Liverpool’s performance here today, Raheem Sterling fit and starts, bright moments in the game, obviously involved in the second goal, it was his shot that was ultimately deflected in for the own goal that’d put this tie to bed.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *It is part down to familiarity, you know, you use to play in with people around you and you know where they will go and what they will do.*

Guest pundits: [...]

## **Show 5**

Arsenal 2 Liverpool 0

6 minutes 26 seconds

Mark Benstead

Mark: *“Hello and welcome to the match day forum. A frustrating evening for Liverpool going down by 2 goals to nil at the Emirates Stadium to Arsenal. This is the show that gives you the chance to have your say on the action, just pick up the phone and give us a call. My guests this evening, to take your course and reflect on what we’ve seen today are Mark Wright and Ian St John. Gents, great to have you here. Mark, what’s your assessment of Liverpool performance today, obviously a frustrating result?”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *“I guess we reflect on it. A positive, **was it**, the manager was very positive and the attempt to try and turn the game around, very positive changes today in the likes of Victor Moses, Coutinho etc. and changing in the formation, so that was good to see.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *“You’ve played in a back three, what are its strengths and weaknesses, do you like it as a formation, the way we’ve been exploring in the last couple of weeks?”*

Guest pundits: [...]

## **Show 6**

Under18 Liverpool 1 Manchester City 2

4 minutes 2 seconds

Mark Benstead

Mark: *“It finished Liverpool one, Manchester City 2, a valiant effort by a somewhat understrengthened red side today, ultimately the league leaders take the three points in the end. John Aldridge and David Fairclough are along side me again to reflect on this one. John, no arguments with the result in the end, Man City on the bounce of play, deserved it.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *“It did look as though Liverpool were ahead after the break with that late first half goal, a couple of early chances in the second for us to actually double our lead and Trickett-Smith, at the heart of much of it.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *“It’s always difficult in these situations when you are trying to capitalize when the opportunities come and Liverpool went in to do that, John.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *“Take that first, or take a touch to take it inside and then take it...”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *“Of course, City aren’t the top goal scorers in the division for nothing, 60 goals prior to today, and the quality in front of goal eventually told, and it was Barker who got City back on level terms in the second half and it looked bright, especially in that early part of the second half and it’s just well to turn inside to get a goal in, John.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *“And City got themselves back, in front of this one of course, a little bit later on from that and it was Cervina, the Norwegian who scored what proved to be the winning goal and it was a good finish, can’t take that away from him John?”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *“Got to be a red. It was special for him for that was some celebration. You don’t get quite that here. Liverpool though did have chances in the second half and almost got themselves back in Elian Griffin would probably replay this one a few times tonight and could he got a better connection?”*

Guest pundits: [...]

### **Show 7**

Liverpool 1 Manchester United 0

5 minutes 13 seconds

Claire Rourke

Claire: *“Liverpool one, Manchester United nil, a great result for the Reds this afternoon at Anfield. Roy Evans and Ronnie Whelan are alongside me. Gents, a great day to be a Liverpool supporter today, Roy.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *“Well, Liverpool deserved the victory, Ronnie, **alright?**”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *“Last season, Ronnie, Liverpool went a long way without getting three points off a top four side or a side in the top half of the table, for a long period. We spoke before the game about this being a statement of intern marker where Liverpool are at.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *“It’s massive to come through a nervy second half like this, though, **isn’t it** Roy, because on so many occasions we’ve seen Manchester United score late goals and that’s what they’ve done historically, **isn’t it?**”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *“We haven’t won the first three Premier League games since when, Roy? Another great manager was in charge! What does it do to get off to such a good start there?”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *“Well, Roy, you called for three one-nil, **haven’t you?**”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *“Well, let’s talk about Daniel Sturridge then. Do you think he’s reached his full potential? Is he still...”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *“Do you not feel it then that situation, when you are on top, and you are winning and you’re scoring and tiredness doesn’t come into it?”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *“Not bad to get a goal when you... on your birthday, the last person to do that was Andy Carroll.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

## Show 8

Southampton 0 Liverpool 3

4 minutes 18 seconds

Claire Rourke

Claire: *"Liverpool deserved that, Dave, based on that second half performance?"*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *"Second, though, Roy. It's alright though, **isn't it?**"*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *"Dave, you always want you substitutes to make an impact, you can't get a bigger impact than a goal from your first touch."*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *"8 goals now for Raheem Sterling and Luis Suarez has assisted him on seven of those occasions, Dave, which shows... Now everyone is talking about the SAS (Suarez and Sturridge abbreviation) but it really is the SASAS, **isn't it**, because that relationship between Sterling and Suarez is growing."*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *"Now second Dave, fans will no doubt be excited and enthusiastic. We heard the crowd down at Saint Mary's, the away support was fantastic. People are dreaming now!"*

Guest pundits: [...]

