

Usain Bolt, his fashion designer girlfriend and a very unsporting race storm

EXCLUSIVE

By Louise Eccles

HIS arm around her waist, sprinter Usain Bolt and his latest girlfriend are the picture of togetherness.

The world's fastest man has been dating fashion designer Lubica Slovak for six months and the relationship is described as 'very serious'.

A friend of 28-year-old Miss Slovak declared: 'Love has no race - it's a heart to heart connection.'

But 25-year-old Bolt has come in for criticism from fellow black Jamaicans unhappy that he has chosen a white partner.

One online posting said: 'Really now Usain! Some successful black men obvi-

'He has settled down now'

ously suffer from a white woman complex. You too?', while another complained: 'Another one of our men snatched.'

Further protests included: 'Out of all the girls on this island you pick a snowbunny', and: 'These superstars will always disappear if we depend on them to raise our racial identity.' The sprinter nicknamed Lightning Bolt is known for his mid-race celebrations and post-victory bow-and-arrow pose.

He is the reigning Olympic champion and world record holder over 100 and 200 metres.

He hopes to smash his own records and retain his titles in London this summer, watched by his Slovakian-born girlfriend.

Miss Slovak emigrated to Canada with her father when she was 14

and studied fashion design at the Ryerson University in Toronto. She moved to Jamaica after she 'fell in love' with the island during a holiday in 2000.

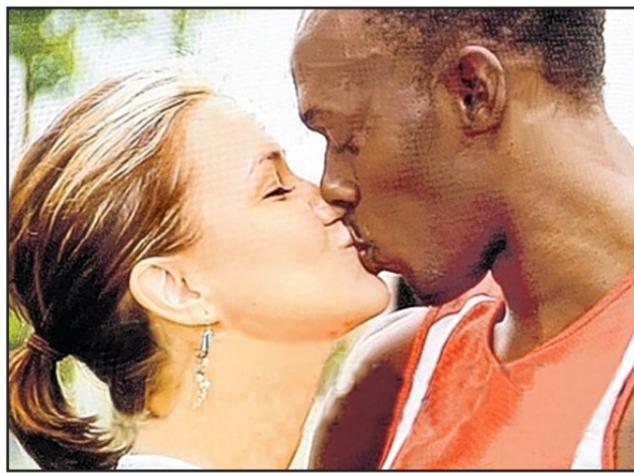
Miss Slovak was introduced to Bolt last year through a mutual friend, reggae singer Tami Chynn, with whom she owns an award-winning clothing line called Anuna and a Kingston boutique. Shortly after



'Heart-to-heart connection': World's fastest man Usain Bolt with designer Lubica Slovak



Miss Slovak when her hair was brunette ... and the kiss picture which led to a barrage of abuse



on her T-shirt looking upset while Bolt runs into the arms of 'Slovakian fashion designer'.

One reader responded: 'They make he mingle with white girls. She just divorce him and take away his money', while another added: 'I hope when he's ready to settle down he chooses a beautiful Jamaican black woman ... In the meantime have fun "responsibly", cause some "pretty girls" just a wait fi "lock u down" for the wrong reasons.'

Others called Bolt 'the next Tiger Woods', referring to the mixed-race golfer and his £60million divorce settlement with Swedish former model Elin Nordegren.

Over the years, Bolt has earned a reputation as a ladies' man and has previously been linked to British waitress Rebeckah Passley and Jamaican reality TV star Taneish 'Lava' Simpson.

A friend said: 'Usain is a young man at the top of his game and did date a few women, but he has settled down now with Lubica.'

'It works because they are both successful and focused. She focuses on her designs, he focuses on his sport. There is no stress in this relationship. She is a calm, very nice, industrious, busy woman. She has her own life so she isn't demanding.'

How the internet, satellite TV and fuel prices keep us out of the car

IT could be the rise in internet shopping, the ever-growing number of television channels or simply the soaring price of fuel.

For whatever the reason, we are going out in the car far less than we used to.

Despite a rise in the number of two-car families, the average number of trips made per year has fallen to its lowest since the mid-1970s.

On average drivers make 960 trips per year compared with 1,086 in 1997, a dramatic fall of 12 per cent.

The figures were compiled in 2010 as part of the Department for Transport's National

Travel Survey. It found that the number of households with access to a car increased by 13 per cent between 1985 and 2010 - to 75 per cent. But internet shopping and the rise of the out-of-town retail centre mean consumers no longer need to make frequent journeys.

Three-quarters of homes are now connected to the web, with users spending up to 50 hours a month online, ordering the monthly food shop and various household essentials. Meanwhile a litre of unleaded petrol has almost doubled from an average 78p in January 2001 to 142.5p.

they met, she interviewed Bolt for a feature in a Slovakian newspaper and they began dating in mid-November.

A friend told the Mail: 'They are very comfortable together and easy. They do quiet dinners in the country and trips to Montego Bay. They don't really do the red carpet thing.'

Fiercely private, the couple made

sure they were not seen together at functions and spent most evenings at Bolt's gated home in a suburb of Kingston.

But when a picture of them kissing was published in the Jamaican Observer last month, they received a barrage of abuse.

The accompanying article included a controversial cartoon of a black woman with 'local' written

Are you green with envy at next door's beautiful lawn?

IF you spend your weekends gazing enviously over the garden wall at the immaculate lawn next door while casting contemptuous glances at your own weed-strewn patch, cheer up - you're not alone.

Almost half of us are jealous of our neighbours' gardens, a poll has found, while a quarter feel there is competition on their street to have the best-kept plot.

Rivalry is such that 8 per cent admitted they would consider sabotaging a neighbour's plants, while 16 per cent would refuse to compliment their neighbour on their garden.

Although one in three said they regularly

asked their neighbour for gardening advice, 35 per cent said they never would - because it would boost their ego.

More than a third wished their garden looked as impressive as the one next door. The most common factor to be jealous of was size, followed by a well-manicured lawn and nice furniture.

When it came to their own gardens, the biggest gripe was having a patchy lawn, followed by too many weeds.

But there is also a degree of contradiction in the findings of the poll, conducted by Roundup Gel weed killer. Forty-three per cent said they get annoyed if the garden next door is messy.