

GBR Olympic Champions 1896-2014 – Rowing

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Rowing was first held at the Paris Olympics of 1900. It was scheduled to be part of the inaugural Modern Olympics at Athens four years earlier but bad weather caused the cancellation of all events.

It was not held at St Louis in 1904 but has been contested at every Olympics since London 1908. Women have been competing since the 1976 Montreal Olympics.

Britain's first medallist was George Saint Ashe in the single sculls in 1900 and the first female medallists were the quadruple sculls four who won the silver medal in 2000. The first women's gold medal did not come until 2012 when three came a long at the same Games with Helen Glover and Heather Stanning taking the first in the coxless pair.

General

Steven Redgrave is the most decorated male Olympic rower with six medals, five gold and one bronze 1984-2000.

Elisabeta Lipa of Rumania is the most decorated rower (male and female) with eight medals, five gold, two silver and one bronze between 1984 and 2004.

Britain's Jack Beresford with five medals between 1920 and 1936 was the most successful Olympic rower until surpassed by Steve Redgrave in 2000.

The united States has been the most successful rowing nation with 87 medals (32 gold, 31 silver, 24 bronze). Britain is second to the United States with 63 medals. East Germany with 33 has won the most gold medals.

GB MEDAL HAUL

	G	S	B	Total
1900	0	0	1	1
1908	4	3	1	8
1912	2	2	0	4
1920	0	2	0	2
1924	2	0	0	2
1928	1	2	1	4
1932	2	0	0	2
1936	1	1	0	2
1948	2	1	0	3
1964	0	1	0	1
1976	0	2	0	2
1980	0	1	2	3
1984	1	0	0	1
1988	1	0	1	2
1992	2	0	0	2
1996	1	0	1	2
2000	2	1	0	3
2004	1	2	1	4
2008	2	2	2	6
2012	4	2	3	9
	28	22	13	63

ATTRILL, Louis Mark

Born: 5 March 1975, Newport, Isle of Wight, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (2000)

Olympic medals:

2000 Gold – Rowing (Men's eights)

A multi-talented sportsman Louis Attrill played rugby and cricket for Hampshire colts and in 1991 was the British junior Thai-Kick boxing champion. But it was after going to Imperial College in London, where he was a civil engineering student, that he took up rowing competitively and became a member of the college eights.

In his first Henley Royal Regatta in 1994 he won the Temple Cup with the Imperial College eights. He was in their boat that won the Thames Challenge Cup at Henley in 1995 and he completed a notable hat-trick in 1996 when he was again in the Imperial boat that won the prestigious Grand Challenge Cup.

After leaving Imperial College in 1997 he joined the Queen's Tower Boat Club, the alumni club of Imperial and in 1999 he was in the British eights that won a silver medal at the world championships in Canada.

The following year they won the World Cup in Switzerland and then went on to become the first British eights to win the Olympic gold medal since 1912 when they held off a challenge from the Australians in Sydney to capture the gold medal. Former Imperial College team-mates Luka Grubor and Simon Dennis were also in the boat which was coached by the former Imperial management school student Martin McElroy.

Louis was awarded the MBE for services to Rowing in the 2001 New Years Honour list and he lives on his native Isle of Wight where he works as a civil engineer in the family business.

BADCOCK, John Charles

Born: 17 January 1903, West Ham, London, England

Died: 29 May 1976, Petersfield, Hampshire, England

Olympics competed in: 2 (1928, 1932)

Olympic medals:

1928 Silver – Rowing (Eights)

1932 Gold – Rowing (Coxless fours)

Felix Badcock came from a family with a long history of boat and barge building on the Thames going back more than 100 years..

Born in West Ham, he was educated at Merchant Taylor's and, spending most of his life on the river, he joined the Thames Rowing Club and had his first success at Henley in 1925 when Thames won the Wyfold Challenge Cup.

He was then in the Thames crew that won the Grand Challenge Cup and Stewards' Cup in 1927. They repeated the Thames/Grand double in 1928 and Badcock was also a member of the Thames Club who represented Great Britain in the eights at the Amsterdam Olympics where they won the silver medal, two seconds behind the Americans.

Felix didn't win at Henley again until 1932 when he won the Stewards for the third time. Being Olympic year again, he was selected as stroke to the coxless fours with Jack Beresford, Jumbo Edwards and George Rowland.

The British four were regarded the favourites to maintain Britain's domination of the event and they confirmed their superiority by beating the Germans by nearly five seconds.

In 1934 Felix married Olympic swimmer Joyce Cooper who won four medals in 1928 and 1932 and at the inaugural Empire (now Commonwealth) Games in 1930 she won four gold medals.

They had two sons who were both rowers. Felix junior won a bronze medal in the England eights at the 1958 British Empire & Commonwealth Games at Cardiff and younger son David won an Oxford blue the same year.

BEESLY, Richard

Born: 27 July 1907, Barnt Green, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, England

Died: 28 March 1965, Ashford Bowlder, Shropshire, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1928)

Olympic medals:

1928 Gold – Rowing (Coxless fours)

Richard Beesly was educated at Oundle School and then Trinity College, Cambridge where he was a three times rowing Blue, and on a winning crew each time. He was President of the Cambridge Boat Club for the third of those wins in 1929.

Beesly, along with fellow Trinity students, and First Trinity Boat Club members, John Lander, Michael Warriner and Edward Bevan were the clear favourites to win the coxless fours at the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics and they did not disappoint, beating the American by a second in the final.

After University Beesly went into engineering and joined the famous automotive and aerospace components company GKN in 1932 and in October 1936 he obtained his pilot's licence.

He served with the Ministry of Supply during the War and after the war he bought a share in a company that manufactured automatic hedge cutters. This was to make him his fortune.

He lived at Ashford Hall in Shropshire where he also farmed and it was one of his own bulls that gored and killed him in 1965. At his inquest the South Shropshire Coroner called for the compulsory de-horning of all bulls.

In his will, Beesly left nearly £3.5 million in today's money in which he left 1% (around £30,000 today) of his net estate each to the Cambridge University and the First Trinity Boat Clubs

Beesly's mother Helen was the cousin of the former Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain as his mother Florence, and Helen's mother Louisa, were sisters.

BERESFORD, Jack

Born: 1 January 1899, Chiswick, London. England

Died: 3 December 1977, Shiplake, Oxfordshire, England

Olympics competed in: 3 (1924, 1932, 1936)

Olympic medals:

1920 Silver – Rowing (Single sculls)

1924 Gold – Rowing (Single sculls)

1928 Silver – Rowing (Eights)

1932 Gold – Rowing (Coxless fours)

1936 Gold – Rowing (Double sculls)

Jack Beresford came from a famous rowing family.

His father Julius won four times at Henley, including the 1911 Silver Goblets, after three times being the runner-up slots. Jack's Brother Eric rowed for the Thames Rowing club like his brother

and father and also won at Henley and was a reserve for the 1928 Olympic squad. Eric's son Michael finished fifth in the coxless fours at the 1960 Rome Olympics.

They were the first British family to have three generations take part in the Olympic Games, and after the 2012 London Games they remain the only British family to achieve the feat in the same sport.

But it was Jack who was the most successful oarsman in the Beresford family and he was, before the arrival of Steve Redgrave, the most successful British oarsman in Olympic history, winning medals at five consecutive Games 1920-36.

Born in 1899 his birth name was Jack Beresford Wiszniewski, as his grandfather, a Polish immigrant from what is now Gdansk, came to London in the mid-19th century and established an East End furniture manufacturing business.

Born in Chiswick, Beresford went to Pierremont Boarding School in Broadstairs, Kent when he was 11 by which time his father had dropped Wiszniewski from his name and called him Jack Beresford, despite retaining the family name for himself, his wife and their two other children.

When he was 14, Jack went to Bedford School where he learned to row and became "Captain of the Boats". He also had designs on being a rugby player and captained the first XV in his final season, 1916-17.

From school he went straight into the army and served in France with the Liverpool Scottish Battalion of the Kings Liverpool Regiment and in 1918 was shot in the leg in the trenches and that ended his rugby career before it had really started.

When he returned home he joined the family furniture business of Beresford & Hicks, whose furniture was much sought after and some items could be seen in Buckingham Palace at that time.

To give his wounded leg some much needed recuperation he joined the Thames Rowing Club in 1919. He would remain with the club throughout his competitive career.

In 1920 when he was just 21, Beresford had a memorable year when he not only won the Diamond Sculls at Henley but he added the Wingfield Sculls and London Cup to complete the scullers triple crown. It was the first of a record breaking seven consecutive Wingfield Sculls. And to add to those achievements, Jack was a silver medalist at the Antwerp Olympic Games in 1920.

He got beat in the final of the singles sculls in what is still regarded as the greatest and closest sculling race of all time when Beresford lost out to the legendary American rower John B Kelly Sr. by just one second. The two men were too exhausted to shake hands at the end of the race. Kelly was the father of actress Grace Kelly, who later became Princess Grace of Monaco.

Jack made up for his disappointment of 1920 by beating another American, William Gilmore, to win the single sculls four years later at the Paris Games.

He became a three times Olympic medalist at Amsterdam in 1928 when he was in the British eights that came second to the United States but, on American soil, at Los Angeles in 1932, Jack won his second gold medal when he teamed up with John Badcock, Jumbo Edwards and Rowland George to beat Germany and take the coxless fours title.

And it was in Germany four years later at the Berlin Games that Beresford took part in what he described as "the most sweetest race of his career."

He formed a partnership with Dick Southwood in 1935 with the sole aim of winning the Olympic double sculls title the following year and they achieved their aim by beating the German pair of Kaidel and Pirsch.

The Germans had won five out of five rowing events until Beresford and Southwood took to the water and their victory was achieved right in front of Adolf Hitler.

At the medal ceremony, Hitler presented all the British team with their medals and an oak leaf and stem. Beresford took his back Bedford School where it was planted and it grew into a fine oak tree which is still referred to as the 'Hitler Oak'.

Jack had the honour of carrying the British flag at the opening ceremony at the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

In between his Olympic exploits, Beresford won the silver medal in the single sculls at the inaugural Empire Games (now Commonwealth Games) in 1930 and at Henley he amassed no fewer than three more Diamond Sculls, in successive years 1924-26. He won the Grand Challenge Cup with the Thames Rowing Club in 1923 and 1928, the Silver Goblets with Bill Killick in 1928 and 1929 and the Steward's Cup in 1932. But perhaps his crowning glory was in 1939 when, at the age of 40, and 20 years after his Henley debut, he won the Centenary Double scull with Dick Southwood after a dead-heat with the Italian pair of Giorgio Scherli and Ettore Broschi.

Only the Second World War prevented a possible sixth consecutive Olympic appearance – and medal.

A real legend by anybody's terms, Jack Beresford was awarded the CBE for his services to rowing in 1960. Beresford Way in Bedford was adopted by the local council in his honor in 1947. He was made a Freeman of the City of London in 1952 and he became one of the first sportspeople to be honoured with a blue English Heritage plaque which was erected at 19 Grove Park Garden, Chiswick, where he lived from 1903-40. In 1949 he was honoured with the Olympic Diploma of Merit by the IOC.

After his racing days he served the sport he enjoyed for many years. He was a steward and umpire at the Henley Royal regatta, and served on the committee of the Amateur Rowing Association. He was on the organizing committee for the 1948 Olympic Games as well as coaching the double scullers Bert Bushnell and Richard Burnell to a gold medal. In 1952 Jack was manager of the British Olympic team.

He was also, like his father before him, the President of the Thames Rowing Club, from 1970 until his death in 1977.

He had a small part in the 1967 film *Half a Sixpence* starring Tommy Steele. Beresford played the part of an umpire at the Henley Royal Regatta, and between 1966 and 1971 he was the rowing correspondent for *The Field*.

Jack Beresford died at his home at Highlands House, Shiplake in 1977. The previous evening he had attended the Thames annual dinner.

FOOTNOTE:

Even though there was no Jack Beresford Senior, Jack was widely referred to as "J Beresford Jr" and his father Julius was known as "J Beresford Sr". This was merely to identify the two in the media which rarely used Christian names at the time.

BEVAN, Edward Vaughan

Born: 3 November 1907, Chesterton, Cambridgeshire, England

Died: 23 February 1988, Storey's End, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1928)
Olympic medals:
1928 Gold – Rowing (Coxless fours)

The son of a professor of physics at the Royal Holloway College, Edward's father died when he was just four years of age. Edward's mother was widowed with four young boys all under the age of seven.