## Show 9

Spurs 0 Liverpool 5

3 minutes 36 seconds

Claire Rourke

Claire: *"A fantastic Liverpool performance down at White Hart Lane this afternoon. Sinsilating stuff. Ray Howe and Didi Hamann joining me in the studio. It's just been such a fantastic afternoon all round. Best performance of the season so far, Didi?"*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *"We heard from Daniel Agger before the game, Ray, saying Liverpool don't need to prove anything to anyone, but if they did, they based it on that performance today?"*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *"Liverpool up to second in the table, Didi, it's looking pretty healthy right now!"*

Guest pundits: [...]

## Show 10

Chelsea 2 Liverpool 1

9 minutes 5 seconds

Claire Rourke

Claire: *"It is finished down at Stamford Bridge, we will be getting the thoughts from Dietmar Hamann and John Aldridge in just a moment. First, though, here is how our commentator, Steve Hunter, sum things up on the final whistle."*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *"We'd love to hear your thoughts on the game. Call, text, e-mail and tweet us. Aldo and Didi Hamann are in the studio waiting to hear from you. Gents, Liverpool should've got something from that game?"*

Guest pundits: [...]



Claire: *"Didi, for you, should there be a red card and should there have been a penalty?"*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *"For you, should there be a penalty, Aldo?"*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *"As you said John, a great second half performance by Liverpool. Fantastic 90 minutes by Liverpool against Manchester City, but yet come away with no points at the back of those two games, massively frustrating."*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *"We'll have a look at the league table, as it stands in the minute, to be top on Christmas Day and then to be out of the top four is tough to take, **isn't it?**"*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *"It's still very tight there, **isn't it?**"*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *"Brendan Rodgers has said that over the past two days prior to the Manchester City game, he only had 17 players fit, that has forced the issue with regarding Brad Smith, Jordan Rossiter on the bench today as well. It's a tough scenario to put Brad Smith intoday, you know, 2-1 down at Stamford Bridge."*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *"There are big players to come back into the fold, Steven Gerrard and Daniel Sturridge to name two. Do you think January window could be key for Liverpool?"*

Guest pundits: [...]

### **Show 11**

Liverpool 4 Tottenham Hotspurs 0

5 minutes 53 seconds

Claire Rourke

Claire: *"Liverpool are top of the Barclays Premier League and they got there in fabulous fashion, 4-0 to Liverpool it finished here at anfield against tottenham hotspur. Look back, it doesn't look too bad, **does it.** Jason McAteer and Ronnie Whelan area long side me in the studio. You can get involved in the show. Jase, Ronnie, it feels pretty good, **doesn't it?**"*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *"Jason you were saying at half time, if you were Tim Sherwood (Tottenham coach), your game plan is to stay within touching distance to Liverpool and after two minutes it goes out of the window."*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *"That start has been so key for Liverpool this season, **hasn't it,** because nine times out of ten, when Liverpool has started in the manner that they have, they have gone off to wipe teams away, whatever has been said in those final few moments before the players come out on the pitch is working."*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *"Did you expect it to be so comfortable, Ronnie?"*

Guest pundits: [...]

### **Show 12**

Under18 Liverpool 3 Aston Villa 1

4 minutes 47 seconds

Claire Rourke

Claire: *"Dave Neil, Liverpool thoroughly deserved that, on that second half performance."*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *“Well, Neil, let’s take a look at the story of the game, Liverpool started so brightly and was certainly deserving of taking that one nil lead and it was a lovely finish as well.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *“Liverpool just seem that bit more up for it in the first 20 minutes, Dave.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *“So Neil (U18 coach) was really disappointed to concede so soon after taking the lead as well, and he said it wasn’t really through Villa’s positive play, it was through sloppy defending and mistakes from Liverpool.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *“Yeah, well let’s have a look at the goals Harry Wilson made, two goals in that second half. I know it was a forced change due to the injury but an inspired substitution nonetheless.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *“Harry Wilson and Ryan Kent seem to have a great partnership, a great awareness of each other, Neil.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *“It’s not a bad day when you can bring on a full Welsh international in the second half, **innit?**”*

Guest pundits: [...]

