

SPORT NEWS

GADIROVA IS GLAD ALL OVER!



Getty

Teenager Jessica Gadirova has made a huge impact

SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD Brit Jessica Gadirova has won gold, silver and bronze at the European Gymnastics Championships in Basel, Switzerland.

The teenager took gold in the floor event after previously scooping a silver in the vault and all-around bronze.

She won top prize on the floor with a score of 13.966, ahead of Russia's Angelina Melnikova and Italy's Vanessa Ferrari. The Italian, aged 30, won her first senior European medal in 2006, 18 months after Gadirova was born!

Gadirova said: "To be on the top of the podium was just overwhelming. Just to even get selected for the European Championships, I was so happy and I was so proud to be here. Then to make the finals

and win the medals, I can't believe it. As this week has gone along I've got more and more comfortable and confident."

Fellow Brits Joe Fraser, Amelie Morgan and Gianni Regini-Moran all won bronze medals on the pommel, uneven bars and vault respectively.

Russia finished at the top of the overall medal table with 13, including five golds, ahead of Britain in second place, with a total of six medals. Russia's Nikita Nagornyy won all-around and floor gold, plus silver on pommel horse and rings, to help Russia come top of the men's table.



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Nikita Nagornyy in action on the pommel horse

FOOTBALL UNITES AGAINST ONLINE ABUSE



Getty

Marcus Rashford, one of many footballers to have been racially abused, takes a knee against racism before a match

FOOTBALL groups across England have united to make a stand against the ongoing abuse that many football players experience online.

A four-day social media boycott will take place from 3pm today (Friday 30 April) until Monday 3 May. Clubs across the Premier League, Women's Super League, English Football League and Women's Championship will switch off their Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts.

The boycott is part of a move to put pressure on social media companies to make more effort to combat online hate. Many players have been racially abused online in recent months, including Manchester United's Marcus

Rashford, Chelsea's Reece James, Arsenal forward Willian and Manchester City's Raheem Sterling.

The move has the support of several organisations, including Kick It Out, a charity tackling racism and discrimination in football.

Sanjay Bhandari, Kick It Out's chairman, said: "This boycott signifies our collective anger. Social media is now sadly a regular vessel for toxic abuse. By removing ourselves from the platforms, we are making a symbolic gesture to those with power. We need you to act. We need you to create change."

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GLOSSARY

podium – A raised block on which people stand to receive a medal, give a speech, etc
social media – Websites that help people connect and share information with friends or groups, for example, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter
discrimination – Treating people worse than others because of the colour of their skin, their sex, their religion, etc

signifies – shows; to be a sign of something
vessel – something that carries something else; in this case, people’s messages
platforms – Here, it means a set of online tools (provided by Facebook, Twitter etc) that allow people to create content, communicate and connect with others

■ **Look at the article ‘Gadirova is glad all over!’**

1. Complete the details about the medals Jessica won at the European Gymnastics Championship.

| Medal | The event |
|--------|-----------|
| Silver | |
| | All-round |
| | |

2. Scan through the article. Can you find the names of **three** other gymnastic events?

3. Look at the second paragraph. Find **two** words that have been used by the journalist to avoid repeating the word ‘won’ or ‘winning’.

4. Look at the paragraph about Jessica’s fellow Brits: Joe, Amelie and Giarnni.

Which is the best definition of the word *respectively*?

- To treat someone with great respect
- In the order already mentioned
- Think again about something that has happened

5. Look at Jessica’s words. What different **feelings** has Jessica experienced during the championship? Can you explain what has caused her to have each emotion?

| The feeling | The cause |
|-------------|-----------|
| | |
| | |
| | |

6. How many medals did Britain win in total, and how many of each type?

| Country | Total medals | Gold | Silver | Bronze |
|---------------|--------------|------|--------|--------|
| Great Britain | | | | |

■ **Look at the article ‘Football unites against online abuse’**

7a. This protest is about what sort of online abuse, in particular?

7b. Explain the details of what will happen (or not happen) in the protest.

8. Now that you understand what the players are doing, can you have a go at defining the word ‘boycott’?

9. Clearly, the players and teams want the people who post horrible messages to stop. But they also think the social media companies could do more to prevent it and remove it.

Find **two** pieces of evidence that show this protest is mainly aimed at the social media companies.

10. What important messages does this news story have for all of us?

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TEACHER ANSWERS

AIM OF THE NEWS COMPREHENSIONS: News reports are unique non-fiction texts. Being real, they naturally engage students, and with the range of topics that are covered, help to develop pupils’ knowledge and understanding of the wider world outside the classroom. The reports are ideal for short, focused comprehension or discussion activities. Along with the opportunity to find fascinating facts and appreciate the opinions of those involved, there is plenty to be inferred and deduced to understand in more depth what is being reported. Like authors, journalists play with language, so news ‘stories’ are rich nuggets of text to investigate and provide the opportunity for literacy programmes.