Edward went on to Bedford School where he played rugby, and then to Cambridge where he rowed for the First Trinity Boat Club, but he failed to win his Blue and he is regarded as one of the unluckiest rowers not to win a Varsity Blue.

But, it was whilst at University, that he joined fellow Cambridge men John Lander, Richard Beesly and Michael Warriner in the boat that won the coxless fours for Great Britain at the 1928 Olympics with Bevan at bow.

Regarded as a certainty to make the Boat Race crew in 1929 he was short-listed for the eight, along with his brother Owen, but neither made the final selection. Their oldest brother Llewellyn had been a two time Cambridge Blue in 1927 and 1928.

After University Edward Bevan started a medical practice in Cambridge with former Olympic shot putter Rex Woods, and he maintained his connections with rowing as President of the town's Rob Roy Boat Club from 1946 to 1980.

BLACKSTAFFE, Henry Thomas "Harry"

Born: 28 July 1868, Islington, London
Died: 22 August 1951, West Wickham, Kent, England
Olympics competed in: 1 (1908)
Olympic medals:
1908 Gold – Rowing (Single sculls)

When Harry Blackstaffe won the single sculls gold medal at the 1908 Olympics he was 40 years and three days of age, twice the age of the second placed man, fellow Briton Alexander McCulloch. He is the oldest sculling gold medallist

The son of a London hairdresser "Blackie", as he was known, was a fine rower with the Vesta Rowing Club in Putney he was runner-up in the Diamond Sculls in 1897, 1898, 1899 and 1905 before eventually beating Captain William Darell to win the race in 1906.

He retired from rowing after the 1908 Olympics and was made a Freeman of the City of London in 1925. He later served as a senior life president of the Amateur Rowing Association and at the age of 80 he umpired the Wingfield Sculls, a race he five times between 1897 and 1908.

He won the Wingfield Sculls, Diamond Sculls and London Cup – the Triple Crown of sculling in Great Britain – a total of 15 times.

He spent most of his rowing career with The Vesta Rowing Club and they hold an annual Blackstaffe Day in Harry's honour every August.

Harry was also a cross-country runner and represented South London Harriers in the National Championships

BUCKNALL, Henry Cresswell

Born: 4 July 1885, Lisbon, Portugal

Died: 1 January 1962, Dumfries, Dumfries & Galloway, Scotland
Olympics competed in: 1 (1908)
Olympic medals:
1908 Gold – Rowing (Eights)

Henry Bucknall was stroke to the Oxford crew in 1905 and 1906 but rowed at number two in 1907. However, for the 1908 Olympics he reverted to stroke in the gold medal winning team.

Bucknall gave up competitive rowing shortly after the Olympics and moved to the Morpeth in the north-east to work in shipbuilding but he maintained his contact with his sport by coaching the Durham University team.

For further details see LEANDER CLUB in the [CLUB SIDES OR TEAMS WHO WON GOLD MEDALS REPRESENTING GREAT BRITAIN](#) section.

BUDGETT, Richard Gordon McBride

Born: 20 March 1959, Glasgow, Scotland
Olympics competed in: 1 (1984)
Olympic medals:
1984 Gold – Rowing (Men's coxed fours)

The records show that Richard Budgett appeared in just one Olympic Games, when he won gold in the coxed fours at Los Angeles in 1984, but he has been involved in 10 other Olympics in his role as a doctor.

He was the doctor the British Bobsleigh team at the 1992 and 1994 Winter Olympics and was the chief medical officer to the British team at the 1998, 2002 and 2006 Winter Games and at every Summer Olympics from 1996-2012 he led the Team BG medical team. In October 2012 he took up the post as Medical and Scientific Director of the International Olympic Committee.

Richard qualified as a doctor in 1983 having attended Radley College, Queen Mary College and then Cambridge University where he rowed for Selwyn college but failed to reach the final trials for Boat Race crew.

His first international success came in 1981 when he partnered Thomas Cadoux-Hudson to win the bronze medal in the coxed pairs at the world championships in Germany. The partnership had only been established five weeks earlier.

Richard further competed in the 1982 and 1983 world championships in the coxed fours without success but in 1984 he was a member of the crew which took the Olympic gold medal.

Alongside him that day were Steve Redgrave, winning his first Olympic gold, Martin Cross, a fellow student at Queen Mary College), Andy Holmes and Adrian Ellison, the cox, who was also cox when Richard won the bronze medal at the 1981 world championships.

Richard was awarded an OBE in the 2003 Birthday Honours list for his role at the British Olympic Medical Centre.

BURGESS, Edgar Richard

Born: 23 September 1891, Westminster, London, England
Died: 23 April 1952, Mesnana, Tangier, Morocco
Olympics competed in: 1 (1912)
Olympic medals:
1912 Gold – Rowing (Eights)

Bowman Edgar Burgess was the only member of the 1912 Olympic gold medal winning team who was not a Boat Race blue at the time of the Games. He rectified that in 1913 when he was a member of the Oxford team that won the Boat Race by three-quarters of a length.

Burgess studied anthropology at Oxford and in 1920 was made a Fellow of the Zoological Society.

He served in Sudan with the Political Service and after his retirement stayed in Africa and died at his Moroccan home in 1952.

For further details see LEANDER CLUB in the [CLUB SIDES OR TEAMS WHO WON GOLD MEDALS REPRESENTING GREAT BRITAIN](#) section

BURNELL, Charles Desborough

Born: 13 January 1876, Beckenham, Kent, England

Died: 3 October 1969, Blewbury, Berkshire (now Oxfordshire), England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1908)

Olympic medals:

1908 Gold – Rowing (Eights)

Burnell was the head of a great family rowing dynasty. Educated at Oxford he is one of the few men to have rowed on four winning Boat Race crew. His son Dickie (see below) also rowed in the Boat Race as did his grandson Peter, in 1962. It was only the fourth occasion that a father, son and grandson had rowed for Oxford in the race. Charles also umpired the race four times.

Charles was a member of the Leander team that won the gold medal at the 1908 London Olympics. He served during the war with the London Rifle Brigade and in 1919 was awarded a DSO. After the war he returned to the family firm of stockbrokers, Wise & Burnell.

He was awarded the OBE in 1954 for public service in Berkshire, having served as chairman of the Wokingham Rural District Council for over 30 years.

Burnell died at the age of 93 in 1969. He lived at Blewbury in Berkshire which was also the home to William Nicholson who won an Olympic gold medal in the Art competition at the 1928 Olympics. Writers Kenneth Grahame (*Wind in the Willows*) and Dick Francis also lived in the village, which has a population of only around 1500.

Bucknall's son Dickie won the gold medal in the double sculls at the 1948 London Olympics to make them the first father and son to win rowing gold medals. Dickie married Rosalind Garton the daughter of Stanley Garton who won a gold medal in the 1912 Olympic rowing eights.

For further details see LEANDER CLUB in the [CLUB SIDES OR TEAMS WHO WON GOLD MEDALS REPRESENTING GREAT BRITAIN](#) section

BURNELL, Richard Deasborough

Born: 26 July 1917, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, England

Died: 29 January 1995, Wokingford, Oxfordshire, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1948)

Olympic medals:

1948 Gold – Rowing (Double sculls)

Dickie Burnell was educated at Eton, where he became Captain of Boats, and at Magdalen College Oxford where, like his father before him, he was a rowing Blue, in 1939.

He served in the second World War with the Rifle Brigade of the Northumberland Fusiliers and was stationed in Germany after the war and he continued his rowing at the Hamburg Rowing Club until April 1946 when he left the Army.

Already a fine sculler he established himself immediately upon his return to England and rowing for Leander he was in their eight that won the first Grand Challenge Cup after the War. He also competed in the Diamond Sculls and then later won the 1946 Wingfield Sculls.

He teamed up with Dick Winstone who was Dickie's original partner for the double sculls at the 1948 Olympics but it did not work out and after Henley they split and Dickie teamed up with Bert Bushnell, the 1947 Wingfield winner.

It was a most unlikely pairing - Dickie stood 6 feet 4 inches while Bert was just 5 feet 9 inches. And despite only rowing together for six weeks they managed to win the Olympic gold medal ahead of the strong Danish pair by two seconds.

Coached by the great Jack Beresford the story of their Olympic triumph was the subject of a 2012 BBC drama programme entitled simply: "Bert and Dickie".

In winning the gold medal Dickie made Olympic history as he followed his father Charles to win Olympic gold (1908 Eights), and they became the first, and so far, the only father and son to win Olympic rowing gold medals.

Dickie was captain of the Leander crew that won the Grand Challenge Cup in 1949 and he was then asked to assemble an eights crew for the 1950 British Empire (now Commonwealth) Games in Auckland. He selected men from Leander (including himself) and Thames Rowing Club but they could only finish third behind Australia and New Zealand.

Dickie's final Henley triumph was in winning the Double Sculls Challenge Cup in 1951 with Pat Badley.

Dickie's father-in-law was Stanley Garton who won an eights gold medal at the 1912 Stockholm Olympics, and to continue the family rowing dynasty, Dickie's son Peter was an Oxford Blue in 1962.

In 1946 Burnell became a rowing correspondent for The Times and he held that post with them and later the Sunday Times until 1990. He wrote several rowing books including the brilliant and highly acclaimed "Swing together: Thoughts on Rowing", published in 1952

Burnell was secretary, captain and, between 1988 and 1993, the president of the Leander Club. He was also a Henley steward and between 1967 and 1990 was the official Boat Race timekeeper,

BUSHNELL, Bertram Harold Thomas

Born: 3 September 1921, Wargrave, Berkshire, England

Died: 10 January 2010, Reading, Berkshire, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1948)

Olympic medals:

1948 Gold – Rowing (Double sculls)

Bert Bushnell was one half of the 'Odd Couple' that won the doubles sculls at the 1948 London Olympics.

Bushnell left Henley Grammar school at 14 to serve his apprenticeship with a marine engineering company in Southampton. He was very anti-establishment and had little or no time for education and in particular public school and university education. It was therefore perhaps strange that he

should take to rowing, at Maidenhead Rowing Club, at a time when the sport was the preserve of the wealthy and titled.

During the war he tested torpedo boats which were used in the Dunkirk evacuation.

After the war he returned to competitive rowing and was beaten in the first round of the 1946 Diamond Sculls at Henley by Dickie Burnell, the man who was later to become his double sculls partner. Burnell won the Wingfield Sculls in 1946 and Bert who won the race the following year.

Bushnell was original set to partner John Pinches of the London Rowing Club at the 1948 Olympics but Pinches declined on the grounds that proper trials were not held and so was born the Bushnell/Burnell partnership.

Bushnell was a mere 5 feet 9 inches tall whilst his partner Dickie Burnell was 6 feet 4 inches, and three stone heavier. But they defied all the critics who called them the 'odd couple' to win gold after just six weeks together under the guidance of five times Olympic medallist Jack Beresford.

Such was their achievement at the 1948 Olympics that the exploits of the two men were recalled in a BBC film "Bert and Dickie" which was broadcast two days before the start of the 2012 London Olympics.

Bert retired from racing after the Olympics and established a successful cruiser building and hire business. He also played football for Maidenhead United.

He sold his business in the 1980s and moved to the Algarve where he enjoyed playing golf. After his wife Margaret died in 1988 Bert moved back home close to his Henley roots where he lived until his death in 2010. When he died Bert was the last surviving British Olympic rowing gold medallist from the 1948 Games. Before he died Bert donated his gold medal to the River Thames Rowing Museum at Henley.

Bert was a close friend of the American rower John Kelly whose sister was Grace Kelly, later Princess Grace of Monaco, and Bert once had a dinner date with her.

CLIVE, Lewis

Born: 8 September 1910, London, England

Died: 28 July 1938, 2 August 1938, nr. Gandesa, Tarragona, Cataluña, Spain

Olympics competed in: 1 (1932)

Olympic medals:

1932 Gold – Rowing (Coxless pairs)

Educated at Eton and Christ Church Oxford, Lewis Clive came from a wealthy family. At Eton he was honoured as Captain of the Boats.

His father Percy was a Conservative MP from 1900-06 and was also the Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Austen Chamberlain – who was Lewis' Godfather. Percy was killed in action in World War War and left over £13 million in modern-day terms.