### **Show 13**

Fairclough analyses young Reds

11 minutes 50 seconds

Peter McDowall

Peter: *“Well, an entertaining end to the game but ultimately one that Liverpool lost at Craven Cottage, Fulham 2 Liverpool 1 is how it finished and it’s a result that turns Fulham above Liverpool at the top of the table. Strong finish from the Reds, ultimately, two key moments settled it though, Dave.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“What went wrong then for Liverpool, ’s offensive point of view, cause we were talking before, **weren’t we**, about Teixeira you know was gonna be the key man, and Odjo, although both of them came off early in the second half and really didn’t feature too prominently?”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“Let’s take a look at the goal, how Fulham took the lead because it was an air of inevitability about it **wasn’t it**, in many senses and they kind of fell asleep at the free kick.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“It’s tough for the goalkeeper at the stage where he comes in and trying to impress. He made a few decent saves in the lead up to that but he will look at that and think he should have done better perhaps?”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“Okay, let’s take a look at the second goal from Kristiansen, and it was again a really decent build up by Fulham here and a really smart finish too.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“We saw a late rally from Liverpool, **didn’t we**, that was encouraging in one sense and they maybe had two or three opportunities to score the goal before they did.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“Let’s take a look at some of the opportunities before the penalty decision that came. Because it was a late rally and there were one or two players in particular that were just driving Liverpool forward.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“There was a penalty claim in there and Jack Dunn was just in the centre of most things that were being built for Liverpool from a positive point of view and this was bizarre, **wasn’t it, this one.**”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“On another day, that goes in for you, **doesn’t it**, maybe one or two. Liverpool had enough chances to win the game perhaps quite convincingly.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“What about the penalty then? It was at the end of a sustained period of pressure from the Reds point of view. Soft one from Fulham’s perspective, but was it the right decision?”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“Great penalty, **wasn’t it**, and reward you would say for the player running away with the ball where Jack Dunn who really put in a really positive second half performance.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“Is that a role that you see being his best now, certainly between now and the end of the season for Liverpool? Cause he’s a player we’ve seen an awful lot of and perhaps we think he could be the next one who pushes his way through?”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“Let’s hear what Alex Inglethorpe made of the game, he is with Luke Mauley.”*

Interview with U21 manager Ale Inglethorpe [...]

Peter: *“Alex Inglethorpe talking to Luke Mauley there just after the game and, well from the manager’s point of view, pleased. Bizarre though that the referee would say afterwards that he gave them the advantage on a penalty shout, not heard that one before.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“Certainly where they are at the moment, they’ve got three games in hands, Fulham with one game left to play so it’s still you know, a positive coming out today, they can still turn it around.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

## **Show 14**

Stoke City 3 Liverpool 5

6 minutes 21 seconds

Peter McDowall

Peter: *“Let’s see how Steve Hunter sums the game up just a few moments ago.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“Well, there you go, that’s how Steve Hunter summed it up just a few moments ago but you’re exhausted after that final whistle. Whatever you’re perception of what just happened just give us a call. Roy Evans and David Fairclough have been watching and they’re exhausted. Not too many games like that over the years, what is your overall emotion at the end of it Roy?”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“He’s a purist, **isn’t he**, Brendan Rodgers and he wants things to work perfectly, will there be as much frustration as there is delight with how they played today?”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“We saw a few great instances where Suarez had his absolute brilliant best, though, **didn’t we** Roy?”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“Call us if you like to join us. Let’s take a look at the table because we talked about it before how important it was gonna be for Liverpool to keep up the pressure and Everton, Tottenham and Man United kept up the heat on Liverpool. Back inside the top four, Dave.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

