

Sir Matthew Pinsent

b. 1970

Knighthed in the 2005 New Years Honours list (following an MBE in 1993 and CBE in 2001) Sir Matthew Pinsent is one of Great Britain's most successful athletes of all time.

Matthew's father was rector of St. Andrew's Church Kelso and Matthew attended Edenside Primary School before going on to Eton College. There he was introduced to the sport of rowing. In 1992, as well as graduating in Geography from St. Catherine's College, Oxford, Matthew was President of the Oxford Rowing Club. That year, at the age of 21 and after an unbeaten season, he with Sir Steve Redgrave, won Gold in the coxless pairs at the Barcelona Olympics. They repeated this success at the Atlanta Olympics in 1996 and their outstanding combination brought them seven World Championship golds. By the Millennium Olympics in Sydney, Matthew and Stephen teamed up with James Cracknell and Tim Foster in a coxless four, to win Steve's third Olympic gold medal.

After the Sydney Olympics, Matthew formed a seemingly invincible coxless pairs partnership with James Cracknell MBE. Undefeated through 2001, they defended their coxed pairs title at the 2002 World Championships in Seville, beating an experienced Australian crew and breaking the world record by 4 seconds.

On Saturday 21st August 2004 at the Athens Olympics, Matthew became one of only 5 athletes to win *four* consecutive Olympic gold medals when he led Great Britain to success in the coxless fours. He retired from competitive rowing in 2004.



Achievements:

Olympic Games	
1992	Gold - Barcelona, Coxless Pair
1996	Gold - Atlanta, Coxless Pair
2000	Gold - Sydney, Coxless Four
2000	Flag bearer - Sydney, Team GB
2004	Gold - Athens, Coxless Four

World Championships	
1991	Gold - Vienna, Coxless Pair
1993	Gold - Roudnice, Coxless Pair
1994	Gold - Indianapolis, Coxless Pair
1995	Gold - Tampere, Coxless Pair
1997	Gold - Lac d'Aiguebelette, Coxless Four
1998	Gold - Cologne, Coxless Four
1999	Gold - St Catherine's, Coxless Four
2001	Gold - Lucerne, Coxed Pair
2001	Gold - Lucerne, Coxless Pair
2002	Gold - Seville, Coxless Pair