At Oxford, Lewis twice took part in the Boat Race but was on the losing side each time, in 1930 and 1931. But he struck up a winning pairs combination with his Christ Church team-mate Jumbo Edwards and they won the Silver Goblets at Henley in 1931 and 1932, and on the strength of their wins were selected to represent Great Britain at Long Beach, California, in the 1932 Olympics Games and they came home with the gold medal.

A former member of the Bullingdon Club, Lewis left Oxford in 1932 with a second in Law and had a brief spell in banking. That same year he joined the Labour Party and served as a member of the Kensington Borough Council. He was invited to join the Leander Rowing Club but declined. Many feel that he was trying to 'find himself' politically at this time, hence the decision to decline.

So strong were Lewis' political beliefs that he joined the Republican fight in the Spanish Civil War early in 1938 and within less than five months of joining he was a Company Commander. But less than a month after taking up the post he lost his life in a bloody battle at Hill 481 during the Battle of Ebro near Gandesa in Tarragona, Cataluña.

Lewis Clive was the only British Olympic gold medallist killed in the Spanish civil war. Irish boxer Robert Hilliard was also killed in the hostilities but he was not a medallist.

COODE, Edward

Born: 19 June 1975, Bodmin, Cornwall, England

Olympics competed in: 2 (2000, 2004)

Olympic medals:

2004 Gold – Rowing (Coxless fours)

Educated at Eton College Ed Coode then studied Marine Biology at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne and then Oxford where he continued his rowing career and in 1998 won his rowing Blue.

Ed represented Britain in the coxless fours at the 1993 junior world championships and won a silver medal. A further silver followed with the senior coxed fours squad at the 1996 Nations Cup and the following year he won gold in the coxless pairs with Steve Trapmore. That was followed in the same year, 1997, with a bronze medal in the coxed fours at the world championships.

At the 1998 world championships Ed was in the coxless fours which finished a disappointing seventh but the following year he struck gold when he came into the squad as a replacement for Tim Foster, and with Matthew Pinsent, James Cracknell and Steve Redgrave they won what Redgrave described as his "greatest race ever."

Ed won the prestigious Silver Goblets at Henley in 2000 with Greg Searle (winner of the 1997 Diamond Sculls) and with Tim Foster back in the fours crew, Ed turned to the coxless pairs for the 2000 Sydney Olympics and he and Greg Searle led for most of the race until being overtaken by three crews in the final 600 metres to finish just outside the medal places.

It was back to coxless fours in 2001 when Ed teamed up with Tony Garrett, Steve Williams and Rick Dunn to capture the world title in Lucerne.

In January 2002 the British rowing squad went on a cross country skiing camp to Norway but Ed suffered a serious injury which ruled him out of training for most of the season and he did not rejoin the squad until 2003 when he won a bronze medal with the British eights at the world championships.

For the Athens Olympics he was back in a fours boat when he replaced the injured Alex Partridge and joined Matthew Pinsent, James Cracknell and Steve Williams in the boat to beat the fancied Canadians by 0.08 seconds in the most dramatic race of the 2004 Olympics. The four won the FISA Male Crew of the Year Award for 2004.

Ed retired from rowing in 2004 and the following year was awarded the MBE for his services to sport. That same year he went to the University of the West of England to study Law and he qualified as a solicitor in 2009 and the following year he joined the 250-year-old family firm of Devon and Cornwall solicitors, Coodes, at their Liskeard office.

Being a Cornishman, his two hobbies are, like rowing, water related – surfing and diving.

COPELAND, Katherine Sarah “Kat”

Born: 1 December 1990, Ashington, County Durham, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (2012)

Olympic medals:

2012 Gold – Rowing (Women's lightweight double sculls)

Kat Copeland started rowing when she was 14 at Yarm School, Stockton-on-Tees in her native County Durham before she joined the Tees Rowing Club.

She came fourth in the lightweight single sculls at the 2009 world under-23 championships when she was just 18, and two years later she became the under-23 world champion. Shortly afterwards she stepped up to the senior world championship squad and after winning her heat and semi-final, beating the USA, Switzerland and Germany, she could only finish fifth in a final won by Brazil, with the Swiss, Germans and Americans all in front of her.

Kat teamed up with Sophie Hosking at the beginning of 2012 with the London 2012 Olympics their target in the lightweight double sculls and they achieved their goal as they beat China by two seconds in the final.

After her Olympic triumph Kat took a year out before teaming up with Imogen Walsh at the start of 2014 and they went on to win two of the three lightweight double sculls World Cup races as this new partnership had Rio 2016 firmly in their sights,

Kat was honoured with the MBE in the 2012 New Year's Honours list.

CRACKNELL, James Edward

Born: 5 May 1972, Sutton, London, England

Olympics competed in: 3 (1996, 2000, 2004)

Olympic medals:

2000 Gold – Rowing (Coxless fours)

2004 Gold – Rowing (Coxless fours)

James Cracknell started rowing at the age of 14 and three years later rowed for Great Britain at the 1989 junior world championships, finishing tenth in the coxed pairs. The following year he won the gold medal as part of the coxless fours crew that consisted of Cracknell, Neil Bridge, Nicholas Clarry and Greg Searle.

After graduating from Reading University with a degree in geography Pinsent, also a qualified PE teacher, became a regular member of the senior British rowing squad and took part in his first senior world championship in 1991 but he had to wait until 1997 before he won his first medal, a gold in the coxless fours with Matthew Pinsent, Tim Foster and Steve Redgrave. The same four retained their title in 1998 and Cracknell, Pinsent and Redgrave made it three consecutive wins in 1999, when Ed Coode replaced Foster.

Foster was back in the boat in 2000 and the double world championship gold medal winning crew captured the gold medal at the Sydney Olympics.

Cracknell had made his Olympic debut in the coxless pairs at Atlanta four years earlier but he had a bout of tonsillitis during the opening ceremony and he was quarantined. During which time his father suggested it was about time he got a 'proper job!' He recovered, but not well, enough and his appearances were restricted to just two races.

In 2001 James was awarded the MBE and also won the first of three consecutive Silver Goblets and Nickalls Challenge Cups at Henley with Matthew Pinsent. It was quite an eventful year as Cracknell also won both the coxed and coxless pairs gold medals at the world championships with Pinsent. They retained the coxless title the following year and the pair won the FISA Crew of the Year Award for 2002.

Olympic year 2004 was another eventful one for James. He teamed up with Matthew Pinsent, Steve Williams and Ed Coode and won a second Olympic gold medal in Athens. This was to be James Cracknell's last race. He was awarded the OBE in the New Year's Honours list and was also in the team that won the FISA Male crew of the Year Award for 2004.

After his rowing days James became an intrepid modern-day adventurer and embarked on some gruelling tasks.

His first major challenge was in 2005 when he teamed up with TV presenter Ben Fogle to row across the Atlantic, which they did in 49 days and raised money for the Children in Need Appeal. The pair of them then took part in the 473-mile Amundsen South Pole Race in 2008 and in 2009 the pair rode a rickshaw from Edinburgh to London for the Pride of Britain Awards.

Also in 2009 James took part in the famous Devizes to Westminster canoe race, and he ran his second sub-three hour Marathon, in the famous New York Marathon.

In 2010 James took part in the Marathon des Sables 'The Toughest Race on Earth' – a 250-kilometre walking and running race across the Sahara. James finished 12th which was the highest placing by a Briton in its 25 year history. But it was whilst attempting to cross America from Los Angeles to New York by running, riding, rowing and swimming the entire distance, in July that year, that he suffered a near fatal accident when he was hit by a petrol tanker from behind while cycling in Arizona.

He took six months to recover and he suffered partial brain damage. His TV presented wife Beverley Turner was pregnant with their third child Trixie at the time.

Those are just a few of James Cracknell's adventures. There are many more, including paddling across the English Channel on a surf board!

A corporate after-dinner and motivational speaker, James also became a TV presenter and a columnist for the Daily Telegraph and in 2014 he stood as a Conservative MEP for the South-West of England and Gibraltar but unfortunately for him, he missed out on a seat as the Tories won just two seats and he was their third candidate.

In March 2006 Cracknell's Chiswick home was broken into and his Olympic gold medals, along with other important items were stolen. Fortunately, the medals were recovered.

Adrian Turner, the younger brother of Cracknell's wife Beverley represented Britain in the 200 and 400 metres individual medley swimming events at the 2004 Olympics.

CROSS, Martin Patrick

Born: 19 July 1957, London

Olympics competed in: 4 (1980, 1984, 1988, 1992)

Olympic medals:

1980 Bronze – Rowing (Men's coxless fours)

1984 Gold – Rowing (Men's coxed fours)

Martin Cross took part in four Olympics, winning a bronze in the coxless fours at Moscow in 1980 and then a gold at Los Angeles four years later with Richard Budgett, Andrew Holmes, Steve Redgrave and cox Adrian Ellison.

He was in the coxed fours at the 1988 Games and finished fourth and at Barcelona in 1992 he was in the British eights that finished sixth.

During his career he rowed for Thames Tradesmen Rowing Club and the Molesey Boat Club on the Thames.

His first major international success was in winning the silver medal in the coxless fours at the 1975 junior world championship.

He competed in his first senior world championship in 1977 and year later in New Zealand he won a bronze medal as a member of the coxless fours. Another bronze followed in 1979, again in the coxless fours.

He won a fourth world championship medal in 1985 when he collected a silver medal in the coxless pairs and in 1986 he won only the second international gold medal of his career when he was in the winning English coxed fours team at the Edinburgh Commonwealth Games. His teammates that day were the same as in the gold medal winning boat at the Olympic Games except Adam Clift replaced Richard Budgett.

Martin won a fifth world championship medal in 1991 when he was part of the eights crew that won the silver medal. He made his final international appearance at the 1994 world championship, 18 years after his debut, when he came seventh in the coxed pairs with Steve Redgrave.

Martin became a teacher at Hampton school and was also a rowing contributor to The Guardian and in 2001 his autobiography "Olympic Obsession" was published.

CUDMORE, Collier Robert

Born: 13 June 1885, Avoca, New South Wales, Australia

Died: 16 May 1971, North Adelaide, South Australia

Olympics competed in: 1 (1908)

Olympic medals:

1908 Gold – Rowing (Coxless fours)

Robert Cudmore was educated at the Collegiate school of St. Peter Adelaide and then Adelaide University before going up to Oxford where he became a rowing blue in 1908 and 1909.

The Magdalen College fours won the Stewards' Challenge Cup and Visitors' Challenge Cup at Henley. They were then asked to row for Great Britain at the London Olympics that year and the foursome of Cudmore, Angus Gillan, Duncan Mackinnon and Robert Somers-Smith won the coxless fours beating Leander in the final.

Cudmore was called to the Bar of the Inner Temple in 1910 and he returned to Australia and was called to the Australian Bar in 1911 after which he practised as a solicitor and barrister in his home country until his retirement in 1955.

He served with the Royal Field Artillery during World War One but was seriously injured on two occasions which gave him back troubles throughout his life. His brother Milo was killed in action in 1916.

In later life Robert turned to politics and spent 20 years in Australia's Upper House with the Liberal and Country League Party. In 1958 he was knighted for his services to politics.

DENNIS, Simon John

Born: 24 August 1976, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (2000)

Olympic medals:

2000 Gold – Rowing (Men's eights)

Being born at Henley-on-Thames it was more than an average chance that Simon Dennis was going to have rowing in his blood. And so it was.

He started rowing at St Paul's School, London, before going to London's Imperial College, where fellow 2000 Olympic gold medallists Luka Grubor and Louis Attrill were members of the same college rowing eights.

Simon was a member of the British team that won the eights bronze medal at the 1994 junior World Championships when another 2000 team-mate, Andrew Lindsay, was also in the team.

Dennis was in the Imperial College boat that won the 1995 Thames Challenge Cup, 1996 Grand Challenge Cup and 1997 Temple Challenge Cup; three prestigious Henley races. Simon rowed for Queen's Tower Rowing Club after Imperial, but subsequently returned to his old college to train their rowing team.

He took time out from eights crews in 1999 to team up with Steve Williams in the coxless pairs and they won the coveted Silver Goblet and Nickalls Challenge Cup at Henley. He returned to eights and was selected for Great Britain at the 2000 Sydney Olympics when his gold medal became his only major international honour.

Simon intended taking a year away from the sport at the end of the 2001 season but on being offered the coaching job at Imperial College on Bill Mason's retirement, he quit racing completely.

Dennis studied zoology at Imperial College between 1994 and 1997 and later became a biology teacher at Marlborough College. For his services to rowing he was awarded the MBE in the 2001 New Year Honours list.