## **Show 15**

U18 Manchester United 1 Liverpool 1

10 minutes 48 seconds

Peter McDowall

Peter: *“1-1 it finished up between Manchester United’s under 18 and Liverpool youngsters. Certainly, it lacked a little bit of drama in the first half. David Fairclough and John Aldridge have been watching this one with us. We thought there were gonna be further goals in the second half, but it didn’t much materialize, Dave, **did it?**”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“Who will be happy out of the two sets of managers with the point?”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“Worthy goals, let’s take a look at the first one first of, Dave, because it hadn’t gone seven minutes and Liverpool had a couple of warning signs prior to that though, **hadn’t they**, United had showed what they were made of.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“Liverpool had to ride the storm, John, but great bit of quality coming up!”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“And the result as well, **wasn’t it Dave**, not just the trickery but also the supply.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“Certainly from a positive perspective they had to dig deep, **hadn’t they**, Liverpool at times, as well as they hit the post, they had a goal chopped off United as well, they had to really dig in to that result, **didn’t they?**”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“Clutching its straws a little bit with some of the chances. Aldo, you now watching this corner, you’re not sure if that got a little deflection on the way through or did it just catch Conor on surprise?”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“We spoke quite extensively about Odjo in the first half Dave, Aldo and I about what kind of quality he offers, and he did show again in snatches today.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“It’s an important point that Dave makes as well as we don’t always see the psychological pressure that’s on players with the likes of (naming a few players) playing a couple of games in the space of a couple of games. Training with the first team, back down with the eighteens, it all has an effect.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“Okay, that’s the assessment so far of David Fairclough and John Aldridge. Let’s hear what the manager had to say, Neil Critchley is waiting for us pitch-side.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“That’s Critchley talking to Luke Mauley, so what’s more positive about the second half, he said they were caught at times in possession?”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“Certainly where the team’s concerned for Wednesday night Dave, there will be quite a few changes perhaps for that team against Reading?”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“Are you excited for this game on Wednesday night?”*

Guest pundits: [...]

### **Show 16**

Wigan 0 Liverpool 4

3 minutes 7 seconds

Claire Rourke

Claire: *“A very comfortable afternoon for Liverpool, Luis Suarez star of the show once again.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *“Yes and we haven’t won down at the DW Stadium for a number of years now so to get that out of the way with such a comfortable victory.”*

Claire: *“And to get off to such a good start as well, Neil, is vital.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *“To his account, his name was ringing out as well from the Liverpool away support for a large part of the second half as well and the standing ovation he got when he got brought off was fantastic.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

### **Show 17**

Swansea 2 Liverpool 2

5 minutes 44 seconds

Claire Rourke

Claire: *“A lively evening at the Liberty Stadium, Liverpool lead... leave with a share of the spoil. Didi Hamann and David Fairclough are alongside me, 2-2 on the night, if you want to put your points to them give us a call. You can also text, e-mail and tweet us. Dave is that a good point ultimately for Liverpool?”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *“Liverpool’s first half, Swansea’s second half, Didi.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *“A lot of positive coming out from tonight as well, Dave, and we don’t want to be too down about things because it is a good point against Swansea tonight. To equalise so soon after conceding so early on in the game is a plus.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *“Think Jonjo Shelvey will be the one who’s getting the headlines tomorrow morning for the right and the wrong reasons.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *“It wasn’t like he fancied at all when he came on in the second half, Dave. He managed to turn things around for himself.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *“You said it there was to be a fifth goal it was more likely to come from Swansea but Liverpool could have won it in those last few seconds.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

