



Football Stars Compete in Virtual 'E-Sports'!

What are e-sports?

- E-sports are competitions that are played on computer games, usually online.
- More sportspeople are going online to keep competing, as well as to entertain their fans.

Football stars will be competing in a new tournament. There's a bit of a difference though — this one will be done entirely through computer games!

The 'FIFA 20 Stay and Play Cup' will see footballers from 20 top European clubs compete against each other in a head-to-head tournament, played on games consoles.

Footballers from teams like Chelsea, Liverpool, Real Madrid and AS Roma will play against each other. The knockout tournament will last from 15th to 19th April and it will be **live-streamed** on Twitch.

EA Sports (the company which make the FIFA games) will also donate \$1million to Global Giving's Coronavirus Relief Fund, helping those affected by coronavirus. That's about £800 000.

It's not just football which is getting into e-sports! On 5th April, racing fans were treated to a virtual version of the Vietnam **Grand Prix**. The competitors, which included **professional** drivers and a few famous faces too, raced against each other online.

Apart from not using real cars, there were some other key differences from a real grand prix. Unlike the different types of racing car there are at a real-life grand prix, all the cars at the virtual race had the same power. This meant that the damage on the cars was reduced.

The winner of the race was Charles Leclerc, from France, who normally races for Ferrari. Ben



Photo: Sports stars are competing in e-sports.

Stokes, England's cricketing hero in 2019, tried his best in his first race but came in last. After winning, Leclerc said that he gave "everything" to his performance.

Cyclists too were also able to race in the Tour of Flanders **virtually**; however, they needed to work a bit harder! They pedalled for 30km on cycling machines in their own homes connected to computers. The computer worked out how fast they were moving and moved the cyclists along the screen at the same speed.

Glossary

live-streamed	A live showing of an event over the Internet.
grand prix	Any race from a motoring competition.
professional	Someone who is paid for the job they do.
virtually	Something not happening in reality.

Questions

1. 'The knockout tournament will last from 15th to 19th April.'

Tick the phrase which is the closest in meaning to 'knockout' in this sentence.

- ☐ beat up
- ☐ boxing
- ☐ gentle
- ☐ winner stays on

2. Who won the virtual Vietnam Grand Prix?

3. How do you think Ben Stokes felt after the race? Explain your answer.

4. Why did the drivers get to be less careful than usual? Tick one.

- ☐ Ben Stokes is not a professional driver.
- ☐ The cars could take more damage.
- ☐ The cars could not go too fast.
- ☐ No one would see what happened.

5. Do you think other sports will host virtual sports events?

6. Summarise the story in 15 words or fewer.

Answers

1. 'The knockout tournament will last from the 15th to 19th of April.'

Tick the phrase which is the closest in meaning to 'knockout' in this sentence.

- ☐ beat up
- ☐ boxing
- ☐ gentle
- ☒ **winner stays on**

2. Who won the virtual Vietnam Grand Prix?

Charles Leclerc

3. How do you think Ben Stokes felt after the race? Explain your answer.

Accept any reasonable answer which provides an explanation, e.g. I think he will have been disappointed to lose the race but excited to have raced against professional drivers.

4. Why did the drivers get to be less careful than usual? Tick one.

- ☐ Ben Stokes is not a professional driver.
- ☒ **The cars could take more damage.**
- ☐ The cars could not go too fast.
- ☐ No one would see what happened.

5. Do you think other sports will host virtual sports events?

Accept any reasonable answer, e.g. I think other sports will host virtual events because the events in the story have been successful.

6. Summarise the story in 15 words or fewer.

Accept any reasonable answer that is 15 words or fewer, e.g. Sports stars have been competing against each other using online games.