DOUGLAS, Rowley

Born: 27 January 1977, Washington DC, USA

Olympics competed in: 1 (2000)

Olympic medals:

2000 Gold – Rowing (Men's eights)

Having coxed many different rowing teams, he joined the Great Britain eights in 1999 and guided them to a silver medal in that year's world championship in Canada. A year later he was the proud owner of an Olympic gold medal after Britain's triumph in Sydney.

He retired from major international rowing in 2001 and concentrated on his career as an account manager with General Electric. He became the company's Olympic Ambassador for London 2012.

In 2010 Rowley had made himself available for selection for the London Games but he was controversially overlooked in favour of Phelan Hill, a Treasury advisor to Chancellor George Osborne, just three months before the Games.

An experienced motivational speaker, he also helped the Cambridge University Boat Club as a member of their coaching staff and for his services to rowing he was awarded the MBE in the 2001 New Year Honours list.

EDWARDS, Hugh Robert Arthur

Born: 17 November 1906, West-cote Barton, Oxfordshire, England

Died: 21 December 1972, Southampton, Hampshire, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1932)

Olympic medals:

1932 Gold – Rowing (Coxless fours)

1932 Gold – Rowing (coxless pairs)

Known affectionately as Jumbo throughout his rowing career, Edwards was the son of Minister who was educated at Westminster School before going to Christ Church, Oxford.

He spent two years at Oxford in 1925-26 and then spent time working as a schoolmaster before returning to Oxford for three years in 1929.

He won his first Blue as a freshman in 1926 but collapsed during the race as Cambridge went on to win. Brother Cecil was in the same crew. Jumbo was later found to have a heart disorder, but it didn't curtail his rowing activities. He was a Blue again during his second spell at Oxford, in 1930, when he was again on the losing crew.

In 1930 he was a member of the Thames Rowing Club that won the 1930 Grand Challenge Cup. That same year he won a gold medal for England in both the coxless fours and eights at the inaugural Empire Games (now Commonwealth Games).

The following year he achieved a remarkable feat of winning an unprecedented three races at Henley on one day when he won the Grand, Stewards' and Silver Goblets. A feat not achieved since 1903.

He made his Olympic debut in 1932 and won the coxless fours with Jack Beresford, Felix Badcock and George Rowland and returned from Los Angeles as a double gold medallist after winning the coxless pairs with fellow Christ Church rower Lewis Clive. He won both gold medals on the same day and was only called into the fours after Tom Tyler was taken ill in Los Angeles.

Edwards was commissioned into the RAF in 1931 and he became a squadron leader in 1938 and two years later he took over the Command of 53 Squadron from his brother Cecil who was killed during the War. Jumbo was awarded Air Force Cross (AFC) and Distinguished Flying Corps (DFC). He retired from the RAF as a Group Captain in 1956.

An excellent pilot, he obtained his licence in 1929 and enjoyed racing in his own aircraft and was runner-up in the prestigious Kings's Cup Air Race in 1935. His late brother Cecil had won the race four years earlier.

After he retired from rowing he became a highly respected coach and was in charge of the Oxford crew for 19 Boat Races between 1949 and 1972. In 1960 he coached the British eights at the Rome Olympics and in 1962 he was coach to the Welsh coxless fours who won the silver medal at the Empire (Commonwealth) Games in Perth, Australia, and two of the four crew members were his sons David and John.

Son David rowed in the Oxford boat that lost the 1958 Boat Race, along with Jumbo's 1932 Olympic fours partner Felix Badcock's son, Felix junior. David won a second Blue in 1959, when he was in the winning Oxford boat.

Jumbo was also a keen sailor and took part in the inaugural Round Britain race in 1966. Six years later, he collapsed on board his yacht at Hamble and died the next day in hospital in Southampton.

ELEY, Charles Ryves Maxwell

Born: 16 September 1902, East Bergholt, Suffolk, England

Died: 15 January 1983, East Bergholt, Suffolk, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1924)

Olympic medals:

1924 Gold – Rowing (Coxless fours)

Maxwell Eley was a Cambridge Blue in 1924 when the light blues beat Oxford in the then second fastest time ever in what was the start of a run of 13 consecutive Cambridge wins. It was also the year that he won his Olympic gold medal

Eley first appeared at Henley in 1921 when he rowed in the Eton eight that won the Ladies' Challenge Plate. And in the five years between 1922 and 1926 he won the Stewards Cup three times, the Silver Goblets & Nickalls' Challenge Cup (with James MacNabb), the Visitors' cup and in 1926 he was a member of the Leander eight that won the Grand Challenge Cup.

Four of his Henley wins were with fellow Eton and Cambridge colleagues James MacNabb, Robert Morrison and Terence Sanders and it was this same quartet that won the 1924 Olympic coxless fours title. Maxwell was the bowman of the crew.

Eley had a long career with ICI and after retiring he lived at the family estate at East Bergholt Place in Suffolk and he nurtured the wonderful gardens of the estate and helped develop it into a successful apple growing business.

Charles' father started to lay out the beautiful garden at the turn of the 20th century and now, in the 21st century, the fourth generation of the family continue to look after the gardens and run the popular The Place for Plants Garden Centre,

Maxwell Eley was a Royal Naval volunteer during World War Two and in 1949 was awarded the OBE in the New Year Honours list

ELLISON, Adrian Charles

Born: 11 September 1958, Solihull, Warwickshire, England

Olympics competed in: 2 (1984, 1992)

Olympic medals:

1984 Gold – Rowing (Men's coxed fours)

Adrian Ellison was cox to the fours that won Britain's first Olympic gold medal since 1948 at the Los Angeles Olympics in 1984 when he guided Steve Redgrave, Richard Budgett, Martin Cross and Andy Holmes over the finishing line.

Three years earlier Budgett was in the same boat coxed by Ellison that won a bronze medal at the world championships.

Adrian won a second major gold medal when he coxed the England fours to the 1986 Commonwealth Games title at Edinburgh.

A second world championship bronze medal came in 1989 when he was cox to the Great Britain eights. Altogether Ellison took part in eight world championships.

Adrian appeared in his second Olympics at Barcelona in 1992 when he coxed the eights but they could only finish sixth.

A member of the Tyrian and Leander Rowing clubs, Adrian was educated at Reading University where he studied zoology. He later became a radiographer and became a senior radiographer at the Chelsea & Westminster Hospital.

ETHERINGTON-SMITH, Raymond Broadley

Born: 11 April 1877, Putney, London, England

Died: 19 April 1913, Smithfield, London, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1908)

Olympic medals:

1908 Gold – Rowing (Eights)

Raymond Etherington-Smith was a rowing blue at Cambridge 1898-1900 and was captain of the Leander Club in 1903 and between 1905 and 1908 and was captain and number seven in the crew that won the 1908 Olympic gold medal. It was the last time the Etherington-Smith rowed.

He was a surgeon at St Bartholomew's Hospital and he died there in 1913 from blood poisoning (pneumo-coccal peritonitis) contracted while performing an operation, believed to be on a gangrenous lung.

Etherington-Smith was known affectionately by staff at St Bartholomew's, and by most his friend as "Ethel Smith." Raymond's brother Thomas raced against him for Oxford in the 1900 boat race.

For further details see LEANDER CLUB in the [CLUB SIDES OR TEAMS WHO WON GOLD MEDALS REPRESENTING GREAT BRITAIN](#) section

FENNING, John Reginald Keith

Born: 23 June 1885, Fulham, London, England

Died: 3 January 1955, Coventry, Warwickshire, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1908)

Olympic medals:

1908 Gold – Rowing (Coxless pairs)

1908 Silver – Rowing (Coxless fours)

The son of an Indian born Army Officer and Irish-born mother, John Fenning went to the London Hospital Medical College in 1904 and there he was an oarsman in their rowing team. He also rowed with the London Rowing Club and in 1906 was in the four that won the Wyfold Challenge Cup at Henley. They were runners-up the following year to Magdalen College, Oxford.

Fenning later joined the Leander Club and along with fellow team-mates he was selected for both the pairs and fours at the 1908 London Olympic Games.

In the pairs, Fenning and Gordon Thomson won the gold medal by beating another Leander pair, George Fairbairn and Philip Verdon. Later the same day, Fenning and Thomson teamed up with Philip Filleul and Harold Barker but this time they only came second to a fours crew representing Magdalen, Oxford.

Fenning took an unusually long time to qualify as a doctor – 13 years.

FLEMING, Philip

Born: 15 September 1889, Newport-on-Tay, Fife, Scotland

Died: 13 October 1971, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire, England
Olympics competed in: 1 (1912)
Olympic medals:
1912 Gold – Rowing (Eights)

Unlike most of his team-mates Philip Fleming only raced in one Boat Race, being a member of the winning Oxford crew in 1910. At the 1912 Olympics he was stroke to the Leander team that won gold for Britain.

Fleming's real claim to fame was when he was serving in the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars during World War One when one of his fellow officers was Winston Churchill. Fleming rose to the rank of Major. Fleming's brother Valentine was killed in action in France in 1917 He was a Conservative MP for Henley from 1910 up to his death and his obituary was written by Churchill. Valentine was the father of Ian Fleming, the creator of James Bond.

Fleming's father Robert started Flemings Merchant Bank in Dundee in 1873. The company was sold to Chase Manhattan Bank in 2000 for \$7 billion. Philip was chairman of the company from 1948-66.

Fleming's father-in-law Philip Hunloke won a bronze medal in the 8 metres sailing event at the 1908 Olympics

For further details see LEANDER CLUB in the [CLUB SIDES OR TEAMS WHO WON GOLD MEDALS REPRESENTING GREAT BRITAIN](#) section

FOSTER, Timothy James Carrington

Born: 10 January 1970, Hillingdon, London, England
Olympics competed in: 3 (1992, 1996, 2000)
Olympic medals:
1996 Bronze – Rowing (Coxless fours)
2000 Gold – Rowing (Coxless fours)

Tim Foster started rowing at school in Bedford and in 1987 he won a junior world championship gold medal in the coxless fours with Rupert Obholzer, Jonny Searle and Toby Hessian

The following year, when just 18, he became the first Briton to win successive gold medals at the junior worlds when he captured the pairs title with Matthew Pinsent.

In his first season with the senior squad, 1989, he won a bronze medal in the eights at the world championships. Another bronze followed in 1991 and then at the Barcelona Olympics in 1992 the British eights finished sixth.

Foster missed all of the 1993 season after undergoing back surgery but he was back in action in 1994 and won a bronze medal in the coxless fours at the world championships with Rupert Obholzer and the Searle brothers - Jonny and Greg. The same four won the silver medal in 1995 and at Atlanta the following year they took the Olympic bronze medal.

Tim went to Oxford to further his education in 1997 and took part in the Boat Race that year but was on the losing side. However, he had been part of the fours that won all three coxless fours races at the Nations Cup with the new four consisting of Foster, Matthew Pinsent, James Cracknell and Steve Redgrave. The four then went on to win the world championship gold medal that year.

They dominated the event for three years and retained the world title in 1998 and in 1999 Pinsent, Cracknell and Redgrave won a third consecutive coxless fours title but Foster gave way

to Ed Coode because of a re-occurrence of his back trouble. Tim rowed with the eights at the world championships that year and won a silver medal.

He was back in the fours boat with Cracknell, Pinsent and Redgrave for the 2000 Sydney Olympics which they won after a close encounter with the Italians before winning by 38/100ths of a second.

Tim was honoured with the MBE in the 2001 New Year's Honours list and following a serious knee injury he announced on 5 December 2001 that he was retiring from the sport and thus ending his ambition to appear in four Olympics.

He took up coaching, firstly with the London Rowing Club and then the UK-Sport sponsored Elite Coaching Programme and in 2007 he was appointed coach to the Swiss National squad

Tim is also a business coach and professional speaker. His brother Jason is also a rowing coach who was in 2011 appointed the head coach at [George Watson's College, Edinburgh](#).

GARTON, Arthur Stanley

Born: 31 March 1889, Worcester Park, Surrey, London, England

Died: 20 October 1948, Woking, Surrey, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1912)

Olympic medals:

1912 Gold – Rowing (Eights)

When he went to Oxford from Eton, Stanley Garton took his immense rowing talent with him, consequently he was a member of three consecutive Oxford Boat Race winning crews 1909-11, and rowed on three Grand Challenge Cup teams, for Magdalen College and Leander.