## Show 18

Sunderland 1 Liverpool 3

11 minutes 5 seconds

Mark Benstead

Mark: *"We're looking back at Liverpool's three one victory over Sunderland and also on Liverpool ladies' victory over Bristol which saw them clinch the title. If you want to talk about either of those topics or something else Liverpool related, pick up the phone and give us a call. With me today, Ronnie Whelan and John Aldridge as my guests. Guys, great to have you here. John, a three one victory away from home in the Premier League, nothing to be sniffed at. What did you make of the Sunderland victory today?"*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *"Well, focus naturally on Suarez coming back in the team and now he and Daniel Sturridge would complement each other or otherwise. What did you make of their partnership today?"*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *"Strikers always claim them and Luis take them."*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *"Yeah, and overall, Ronnie, was this a very encouraging result, you know, Liverpool were tested a few times today, Sunderland got themselves back in it, had their tails, Liverpool saw that out and eventually a very important three points a get that kind of mini losing streak over and done with."*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *"A lot of discussion ahead of this game how Liverpool, defend at set pieces, how they've dealt with balls coming into the box and in particular the goal at Old Trafford and also the one at Southampton. What did you make of how we defended today?"*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *"Obviously, that result put Liverpool up to joint second in the table, if you want to have your say on that or on the performance or give us your man of the match, give us a call. Plenty to talk about off the back of the game, you mentioned Kolo Toure's performance there, and with three centre halves as a whole Ronnie, do you see that as a system we can move forward with now, because brought it in for the last couple of games and it's showing glimpses of it being quite useful."*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *"Is that about communication? Should someone in that back three be a leader, and lead the three or?"*

Mark: *"Encouraging what it is John, six games in now, I don't think any of those games we've played consistently across ninety minutes, well, there's no game that has been brilliant, there have been good spells within games, lost one game in the league and flying high at the moment and how encouraging is that?"*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *"A second half goal as well today."*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *"As you said before, strikers always have a little bit of selfishness about it, it's not a bad thing, but will it be, will it help Daniel in some ways now Luis shoulder a bit of the burden it's not all on him as it maybe was in those initial games."*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *"Coaches sometimes talk about players' game management, how they sort of control the game in spells, is that what we saw in that sort of second half of that second half where*

*Liverpool were under the pressure, they took control over the situation and turned it around so they could dictate what happened.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *“You mentioned Kolo Toure a little bit earlier, John, his experience, kind of attitude more than anything else really effects, he always seems to be up for the game, he always gives something.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *“Yeah, one thing we saw with the sort of three at the back, every too often it gives someone the license to step up, we saw Martin Skrtel do it at times, and today we saw Kolo do it as well. It adds a different attacking option, something else that changes things up, **doesn't it?**”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *“Is that something as well that, you know, the ideas of not closing down at times, John, is that kind of communication where you can say I step up to get Lucas or Gerrard or whoever is playing centre-mid doesn't drop back to kind of cover the shots. Is that working in that area as well?”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *“What did you make of Sakho's performance through the course of the game, he seems to be gradually getting the grips of things.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

### **Show 19**

Newcastle 2 Liverpool 2

3 minutes 40 seconds

Claire Rourke

Claire: *“Reds will be disappointed with just one point after playing against ten men for more than half the game. Goals from Gerrard and Sturridge earn Liverpool the draw after Newcastle had twice taken the lead at St James' Park. We want you thoughts on the result and the performance today, give us a call., text, email or tweet us. Roy Evans and Ray Houghton are in the studio with me waiting to take your calls. Ray, great to see you, a different game really, from Liverpool's point of view, a game that had everything. But Liverpool will be disappointed.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *“Yeah definitely, Liverpool had their chances to win it, though, Roy, and that's why we come away frustrated and thinking that.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

### **Show 20**

Preston 0 Liverpool 4

7 minutes 05 seconds

Claire Rourke

Claire: *“Gents, a good afternoon for Liverpool, a great start to the pre-season.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *“How pleased were you with the performance, Roy, considering, you know, it is pre-season”?*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *“So many points to talk about, so many players to talk about as well, Dave, let's discuss Jordon Ibe and what that moment would have meant, for him.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *“Do you think the last few weeks, after playing against QPR, and for Jamie Carragher’s foundation, do you think he’s spent the summer thinking, you know, where does that lead me, am I going to be involved and to be involved today and to start must give him a confidence boost.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *“Yeah, another young man not to be out, Raheem Sterling of course, who broke through last season, back-end of last season, so much for an injury which kept him out, good to see him back again, scoring a fine goal.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *“We spoke about competition for places prior to kick-off in terms of goalkeepers or centre backs, but I Guess Jordon Ibe coming in it’s a little bit healthy competition for Raheem Sterling, **isn’t it?**”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Claire: *“Certainly a very exciting squad, **isn’t it** Roy, with plenty of creativity and plenty of attacking flair as well.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