TEACHER ANSWER GUIDE: The teacher answers are intended to provide a quick reference guide. Suggestions are given for the ‘Expected response’ or starting point that pupils could give. The ‘Development’ then gives more in-depth ideas that students can work towards as they develop their reading comprehension skills.

For a list of the reading skills used, please email schools@firstnews.co.uk.

Look at the article ‘Gadirova is glad all over!’

1. Complete the details about the medals Jessica won at the European Gymnastics Championship.

READING SKILL – Find and explain information
(NC 2a)

Expected response

| Medal | The event |
|----------|-----------|
| Silver | • Vault |
| • Bronze | All-round |
| • Gold | • Floor |

2. Scan through the article. Can you find the names of three other gymnastic events?

READING SKILL – Find and explain information
(NC 2a)

Expected response

- Pommel, uneven bars, rings

3. Look at the second paragraph. Find two words that have been used by the journalist to avoid repeating the word ‘won’ or ‘winning’.

READING SKILL – Understand vocabulary in context
(NC 2a)

Expected response

- ‘took’, ‘scooping’

4. Look at the paragraph about Jessica’s fellow Brits: Joe, Amelie and Giarnni.

Which is the best definition of the word respectively?

READING SKILL – Understand vocabulary in context
(NC 2a)

Expected response

- To treat someone with great respect
- In the order already mentioned
- Think again about something that has happened

5. Look at Jessica’s words. What different feelings has Jessica experienced during the championship? Can you explain what has caused her to have each emotion?

READING SKILL – Infer information and justify with evidence
(NC 2c & 8)

Expected response (any three)

| The feeling | The cause |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • Overwhelmed | • To be on the podium |
| • Happy and proud | • To be at the championships |
| • Disbelief | • To win medals |
| • Comfortable and confident | • Being at the competition for a week |

Development

| The feeling | The cause |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| • Overwhelmed | • To be standing on the top podium, receiving the gold medal |
| • Happy and proud | • To be selected for, and to be at, the European Championships |
| • Disbelief | • To make the finals and to win medals |
| • Comfortable and confident | • Experience – from being at the competition and gaining confidence as the week goes by |

6. How many medals did Britain win in total, and how many of each type?

READING SKILL – Summarise information from more than one paragraph (NC 2e)

Expected response

| Country | Total medals | Gold | Silver | Bronze |
|---------------|--------------|------|--------|--------|
| Great Britain | • 6 | • 1 | • 1 | • 4 |

Look at the article ‘Football unites against online abuse’

7a. This protest is about what sort of online abuse, in particular?

READING SKILL – Find and explain information (NC 2a)

Expected response

- Racist messages

7b. Explain the details of what will happen (or not happen) in the protest.

READING SKILL – Find and explain information (NC 2a)

Expected response

- Footballers and football groups are going to refuse to use their social media accounts for four days (from 3pm on Friday 30 April to the end of Monday 3 May).

8. Now that you understand what the players are doing, can you have a go at defining the word ‘boycott’?

READING SKILL – Infer information and justify with evidence (NC 2c & 8)

Expected response

- To refuse to do something because you are annoyed

Development

- To refuse to take part in an activity as a way of showing that you strongly disapprove or disagree with something

9. Clearly, the players and teams want the people who post horrible messages to stop. But they also think the social media companies could do more to prevent it and remove it.

Find two pieces of evidence that show this protest is mainly aimed at the social media companies.

READING SKILL – Infer information and justify with evidence (NC 2c & 8)

Expected response

- The writer says it’s to put pressure on social media companies
- Sanjay Bhandari says that social media companies have to change too.

Development

- The journalist says the protest aims to “put pressure on social media companies to make more effort to combat online hate”
- Sanjay Bhandari, from Kick it Out, says the boycott is a “symbolic gesture to those with power” (the social media owners)
- He speaks to them directly when he says “We need you to act. We need you to create change.”

10. What important messages does this news story have for all of us?

READING SKILL– Develop personal ideas from reading news stories (NC 6, 7 & 8)

Children’s personal responses.

Ideas that may come up:

- Racism is wrong.
- It’s wrong to write horrible things online.
- Hateful messages hurt, no matter who you are.
- It’s good that players, teams and organisations are coming together to try to stop racism in football.
- Social media companies need to do more to stop hurtful messages being published.
- Who is responsible for these messages: the people who write them, or the companies that allow the messages to be published?
- Boycotts can be a powerful way of showing that you think something is wrong.