He rowed at number six in the Leander team that won the eights gold medal for Britain at the 1912 Olympics.

He later coached the Oxford eight.

Stanley's daughter Rosalind married Dickie Burnell who won an Olympic gold in the double sculls at London in 1948. Their son Peter, Stanley's grandson, rowed for Oxford in the 1962 Boat Race.

Garton was born into a family that had made a fortune in sugar in the 19th century and he died in 1948 his estate was worth over £800,000 which is equivalent to over £25 million in today's terms.

For further details see LEANDER CLUB in the [CLUB SIDES OR TEAMS WHO WON GOLD MEDALS REPRESENTING GREAT BRITAIN](#) section

GILLAN, James Angus

Born: 11 October 1885, Aberdeen, Scotland

Died: 23 April 1981, Leigh, Surrey, England

Olympics competed in: 2 (1908, 1912)

Olympic medals:

1908 Gold – Rowing (Coxless fours)

1912 Gold – Rowing (Eights)

When Angus Gillan rowed at number five for the 1912 Leander team that won the eights gold medal for Britain he made history as the first man to win two Olympic rowing gold medals, having been a member of the British coxless fours team at the London Games four years earlier.

Gillan took part at the 1912 Olympics while he was on leave from Sudan where he had worked in the Colonial Service since 1909 and would continue up to the start of World War Two. He was awarded the KBE in 1939 and was heavily involved in the organisation of the 1948 London Olympics.

Sir Angus Gillan, known affectionately in the rowing world as 'Mary' died in 1981, eight years after his wife Margaret passed away.

For further details see LEANDER CLUB in the [CLUB SIDES OR TEAMS WHO WON GOLD MEDALS REPRESENTING GREAT BRITAIN](#) section

GLADSTONE, Albert Charles

Born: 28 October 1886, Hawarden, Flintshire, Wales
Died: 2 March 1967, Fordingbridge, Hampshire, England
Olympics competed in: 1 (1908)
Olympic medals:
1908 Gold – Rowing (Eights)

Albert Gladstone was born at Hawarden Castle in North Wales, the estate of British Prime Minister William Gladstone, Albert Gladstone's grandfather.

The youngest member of the 1908 gold medal winning Leander eights he was nevertheless very experienced and rowed for Oxford in the Boat Race four times, winning just once, in 1909.

During World War One he served in Mesopotamia and Gallipoli and was mentioned in dispatches several times. He was awarded the MBE in 1919.

After the war he had a very successful business career and was for 23 years a director of the Bank of England. He became High Sheriff of the County of London in 1929. On the death of his cousin in 1945 he became Sir Albert Gladstone, the 5th Baronet Gladstone of Fasque and Balfour in the County of Kincardine

For further details see LEANDER CLUB in the [CLUB SIDES OR TEAMS WHO WON GOLD MEDALS REPRESENTING GREAT BRITAIN](#) section

GEORGE, Rowland David

Born: 15 January 1905, Bath, Somerset, England
Died: 9 September 1997, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, England
Olympics competed in: 1 (1932)
Olympic medals:
1932 Gold – Rowing (Coxless fours)

When he died in 1997, Rowland George was, at the age of 92, the oldest surviving British Olympic gold medallist having been bow to the coxless gold medal winning coxless fours at the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics with Jack Beresford, Felix Badcock and Jumbo Edwards.

Educated at Wycliffe College in Gloucestershire and then Oxford. He took up rowing at Oxford because, as he said, he hated cricket and football. But after one year rowing with the college a doctor refused to let him row again because of the severe exhaustion he was suffering.

After University he joined a firm of Bristol printers and in 1929 they moved him to their London branch and this gave Rowland the chance to take up rowing and the man described by his

Wycliffe headmaster as a “nervy little chap” joined the famous Thames Rowing Club in 1930 and the following year he won the Wyfold Challenge Cup at Henley and was runner-up with the Thames eights in the Grand Challenge Cup. Thames were runners-up in the Grand again in 1932 but their four of George, Beresford, Badcock and Edwards beat a German crew in the Stewards’ Challenge Cup before they were all selected to go to the Olympics where they beat another German crew to take the gold medal.

George wanted to join the RAF at the outbreak of the World War Two but at 34 was too old to learn to fly so he joined the equipment branch and he became a specialist in explosives. And for his extreme bravery at Algiers in 1942 he was uniquely awarded the OBE, an award not normally made for bravery.

In 1943 he was moved to Sicily where, despite getting wounded, he was still able to supervise the unloading and distribution of much needed supplies. For this effort he was awarded the DSO again, it was an award not normally made to somebody from the equipment branch.

George took early retirement in 1959 and returned to his native Bath where he was involved many local institutions and organisations, as well as being an active Christian Scientist.

He was invited the British Olympic Association to attend the 1992 Barcelona Olympics as the only survivor of the crew that won gold at Los Angeles 60 years earlier. For the occasion he took the trouble to learn Spanish, to be respectful to his Spanish hosts, despite being 87 years of age

GLOVER, Helen

Born: 17 June 1986, Truro, Cornwall

Olympics competed in: 1 (2012)

Olympic medals:

2012 Gold – Rowing (Women’s coxless pairs)

As a youngster Helen Glover participated in a variety of sports. As a junior she ran international cross-country and was part of the England hockey satellite squad for Hockey. She attended the famous Millfield School before going to the University of Wales Institute in Cardiff where she studied for a degree in Sport and Exercise Science followed by a post graduated certificate in Physical Education.

It was during her spell as a PE teacher in Bath that she took up rowing, and joined the Minerva Club in Bath and in 2010 she formed a partnership with Heather Stanning in the coxless pairs and they went to that year’s world championships having finished no better than fifth in the World Cup series but they came away from the ‘Worlds’ in New Zealand with the silver medal, losing by three seconds to the host country.

The following year Helen and Heather won the two World Cup races they entered but it was to be another silver at the world championships at Bled in Slovenia when, again, they came second to the New Zealand pair, but by a mere eight one hundredths of a second this time.

But, those two silver medals were soon forgotten in 2012 as the British girls won all three World Cup races and then went on to win the Olympic title on home water at Lake Dorney when they beat Australia into second place with the New Zealand girls in third. It was Britain’s first ever Olympic gold medal in women’s rowing.

Heather had to return to her army duties after the 2012 Olympics and Helen teamed up with Polly Swann for the 2013 season and the new pair continued to dominate the coxless pairs and Helen eventually won her elusive world championship gold medal to go with her Olympic gold.

Helen and Heather Stanning renewed their partnership in 2014 and immediately continued where

they left off and carried on winning.

Helen was awarded the MBE in 2012 New Year's Honours list, and when she goes home to Cornwall, Helen enjoys surfing, swimming, playing tennis and spending time with her family and loves nothing more than an ice cream at the family shop, Jelberts, in Newlyn.

GRAINGER, Katherine

Born: 12 November 1975, Glasgow, Scotland

Olympics competed in: 4 (2000, 2004, 2008, 2012)

Olympic medals:

2000 Silver – Rowing (Women's quadruple sculls)

2004 Silver – Rowing (Women's coxless pairs)

2008 Silver – Rowing (Women's quadruple sculls)

2012 Gold – Rowing (Women's double sculls)

Katherine Grainger is the only British woman in any sport to have won a medal at four consecutive Olympics, and after three successive silvers in 2000, 2004 and 2008 she was determined to continue racing until London 2012 to have one last shot at that elusive gold medal, which she eventually won.

Katherine started rowing whilst at Edinburgh University in 1993 and she was captain of the University Boat Club in 1997 when she won her first major international title at the under-23 world championship with Francesca Zino in the coxless pairs. That same year she was a member of the first British senior eights crew to win a world championship medal when they won the bronze medal in France.

Her first Olympic medal was in the quadruple sculls at Sydney in 2000 when Britain finished second to Germany but managed to hold off the Russian crew by one hundredth of a second to take the silver.

She won the first of her five world championship gold medals with Cath Bishop in the coxless pairs at Milan in 2003 and the following year at Athens she was to endure a second successive Olympic silver medal when Katherine and Cath Bishop finished two seconds behind the winning Romanian pair.

Three consecutive world championship gold medals then followed in the quadruple sculls in 2005-07 and then it was to Beijing to try for that elusive Olympic gold medal. This time she was in the quadruple sculls with Annabel Vernon, Debbie Flood and Frances Houghton – the same four who had won the world title a year earlier. But there was to be no repeat as the British girls were beaten by the Chinese four by just over a second. Katherine was inconsolable after a third successive silver. To many it was a great achievement but to her, another silver meant failure.

She won a silver medal at the 2009 world championship in the single sculling event, her first solo championship medal. And in 2010 and 2011, after teaming up with a new partner, Anna Watkins, she won consecutive world championship golds. They won by six seconds in 2010 and led from start to finish in retaining their title in 2011.

At the 2012 senior rowing trials Katherine won the women's single sculls and took her national titles tally to a record ten. Katherine and Anna won all three World Cup events that year and arrived at Dorney Lake as favourites for the coxless pair title at the London Olympics and Katherine eventually reached the pinnacle of her career when the pair beat their Australian rivals by nearly three seconds to take that elusive gold medal.

Katherine graduated with an Honours Degree in Law from Edinburgh University, in 1997 and later

went on to obtain a Master of Philosophy in Medical Law and Medical Ethics from Glasgow University and after her 2012 Olympic success she completed a PhD in the Sentencing of Homicide at King's College, University of London. She spends time as an after dinner-speaker and also finds time to visit schools and sports clubs. She has also worked as a rowing pundit for the BBC at the world championships.

Katherine has received many awards and honours, with the MBE in 2006 and CBE in the 2012 New Year's Honours list being the best of them all. But other awards include the 2009 Scottish Sportsman of the Year, FISA World Rowing Female Crew of the Year in 2010 and 2012, Sunday Times Women's Sports Team of the Year 2010 and in 2012. She has also been the Sunday Times Sportswomen Olympian of the Year and British Olympic Association GB Rowing Olympic Athlete of the Year (twice).

She has also served as a steward at Henley Royal Regatta, an Honorary President of the Scottish Amateur Rowing Association and served on the board of the BOA Athlete's Commission. She is also a black belt in karate.

GREGORY, Alexander John

Born: 11 March 1984, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (2012)

Olympic medals:

2012 Gold – Rowing (Men's coxless fours)

Alex Gregory was educated at a Worcestershire comprehensive school and was a competitive swimmer. But while he was while studying for his A-levels he was invited to go to his local rowing club at Evesham and he fell in love with his 'new' sport straight away.

He continued rowing after going to Reading University from where he graduated in 2006.

It was during his time at Reading that he gained his first representative honours when he was a member of the Great Britain squad at the 2004 Under-23 world championships.

A member of the Leander Club he then made his senior debut in 2007 and was honoured to be selected as a reserve for the British team at the Beijing Olympics in 2008.

He was, however in the British four, along with Matthew Langridge, Richard Egington and Alex Partridge that won the coxless fours gold medal at the 2009 world championships at Poznan, Poland, and two years later he was in the four that won gold at Bled in Slovenia. Only Alex Partridge was missing from the team as he was replaced by Tom James.

Alex eventually won Olympic gold when the four of Gregory, James, Pete Reed and Andy Triggs Hodge came home first to win a fourth successive coxless fours for Britain on home soil in 2012.

While Alex was delighted to get hold of an Olympic gold medal, his son Jasper was disappointed it wasn't made out of chocolate.

Honoured with the MBE in the 2013 New Year's Honours list, Alex went on to add a third world title that year in the eights at Chungju, South Korea.

GRUBOR, LUKA

Born: 27 December 1973, Zagreb, Yugoslavia

Olympics competed in: 1 (2000)

Olympic medals:

2000 Gold – Rowing (Men's eights)

Born in what was Yugoslavia, Luka Grubor came to England in 1992 to study computing at the Imperial College London.

Before he came to London, Luka had established himself as a quality oarsman and represented Yugoslavia at the 1991 junior world championships. In his first year at Imperial, he won the Ladies Challenge Plate at Henley. He then went on to represent Croatia in the 1993, 1994 and 1995 senior world championships.

A second Henley triumph followed in 1996 when Imperial College won the Grand Challenge Cup – fellow Olympic gold medalists Louis Attrill and Simon Dennis were in the same team.