## **Show 21**

Liverpool 4 West Bromwich 1

10 minutes 18 seconds

Mark Benstead

Mark: *“Ronnie, we couldn’t ask for much more today, could we, is this Liverpool’s most complete performance to you that they put in today?”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *“We have been nicking it but it hasn’t been a ninety minutes performance this season, but was this as close to it as we’ve seen so far?”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *“It’s the for hatrick in this encounter here at Anfield since Roger Hunt back in 1968, we run out of ways to describe Luis Suarez, but today he turned it on and showed why he is a world-class player.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *“It must be a nightmare to defend against a player, John, who is so unpredictable and can do a bit of everything as well.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *“It’s nice to have that bit of friendly rivalry as well, and I don’t say look at this, Daniel says he’s got a hatrick and I need to mine and to be fair Daniel’s goal was absolutely stunning goal, it’s a chipped finish from what, twenty yards over the top of the goalkeeper, not many players could score that goal.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *“That’s a great point, he’s obviously had that really solid base all season, West Brom, the two sitting midfielders and that back four has been so consistent, so resilient. Yet, here, they pretty much had no answer to Liverpool’s front two, and you look at it that’s fourteen league goals between them already this season. That is such a boost for a side, **isn’t it**, to have that reliable, steady stream of goals up front.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *“We are always striving for perfection, **aren’t we?**”*

Guest pundits: [...]



Mark: *“Plenty of reaction to come from Liverpool dressing room before the end of the show. We also take your views, pick up the phone and give us a call. Four goals to reflect on and let’s go through them one by one. The first goal was a trademark Luis Suarez goal at halftime, that’s pretty much what it was. It was a nutmeg in there, a great finish, great control, that’s the kind of goal he always seems to score.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *“He followed that up with a less characteristic, Ronnie, a header from eighteen yards, but the way he took that and the way he adjusted his body and reacted in the situation was perhaps most impressive.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *“Was he as hungry-looking today as you have seen him this season? He seems just won the ball from the off, he didn’t seem, in my mind, any hesitation that that hattrick was maybe around the corner once he got a second and the way he was playing today, the attitude he showed.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *“Obviously, we touched upon the third goal completed the hattrick, maybe not as dazzling as the previous two but nevertheless a very good finish.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *“Yeah, he’s showed that before, he is not the biggest player, but apart from the first header he scored he does that kind of glancing header, doesn’t he, the ball whipped in the goal, he’s got a few of them in his time at Anfield.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *“Get in touch and get us your verdict on Luis’ performance, the whole team’s performance today, absolutely stellar show by the boys this afternoon. They really turned it on and gained their closest, perhaps they have, ninety minutes performance this season. So much to talk about, so many positives to take, I guess we touched upon that, John, defensively, the one or two moments, but the goal of course came from a penalty. What did you make of the penalty award. Again it looks as it’s been given against Lucas Leiva for a challenge in the box but it seemed pretty inconsequential.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Mark: *“We touched upon it earlier, it was the reaction, **wasn’t it**, it could have had a very frantic end to the game, they could’ve got a second and all of a sudden you kind of nervous in those little seconds but actually they stepped it up and got the goal and kind of quashed them a little bit.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

## **Show 22**

Norwich 2 Liverpool 3

7 minutes 35 seconds

Peter McDowall

Peter: *“It was a bit of a rough ride along the way but Liverpool got the three points not just to stay bang in that title race, but it is also now official that we will play Champions League football next season. If you lost the plot mid-way through, let’s get the story through the game from Steve Hunter.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“That is the story of the game as described by Steve Hunter and you saw Luis Suarez sitting on his knees after the game, and I think he wasn’t the only one, Liverpoolians all over the place, all over the world did the same thing. It was tough to watch at times, **wasn’t it Roy?**”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“Five points clear at the top and Champions League football that returns next season which sounds on it own brilliant, **doesn’t it?**”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“Three cup finals to go, let’s take a look at how the league table looks a little bit sweeter tonight. I’m sure you’ll afford some thoughts of what will happen tomorrow night with Manchester City but it sure looks pretty healthy, **doesn’t it**, with Liverpool sat on the top with three enormous games to go and just one in it down in terms of the goal difference as well, or a couple of goals in the goal difference now. Liverpool are sitting pretty this Easter Sunday. Looks fantastic the league table at the moment.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“Will he say much to them afterwards now or will he leave it a while because it is trying to forget, like Stevie said at the Manchester City game; forget about this now, we move on to the next, which is going to be enormous at Anfield.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