Grubor later rowed with the Leander Club and was selected for the Great Britain eights that won the silver medal at the 1999 world championships in Canada. That was followed by the Olympic triumph at Sydney in 2000. For his services to rowing he was awarded the MBE in the 2001 Hew Year Honours list.

But the glory didn't end in Sydney as Luka was in the coxed fours that won the gold medal at the 2002 world championships in Seville, Spain. Also in the team that day were fellow Olympic gold medalists Steve Trapmore and Kieran West.

Luka was the co-founder of Sail Croatia in 2003 a London-based company which charters yachts in the Adriatic.

HERBERT, Garry Gerard Paul

Born: 3 October 1969, Hammersmith, London, England

Olympics competed in: 2 (1992, 1996)

Olympic medals:

1992 Gold – Rowing (Men's coxed pairs)

Garry Herbert first represented Great Britain at the 1987 junior world championships when he coxed the crew into fourth place. He then coxed the senior eights to a bronze medal at the 1991 worlds.

He started coxing for the Searle brothers, Greg and Jonny in 1992 and the following year they went on to win a world championship gold medal and the trio followed that with an Olympic gold in a memorable race in Barcelona.

It was the last time the coxed pairs was seen at the Olympic Games and the clear favourites for the race were the Italian brothers Carmine and Giuseppe Abbagnale who were six times world champions. Jonny and Greg trailed in third place at the half-way mark, and with 200 metres to go moved up to second place but still a length down on the Italians. But then, in the final 25 strokes they powered past the Italians to win by half a length in sensational style. Garry's tears of sheer joy at winning gold on the rostrum at the medal ceremony was one of the iconic pictures of the Barcelona Games.

He went to one more Olympics, as cox to the eights in 1996 at Atlanta but there was no medal on that occasion.

He retired shortly after the Atlanta Games to concentrate on his professional as a barrister, and also serve as a motivational speaker and BBC commentator.

Having been to Reading University Garry was called to the Bar in 1995 but later turned his attention to banking and joined Goldman Sachs in 2005.

Garry was involved in the Olympic torch procession for the 2012 Olympics when he coxed the eight that rowed down the Thames with Steve Redgrave aboard carrying the torch as it rowed down the Thames to Leander where a guard of honour of former Leander Olympians greeted the torch ashore,

Garry worked for the BBC during the 2012 Olympics and was regarded as one of their best commentators, bettered only by the stylish Clare Balding.

Garry is an Honorary life member of the Leander and Molesey Boat Clubs and received the MBE for his services to rowing.

HODGE, Andrew Triggs

Born: 3 March 1979, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, England

Olympics competed in: 3 (2004, 2008, 2012)

Olympic medals:

2008 Gold – Rowing (Men's coxless fours)

2012 Gold – Rowing (Men's coxless fours)

Despite being educated at a Secondary Modern School Andy Triggs Hodge went to Staffordshire University to study Environmental Science. It was during his time at Stoke that he took up rowing on the famous Rudyard Lake near Leek.

After graduating in 2000, Andy moved south and joined the Molesey Boat Club and he represented the senior Great Britain squad for the first time at the 2002 world championships in Seville. And the following year he won his first world cup race at Lucerne when he was a member of the British eights. Between 2003-13 he won 15 world cup races at pairs, fours and eights.

He made his Olympic debut in 2004 but could only finish ninth in the eights. The following year, having gone up to Oxford for his Masters, he won his only Blue in a dramatic race which saw Oxford beat a strong Cambridge crew. He also won the coxless fours world title in 2005 and was in the crew that retained the title a year later.

His first Olympic success came at Beijing in 2008 when he was in the boat with Steve Williams, Tom James and Pete Reed that retained the coxless fours title for Britain.

Andy then turned his attention to pairs and he teamed up with Pete Reed and they won three consecutive world championship silver medals between 2009-11 but it was back into a fours boat for 2012 and a new British line up of Alex Gregory, Tom James, Pete Reed & Andy won another Olympic gold medal at Eton Dorney Lake.

Awarded the MBE in the 2009 New Year's Honours list, Andy kept on rowing after the 2012 Olympics and in 2013 won his third world championship gold medal as part of the British eights at Chungju in South Korea.

HOLMES, Andrew John

Born: 15 October 1959, Hillindon, London, England

Died: 24 October 2010, Southwark, London

Olympics competed in: 2 (1984, 1988)

Olympic medals:

1984 Gold – Rowing (Men's coxed fours)

1988 Gold – Rowing (Men's coxless pairs)

1988 Bronze – Rowing (Men's coxed pairs)

Andy Holmes went on to become one half of rowing's finest duos when he teamed up with the legendary Steve Redgrave.

The youngest of three brothers, Andy started rowing at Latymer Upper School in Westminster at the age of 12 when he was coached by 1976 Olympic eights silver medallist Jim Clark. Holmes later rowed with Kingston and completed a degree in French. To earn money he worked as a labourer and the hod carrying helped to develop his arms and legs. He then moved to the famous Leander Club and when he was 19 he won the Thames Challenge Cup (eights) at Henley in 1979.

He became part of the senior Great Britain squad in early 1981 and was selected for the coxed fours at that year's world championship.

After spending 1982-83 as part of the national eights he reverted back to the fours for the 1984 season and he achieved the ultimate prize in winning Olympic gold.

The Redgrave – Holmes partnership was established shortly after the break up of the fours team of Redgrave, Holmes, Richard Budgett, Martin Cross and cox Adrian Ellison that had won the 1984 Olympic gold medal. It was that Olympic triumph upon which the current British success in rowing is founded.

After forming the partnership with Redgrave, the pair went on to win gold in the coxless pairs at the 1986 Commonwealth Games in Scotland (they were also in the gold medal winning coxed fours team), and later that year they won the coxed pairs with Pat Sweeney at the world championships in Nottingham.

At the 1987 world championships in Copenhagen they won gold in the coxless pairs and silver in the coxed pairs, again with Sweeney as cox.

It was a similar story at the Seoul Olympics in 1988 when they won the coxless pairs gold medal but could only manage a bronze in the coxed pairs with Sweeney.

Redgrave and Holmes also won the Silver Goblets and Nickalls Challenge Cup at Henley in 1986 and 1987.

Andy received an OBE in the 1988 New Year's Honours list. Strangely, Steve Redgrave received his OBE the year before and Andy was overlooked, but the situation was rectified and justice was done for Andy. He retired from the sport in 1989 and made a clean break from rowing to concentrate on developing his removals firm in south-east England.

After nearly 18 years away from rowing he was tempted back by friends in 2007. The fact that his daughter Aimee had taken up rowing had something to do with his choice, and he took up coaching at Furnivall Sculling Club and the Langley Academy which trained on the Olympic lake at Dorney.

Whilst competing in a 26 mile sculling marathon at Boston in Lincolnshire in October 2010 Andy contracted leptospirosis, known as Weil's disease, which is an infection picked up from river water contaminated by infected rats' urine. He was rushed to hospital but the disease proved fatal after it attacked Andy's major organs. And he died at King's College Hospital in London nearly two weeks later.

Only a month earlier his second wife Gabrielle gave birth to a daughter, Parker. One day she will learn about what a great sportsman her father was and when they tell her that his partnership with Steve Redgrave was described as the most celebrated partnership in British sport since Torvill and Dean, she will be immensely proud.

HORSFALL, Ewart Douglas

Born: 24 May 1892, Liverpool, Lancashire, England

Died: 1 February 1974, Devizes, Wiltshire, England

Olympics competed in: 2 (1912, 1920)

Olympic medals:

1912 Gold – Rowing (Eights)

1920 Silver – Rowing (Eights)

Ewart Horsfall, better known to his fellow oarsmen as 'Dink' was one of the great Strokes in English rowing. He was a member of the Oxford crew in three Boat Races including the 1912 race when both boats sank and the race had to be re-run the next day. He also won the Grand Challenge Cup four times and the Steward's Cup on each of the two occasions he entered.

He rowed at number four in the 1912 winning Olympic eights, and was the youngest crew member, aged just over 20.

During the war Horsfall served first with the Rifle Brigade and then as a Squadron Leader in the RAF and he achieved the rare distinction of winning both the Military Cross and Distinguished Flying Cross.

After the war he returned to Oxford to help with the coaching of the rowing team and he was fit enough himself to compete in the 1920 Olympics and win a second eights medal but this time only silver. It could well have been gold as they led for most of the way before losing the final by three feet after one of the crew members behind Horsfall collapsed a few strokes from the finish.

Horsfall managed the Great Britain team at the 1948 London Olympics.

Horsfall's father, Howard Douglas Horsfall, was a successful stockbroker but was also a great benefactor to churches in Liverpool and his money helped build or the help with restoration of several churches in the city.

For further details see LEANDER CLUB in the [CLUB SIDES OR TEAMS WHO WON GOLD MEDALS REPRESENTING GREAT BRITAIN](#) section.

HOSKING, Sophie

Born: 25 January 1986, Edinburgh, Scotland

Olympics competed in: 1 (2012)

Olympic medals:

2012 Gold – Rowing (Women's lightweight double sculls)

Although she was born in Edinburgh, Sophie and her family moved to the London area where she attended Kingston Grammar School before obtaining a degree in Physics and Chemistry from Durham University.

Shortly after moving to London she took up rowing with the London Rowing Club and followed in her father's footsteps, as he was a world rowing champion.

Father David was born in Gibraltar and he joined the Royal Navy in 1974 and saw service in the Falklands War. He was a member of the British team that won the eights at the 1980 lightweight rowing world championships. He also twice rowed across the Atlantic and later became head rowing coach at Charterhouse School.

At the age of 17, in 2003, Sophie won a silver medal in the coxless fours at the junior world championships. The following year she was a member of the Durham eight that won the British

Universities title and in 2006 she was runner-up in the lightweight single sculls at the under-23 world championships and that same year made her senior international debut and won a bronze medal in the lightweight fours in the world championships at Lake Dorney.

Another silver followed in the lightweight fours at the 2007 world championships and in 2008 Sophie won the coveted women's Wingfield Sculls race on the Thames. She retained her title the following year and also won a world championship bronze medal with her Hester Goodsell. The pair won bronze again at the 2011 championships.

Sophie teamed up with Kat Copeland for the first World Cup event Of 2012 and on Lake Dorney during the Olympics the British pair qualified for the lightweight double sculls final in the fastest time before going on to beat China to take gold.

Sophie Hosking announced her retirement from competitive rowing in June 2013 to concentrate on her career as a trainee solicitor as she attempted to convert her science undergraduate degree into a law degree.

She was honoured with the MBE in the 2012 New Year's Honours list, and the former AFC Wimbledon ladies' footballer was also honoured with umpiring the women's Wingfield Sculls in 2013.

HUNT-DAVIS, Benjamin

Born: 15 March 1972, Tidworth, Wiltshire, England

Olympics competed in: 3 (1992, 1996, 2000)

Olympic medals:

2000 Gold – Rowing (Men's eights)

Ben Hunt-Davis represented Great Britain at three consecutive Olympic Games, finishing sixth in the eights in 1992, eighth in 1998 and in 2000 that elusive medal came his way when the British eight struck gold.

Educated at Shiplake College on the Thames at Henley, it was understandable that he would take to rowing and he rowed for Shiplake Vikings before joining the Leander Club.

He represented Great Britain at the 1990 junior world championships and finished fourth in the coxed pairs before going on to represent the senior squad at six world championship with a silver medal in the eights at Canada in 1999 being his best result.

Ben retired from international rowing after the 2000 Olympics and a month after his gold medal win, he married his wife Isabella in a ceremony in Italy.

He has worked in various administrative roles for the Amateur Rowing Association and has served on organising committee for many national and international championships and was part of the Team GB staff at the Beijing and London Olympics.

He owns a corporate development company called "Will It Make the Boat Go Faster? Limited" and he has co-written a motivational book of the same name which was published in 2011.

Ben's father is Brigadier Miles Hunt-Davis who served as a private secretary to the Duke of Edinburgh from 1991-2010, which may explain Ben and Isabella's first home after their wedding was a cottage in the grounds of Kensington Palace.

For his services to rowing Ben Hunt-Davis was awarded the MBE in the 2001 New Year Honours list.

HUNTER, Mark John

Born: 1 July 1978, Forest Gate, Newham, London, England

Olympics competed in: 3 (2004, 2008, 2012)

Olympic medals:

2008 Gold – Rowing (Men's lightweight double sculls)

2012 Silver – Rowing (Men's lightweight double sculls)

Mark Hunter is a keen all-round sportsman and likes football, cycling, badminton and swimming. But he was introduced to rowing by his father at the age of 14 when he joined the Poplar Blackwall & District Rowing Club. And it was at that early age that he had aspirations of becoming an Olympic champion.

He first represented Great Britain at the world junior championships in 1995 and soon afterwards he gained senior representative honours. He was also in the Windsor Boys' & Poplar, Blackwall & District Rowing Club crew that won the Fawley Cup at Henley in 1995 and 1996.

He won the 2000 Millennium Doggett's Coat and Badge double sculls and the following year he made the decision to turn to lightweight rowing and it soon proved to be the right one as he was in the lightweight eight that won the World Cup at Munich in 2001.

He competed in the 2004 Athens Olympics in the lightweight four but could only finish 13th. The following year he won the Double Sculls Challenge cup at Henley with James Lindsay-Fynn.

But Mark had to wait until 2007 before winning his first world championship medal, a bronze with Zak Purchase in the lightweight double sculls at Munich. His partnership with Purchase was only formed at the start of the 2007 season with a view to them racing together at the Beijing Olympics as single lightweight sculls was not part of the Olympic programme.

Mark was by now a member of the Leander Club of which he had been appointed captain in 2005.

Mark and Zak won all three World Cup lightweight double sculls races in 2008 and went to Beijing as the favourites for the title and they came away as Britain's first ever Olympic lightweight rowing gold medallists.

Mark took a year out of rowing in 2009 to coach at UCLA which Zac was out through injury, but the Hunter/Purchase duo was back together again in 2010 and they won the world title at Kafapiro Lake in New Zealand. They retained their title at Bled, Slovenia the following year.

They won the opening World Cup race of 2012 but could only manage two sixth places in the other two events and gold was not a certainty for them at the London Olympics. But, in a dramatic race, they looked as though they were going to cross the line first but were caught in the final stages by the Danish pair who won by 6/10ths of a second.

It was to be Mark's last major competition as he announced his retirement at Henley on the opening day of the 2013 Regatta.

Hunter received an MBE in 2009 and was the British Olympic Association's Olympic athlete of the year for rowing in 2011. He was also honoured as a Freeman of the Thames after qualifying as a Waterman & Lighterman on the River Thames in 2002. As an apprentice he teamed up with Freeman John Dwan to win the Millennium Coat and Badge double sculls race in 2000.

In 2013 Mark was elected as a steward at Henley. In February 2014 he was made the programme director at London Youth Rowing.

Mark has been a keen supporter of West Ham United Football Club all his life.

JAMES, Thomas Watkin

Born: 11 March 1984, Cardiff, South Glamorgan, Wales

Olympics competed in: 3 (2004, 2008, 2012)

Olympic medals:

2008 Gold – Rowing (Men's coxless fours)

2012 Gold – Rowing (Men's coxless fours)

Although born in Cardiff, Tom James calls Wrexham his home as he was brought up in Coedpoeth near the North Wales town.

He went to King's School in Chester where he first learnt to row, taking up the sport when a knee injury ended his athletics career. When he went up to Cambridge he continued rowing, and went on to become a four-time Blue.

He was chosen for the British team at the 2001 world junior championships and won a bronze medal in the eights and a year later he went one better with a silver in the coxless fours.

He made his senior debut for Great Britain in 2003 and was a member of the British eights crew that won the bronze medal at that year's world championship. He also won his first Cambridge Blue in 2003.

He competed in the Boat race on four occasions, the last being in 2007 when he gained his first win when he was also President of the Cambridge Boat Club.

He turned down the chance to take part in the 2004 Boat Race, but he took a year out to practice with the Great Britain team for the Los Angeles Olympics, but the eights of which Tom was a member could finish only ninth.

A second world championship bronze medal with the British eights followed in 2007 and in 2008 he was, along with Steve Williams, Pete Reed & Andrew Triggs Hodge, in the boat that won the coxless fours for Great Britain at the Beijing Olympics.

He won his first world championship gold medal in 2011 when Tom, Matthew Langride, Richard Eginton and Alex Gregory came away from Bled in Slovenia with the coxless fours title.

But the following year was probably the most memorable in Tom James' rowing career when he won a second successive Olympic gold medal to become the first Welshman since Richard Meade in 1968 and 1972 to win consecutive golds, as Great Britain won the coxless fours for the fourth Games in a row. The British crew was made up of the same four that won gold in 2008 with the exception of Steve Williams who was replaced by Alex Gregory.

Following his second Olympic gold medal, Tom was granted the Freedom of Wrexham as he became only the 30th recipient of the honour since it was first made in 1906 and the first individual since 1978 to receive it. He had already been honoured with the MBE in the 2009 New Year's Honours list for his services to sport.

Tom retired in November 2013 to concentrate on his business consultancy career but maintained his connections with the sport as he worked with both the Cambridge University and Molesey Boat Clubs.

JOHNSTONE, Banner Carruthers

Born: 11 November 1882, Bebington, Cheshire (now Merseyside), England

Died: 20 June 1964, Parkstone, Dorset, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1908)

Olympic medals:

1908 Gold – Rowing (Eights)

Educated at Eton and Cambridge, Banner Johnstone was in four Boat Race teams, winning in 1904, 1906 and 1907. He also won the Grand Challenge Cup at Henley twice and the Silver Goblets twice. But his greatest triumph was in being part of the excellent Leander team that won the gold medal in the eights at the 1908 Olympics.

In the late 1920s he was the Provincial Commissioner in Zanzibar and was awarded the OBE in the 1930 New Year's Honours list. In later years Banner Johnstone was the rowing correspondent for the Daily Telegraph.

For further details see LEANDER CLUB in the [CLUB SIDES OR TEAMS WHO WON GOLD MEDALS REPRESENTING GREAT BRITAIN](#) section

KELLY, Frederick Septimus

Born: 29 May 1881, Sydney, Australia

Died: 13 November 1916, Beaucourt-sur-l'Ancre, France

Olympics competed in: 1 (1908)

Olympic medals:

1908 Gold – Rowing (Eights)

Frederick Kelly was equally at home as a sculler or a member of an eights team, either with the Oxford Boat Race crew or the Leander eights.

He won the Diamond Sculls three times between 1902-05. His winning time in 1905 stood as a record for 30 years. He also won the Wingfield Sculls in 1905, the only time he entered the race.

He was a member of the Leander Club eights that represented Great Britain at the 1908 Olympic Games and won the gold medal. It was to be Kelly's last competitive event.

At the beginning of the First World War Kelly joined the Royal Naval Division, achieving the rank of Lieutenant Commander. He served on HMS Hood, along with his good friend, the poet Rupert Brooke.

Kelly was twice wounded at Gallipoli and was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal (DSM). He joined the Hood Battalion for his third tour of duty on 24 May 1916 and less than six months later was killed when they rushed a German machine gun station in the closing days of the Battle of the Somme.

Before his death Kelly was gaining a reputation for being a musical composer of some ability and had given many concerts. His Elegy for String Orchestra: "In Memoriam Rupert Brooke" was written in 1915 following the death of his friend who lost his life on a French hospital ship during the war in April 1915, two months after receiving what turned out to be a fatal mosquito bite.

For further details see LEANDER CLUB in the [CLUB SIDES OR TEAMS WHO WON GOLD MEDALS REPRESENTING GREAT BRITAIN](#) section.

KINNEAR, William Nicoll Duthie

Born: 3 December 1880, Marykirk, Kincardine, Forfarshire, Scotland

Died: 5 March 1974, Leicester, Leicestershire, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1912)

Olympic medals:

1912 Gold – Rowing (Single sculls)

Having worked in the drapery trade in Brechin, Scotland, Wally Kinnear moved to London in 1902 to take up a post as a travelling salesman with the famous Debenham's company. And it was that move that introduced him to the sport of rowing.

He joined Debenham's own recreational club, the Cavendish club, and he joined their rowing section and rowed for them from 1902-05 and soon discovered his talent for sculling which led him to win the West End ARA Sculling Championship in three consecutive years 1903-05.

In order to compete at Henley he had to join a more established rowing club and in 1905 he became a member of the Kensington Rowing Club (now Auriol Kensington Rowing Club). He was a member of the club for 69 years up to his death in 1974 and he was three times the club president, the last time being in 1972.

He always had a dream of winning the Diamond Sculls from the first time he went to Henley as a spectator and in 1910 he won both the Diamond and Wingfield Sculls. The following year he went one better when he won the sculling Triple Crown when he won the London Cup and both the Diamond and Wingfield sculls.

But even those achievements were overshadowed in 1912 when he became the second Briton after Harry Bickerstaffe to win the Olympic single sculls title. Sadly for Wally, he failed to win his third consecutive Diamond Sculls but he had established himself as the world's best sculler of the day.

He retired from competitive sculling in 1914 and turned to rowing in eights crews before later becoming a coach.

The story has it that Wally's wife Lillian used to encourage other rowers wives not to have sex with their husbands in the time leading up to Henley each year. Harry and Lillian certainly stuck to it, but he swapped sex for Guinness and Champagne (Black Velvet) as part of his training schedule!

During World War One Wally served with the Royal Naval Air Service. He enlisted in 1915 at the age of 34. The RNAS merged with the Royal Flying Corps in April 1918 to form the RAF so Wally was a founder member of the RAF.

Harry later moved to Desford in Leicestershire and became a security officer. He died in Leicester General Hospital in 1974.

He was inducted into Scottish Sports Gall of Fame in 2007 and he is permanently remembered at the Kensington Rowing Club with a plaque in his honour located over the club's main entrance to the club.

KIRBY, Alister Graham

Born: 14 April 1886, Kensington, London, England

Died: 29 March 1917, France

Olympics competed in: 1 (1912)

Olympic medals:

1912 Gold – Rowing (Eights)

Alister Kirby went to Oxford from Eton and rowed in four Boat Race teams 1906-09, winning in the last of those four years when they halted Cambridge's run of three straight wins. He was also captain and number seven in the Leander eights that won the gold medal at the 1912 Olympics.

During the First World War he served with the 5th Battalion of the London Regiment Rifle Brigade but Captain Alister Kirby died of illness while serving in France in 1917.

For further details see LEANDER CLUB in the [CLUB SIDES OR TEAMS WHO WON GOLD MEDALS REPRESENTING GREAT BRITAIN](#) section

LANDER, John Gerard Heath

Born: 7 September 1907, Liverpool, Lancashire, England

Died: 25 December 1941, Stanley Fort, Hong Kong

Olympics competed in: 1 (1928)

Olympic medals:

1928 Gold – Rowing (Coxless fours)

The son of a Liverpool vicar, John Lander was educated at Shrewsbury College where he started his rowing career, and then went to Cambridge, where he rowed with the First Trinity Boat Club.

Whilst at Shrewsbury he won the Ladies' Challenge Plate at Henley in 1924. He was still at Oxford when he rowed for Great Britain in the coxless fours at the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics and Lander, Richard Beesly, Michael Warriner and Edward Bevan won the gold medal by one second from the Americans.

Lander was expected to get his place as stroke in the Cambridge boat for the 1929 Boat Race but Club president Beesly overlooked his gold-medal winning team-mate in favour of Tom Brocklebank. It was probably the right move as Cambridge won the race and also the next two with Brocklebank as stroke.

After University he went to live and work in Hong Kong where his father was the Bishop of Victoria from 1907 to 1920.

During the second World War John Lander served as a gunner with the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps but lost his life at Stanley Village when he was killed in action during the Battle of Hong Kong which was bombed by the Japanese at the same time as they bombed Pearl Harbour. He was killed on Christmas Day 1941 and he is the only British Olympic gold medalists to have been killed in action during World War Two. At the time he worked for the Asiatic petroleum company.

LAURIE, William George Ranald Mundell

Born: 4 May 1915, Grantchester, Cambridgeshire, England

Died: 19 September 1998, Hethersett, Norfolk, England

Olympics competed in: 2 (1936, 1948)

Olympic medals:

1948 Gold – Rowing (Coxless pairs)

William George Ranald Mundell Laurie, but known simply as Ran, won many prestigious races at Henley throughout his career but not finer than the Olympic coxless pairs title with his partner Jack Wilson. And what made their performance remarkable was they had not raced together for a decade.

Laurie was educated at Monkton Combe School in Bath, and Selwyn College, Cambridge, where he won the first of his three rowing Blues as a freshman in 1934. That same year he stroked the Leander eight to victory in the Grand Challenge Cup at Henley in a then record time of 6 minutes 45 seconds. It stood as a record for 18 years.