### **Show 23**

Chelsea U21 0 Liverpool U21 1

8 minutes 38 seconds

Peter McDowall

Peter: *“Great excitement at the end of that game and it edges Liverpool closer to what the want as we’re coming closer to the end of the season as well. Huge win today as they go to Chelsea and win by a goal to nil. Some tough conditions and they had to ride a little bit of a storm today as well and you could see what it meant to the players there at the end Neil!”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“Great quality that we’re going to talk through individually but the keeper in the end as well made two crucial saves to keep his team in it.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“And they go to forty one goals as well, it is obviously crucial where they are concerned Liverpool and it just get them that little bit closer, **doesn’t it**, to where they want to do it?”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“We spoke before, Alex Inglethorpe, about not looking at the table, not looking at top spot in particular but the players were lovely, **weren’t they**, regardless of what the manager says, they want to, as Liverpool players, want to win that shield come the end.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“Okay, let’s take a look at the only goal that ultimately separated the two teams at the end as well. Talk us through it Neil and great individual quality.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“I know you in particular like the way the ball just rolls across his body there to take his time and he becomes more and more comfortable for each game now Jack Dunn and the goals are speaking for themselves.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“Let’s see some of Liverpool’s chances as well because they had plenty of them over the course of the game, second half in particular. Peterson was involved keenly in so many of these Neil.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“Here’s another one that he’s involved in as well.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“Watching it sails over his head there and he’s glad that the post played a part here as well. Kris Peterson, I mean, we’re going to look at him in a more detail but some... put safe of the goalkeeper there.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“Let’s take a look at the beginning of it because Chelsea will come away from it feeling really hard done by, a penalty decision that didn’t go their way. How did you see it?”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“We did see Liverpool’s players’ reactions to it, Chelsea off Cameron were surrounded and the sense of injustice there that they didn’t get that decision.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“Let’s take a look at Joao Carlos Teixeira who was involved in so much of what Liverpool would do on a positive level and we talked before the game of the kind of quality he offered Liverpool and it was in plenty of supply tonight.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“We mentioned him in dispatches here and this was the effort on goal that we thought was going in. that was the quality we saw before as well. What about Kris Peterson? Because for me it was probably one of those performances that he will come off being so pleased with. Had a bit of everything, was in the lead up to the goal, great tackle and of course all the efforts on goal that he was involved in as well.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“Where do you see him next season? Because it is a big one for him, played a big part on the Tranmere loan where he really impressed, came back and he’s showing the quality the he offers again. Can you see that perhaps he be able to come out on loan perhaps next season?”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“Very briefly Neil a word for Pelosi as well, big day for him, **wasn’t it?**”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“He’s brilliant and his family watching as well so I’m sure they’re happy that he came through unscathed but it was a big win for Liverpool tonight, first and foremost, keeps that charge going at the top beating Chelsea by a goal to nil, always nice to hear that. Thanks for your company. Good night.”*

## **Show 24**

Manchester United 0 Liverpool 3

8 minutes 35 seconds

Peter McDowall

Peter: *“What a day at Old Trafford, Liverpool now within striking distance to Chelsea, four points behind the leaders in second place after a quite tremendous win at Old Trafford. We’ve got Jason McAteer and John Aldridge with us as well, to sum up what has been a fairly fantastic game. We were slightly worried, Jason, about your blood pressure there Aldo. How’d you put it into words how you feel after that?”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“We showed you some before game that was quite special from Steven Gerrard, maybe not a prediction but certainly a question that was burning in the mind of a lot of Liverpool fans. We show you here again.”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“Well, the opportunity did arise and the cameraman and the Liverpool captain just couldn’t help themselves, **could they?**”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“He was the man of the match and unfortunately he couldn’t complete the hat-trick but it was Steven Gerrard all over that performance!”*

Guest pundits: [...]

Peter: *“Okay, we won’t be making any apologies for showing you this; let’s look at the league table, which really put some fine points to how big a win that was for Liverpool. Look at what happened to Chelsea yesterday, Manchester City, Arsenal. Liverpool in second place, with a game in hand to Chelsea. They’re in striking distance.”*

Guest pundits: [...]