Having been on his third consecutive winning Boat Race crew in 1936 he also stroked the Leander fours and eights in both the Stewards' Challenge Cup and Grand Challenge Cup finals at Henley, finishing second in both races. He was then in the British eight at the Berlin Olympics but they could only finish in fourth place a long way behind the German bronze medallists.

Later in 1936 Laurie joined the Sudan Political Service but returned to Henley in 1938 to win the Stewards Cup with Leander, and the Silver Goblets with Jack Wilson.

After the war, Laurie and Wilson were tempted back to re-form their old partnership and they won the Silver Goblets before going on to win the Olympic gold medal by beating the Swiss pair by nearly three seconds.

He left the Sudan Political Service in 1950 to study medicine and Ran entered private practice in Oxford in 1955.

Elected as a steward of the Henley Royal Regatta in 1951 he served on the management committee from 1965 to 1986 and became a Henley umpire in 1966.

Laurie had two daughters and two sons from his first marriage and both the sons became Cambridge rowing Blues. One of them, Hugh Laurie, also found fame as an actor and comedian.

Ran's pairs partner Jack Wilson also rowed in the same 1934, 1935 and 1936 Cambridge Boat Race winning crews as Ran, and the pair of them also served together in Sudan.

LINDSAY, Andrew James Ronald

Born: 25 March 1977, Portree, Isle of Skye, Scotland

Olympics competed in: 1 (2000)

Olympic medals:

2000 Gold – Rowing (Men's eights)

The bowman of the gold medal winning eights at Sydney in 2000, Andrew Lindsay has the distinction of being the only British Olympic gold medallist born on the Isle of Skye, and he followed his uncle Alexander who rowed in the British eights at the 1960 Rome Olympics.

He was educated at Eton before going to Oxford and like his two brothers he started rowing during his time at Eton because, as he said: "I didn't want to play cricket!"

Andrew was chosen to represent Britain at the 1994 world junior championships and he was in the eights that won the bronze medal in Germany. Simon Dennis, a team-mate at Sydney in 2000, was also in the boat at the 1994 world juniors.

He was then a member of the Eton team that won the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup at Henley in 1995 before going on to Oxford and representing them in the Boat Race three times between 1997 and 1999 and he was president of the Oxford University Boat Club in 1998. Sadly, all three Boat Races resulted in a loss.

Andrew's uncle Alexander was also an Oxford Blue in 1959 and 1960 and his grandfather was a Cambridge Blue in the 1930s.

After his triumph in Sydney in 2000, Andrew retired from rowing to concentrate on his business interests and in 2007 joined Telecom Plus, which owns the Utility Warehouse, and in 2010 he became the CEO, and was one of the youngest CEO's of a Footsie company at the time.

Andrew married Lady Amy Jane Gordon, the daughter of the 13th Marquis of Huntly, the premier Marquis of Scotland and the oldest marquessate in Scotland and second oldest in Britain after the marquessate of Winchester.

Andrew enjoys playing the bagpipes as a hobby.

For his services to rowing he was awarded the MBE in the 2001 New Year Honours list.

MACKINNON, DUNCAN

Born: 29 September 1887, Paddington, London

Died: 9 October 1917, Ieper, Ypres, Belgium

Olympics competed in: 1 (1908)

Olympic medals:

1908 Gold – Rowing (Coxless fours)

Lieutenant Duncan Mackinnon was killed in action serving with the Scots Guards at Ypres in Belgium in 1917. He was just 30 at the time and was the third and last surviving son of Mr & Mrs Duncan Mackinnon. Their second son died at sea in 1904 aged just 19 and their oldest son was also killed in action just five months before Duncan. Four months after Duncan junior died, his father died aged 73.

Duncan junior was educated at Rugby before going to Magdalen College Oxford in 1905 and it was then that he first took up rowing seriously. With Magdalen he won the Visitor's Cup and Wyfold Cup at Henley in 1907.

The quartet of Mackinnon, Richard Cudmore, Angus Gillan and Robert Somers-Smith won both the Stewards' Cup and Visitors' Cup at Henley in 1908 and then went on to represent Britain at the Olympics where they beat Leander to win the coxless fours.

Duncan eventually won his Oxford Blue in 1909 and again in 1910 and 1911. Oxford won all three races; the 1911 race being in record time. Duncan was president of the Oxford University Boat Club in 1910.

His last appearance at Henley was in 1911 when he was part of the Magdalen crew that won the Grand Challenge Cup for the second successive year.

He left England to join the family company, The British India Steam Navigation Company based in Calcutta, but returned to England to serve in the Great War, but he would sadly lose his life.

In his will published in 1918 Mackinnon left just short of £226,000 – equivalent to around £13.5 million in present-day money.

MACLAGAN, Gilchrist Stanley

Born: 5 October 1879, London, England

Died: 25 April 1915, Ieper, Belgium

Olympics competed in: 1 (1908)

Olympic medals:

1908 Gold – Rowing (Eights)

Gilchrist Maclagan was not only the cox to the 1908 gold medal rowing eights team, but he was cox to the Oxford Boat Race crew four times between 1899-1902 and was cox to the Leander Club in a record six Grand Challenge Cups between 1899-1905.

A member of the London Stock Exchange, Maclagan served with the 3rd Battalion of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment as a Lieutenant in World War One but was killed in action in Belgium during the Second Battle of Ypres in 1915.

Maclagan left over £35,000 in his will, the equivalent of over £3 million in present terms.

For further details see LEANDER CLUB in the [CLUB SIDES OR TEAMS WHO WON GOLD MEDALS REPRESENTING GREAT BRITAIN](#) section

MACNABB, James Alexander

Born: 26 December 1901, Keighley, West Riding of Yorkshire (now West Yorkshire), England

Died: 6 April 1990, Westminster, London, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1924)

Olympic medals:

1924 Gold – Rowing (Coxless fours)

James Macnabb was the son of an Indian-born Yorkshire vicar who was raised at Bolton Abbey near Skipton and educated at Eton and Cambridge.

He first rowed at Henley while still at Eton in 1920 and the partnership of Macnabb, Maxwell Eley, Robert Morrison and Terence Sanders, who rowed together at Eton and Cambridge, developed and in 1922 and 1923 they won the Stewards' Challenge Cup twice and the Visitors' Challenge Cup. But Macnabb's crowning year was 1924 when he won his Cambridge Blue, the Stewards' Cup at Henley along with the Silver Goblets, with Maxwell Eley, and then the four Cambridge team-mates went on to win the Olympic coxless fours gold medal at Paris. At Henley, Macnabb had the impressive record of five wins from nine races.

An accountant by profession, Macnabb was the treasurer of the Amateur Rowing Association for 20 years after the War and was the secretary of the Leander Club (although he never rowed for them) in 1950-51 and then treasurer until 1957. He became a steward at the Henley Royal Regatta in 1966. He also had the rare distinction of coaching both the Cambridge and Oxford Boat Race crews. He won three times with Cambridge and lost all three races whilst Oxford coach.

He served in the Royal Artillery in Africa, India and Burma during World War Two and was awarded the TD (Territorial Decoration). He was demobbed as a Lieutenant Colonel.

In 1972 he received the OBE for his work as an administrator with the Peabody Trust as he spent most of his working career raising awareness of charitable housing in Britain.

He was appointed the 21st Chief of the Macnab Clan (NB spelling, only one 'n') in 1954 but surrendered his claim in favour of his uncle.

On his death meant he was the last surviving member of the Olympic winning four and his family presented his Olympic gold medal to the Leander Club. Another legacy of Macnabb's that can be found at Leander is the megaphone he used at Dunkirk and was used to coach rowing crews on the Thames.

MORRISON, Robert Erskine

Born: 26 March 1902, Richmond-on-Thames, Surrey, England

Died: 19 February 1980, Longstanton, Cambridgeshire, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1924)

Olympic medals:

1924 Gold – Rowing (Coxless fours)

The only child of an Irish-born Barrister, Robert Morrison was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, just like James Macnabb, Maxwell Eley and Terence Sanders who, along with Morrison made up the coxless four crew that won the 1924 Olympic gold medal in Paris.

The four men, who started rowing together at Eton, had a reputation in the early to mid-1920s for being one of the best crews around and in the three years between 1922 and 1924 they won three successive Stewards' Cups at Henley. They also won the Visitors' Cup in 1922. Morrison won his only Blue in 1923 when he was on the losing Cambridge eight. He was scheduled to race in 1924 but contracted measles and couldn't take part and was replaced by his Olympic team-mate Maxwell Eley. He also missed the 1925 race through illness.

The 1924 Olympic gold medal was followed by three wins at Henley in 1925; the Steward's Cup (for the fourth time), the Visitors' Cup and the Silver Goblets with Edric Hamilton-Russell. In all, he won eight times at Henley

By profession, Morrison was a mechanical engineer.

NICKALLS, Guy

Born: 13 November 1866, Horton Kirkby, Kent, England

Died: 8 July 1935, Bramham, near Leeds, West Riding of Yorkshire, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1908)

Olympic medals:

1908 Gold – Rowing (Eights)

Guy Nickalls is one of the most successful rowers of all time.

Born into a large family, he was one of 12 children. His father was one of the founders of the London Rowing Club and his mother was an experienced mountaineer.

Not only was Guy Nickalls the oldest member of the British team that won the eights gold medal in 1908, when he was just short of his 42nd birthday, but he won all the honours his sport had to offer at the turn of the last century. He was to rowing what W G Grace was to cricket at the time.

He rowed for Oxford five times in the Boat Race 1887-91, and was on the winning crew on two occasions. In 1891 his brother Vivian was also in the winning crew.

Guy was Captain of Oxford and at Henley he took part in 81 races, winning 22 including the Stewards' Challenge Cup seven times, the Silver Goblets six times, Diamond Sculls five times, and the Grand Challenge Cup four times each. He also won the Wingfield Scull four times.

Since 1895 the Silver Goblets has been called the Silver Goblets and Nickalls Challenge Cup after Guy's father presented a trophy to go with the Silver Goblets.

In 1917 he signed up to serve with the Lancashire Fusiliers during World War One despite being in his 50th year.

A wealthy stockbroker, Nickalls was killed in a car accident in 1935 while on his way to join his wife on holiday in Scotland where he was hoping to enjoy his great love of fishing. Sadly, an accident at a junction on the Leeds to York road at Bramham brought an abrupt end to those plans, and his life. It was the seventh fatal accident of the year at the same junction.

Nickalls won the Silver Goblets in 1890 and 1891 with Lord Ampthill. Coincidentally, Ampthill died the day Nickalls had his fatal car accident. Guy Nickalls' widow Ellen died five weeks after her husband.

Guy's son Guy Oliver raced in three Boat Race crews for Oxford, winning once. He won two Olympic silver medals in the British eights team at the 1920 and 1928 Olympics.

For further details see LEANDER CLUB in the [CLUB SIDES OR TEAMS WHO WON GOLD MEDALS REPRESENTING GREAT BRITAIN](#) section

PINSENT, Matthew Clive

Born: 10 October 1970, Holt, Norfolk, England

Olympics competed in: 4 (1992, 1996, 2000, 2004)

Olympic medals:

1992 Gold – Rowing (Coxless pairs)

1996 Gold – Rowing (Coxless pairs)

2000 Gold – Rowing (Coxless fours)

2004 Gold – Rowing (Coxless fours)

The son of a Norfolk vicar, Matthew Pinsent was educated at a Yorkshire boarding school before going to Eton where he started rowing and in 1987 and 1988 he took part in the junior world championships, winning a gold medal in the double sculls with Tim Foster in the second of those years.

After Eton, Matthew went to Oxford to study Geography and he took part in three Boat Races losing only in 1993 when he was the Boat Club President. He would have competed in four races but took a year out in 1992 to prepare for the Barcelona Olympics,

The year after his junior world championship success he joined the senior squad and won a bronze medal in the coxed fours at the 1989 worlds and another bronze the following year when he started a long and successful career with Steve Redgrave in the coxless pairs.

The pair struck world championship gold in 1991 and they repeated their success at the Barcelona Olympics. They then won three consecutive world titles between 1993 and 1995 and in the latter two of those years

Pinsent and Redgrave also won the Silver Goblets & Nickalls Challenge Cup at Henley.

They continued their amazing run at the Atlanta Olympics in 1996 before Matthew and Steve teamed up with James Cracknell and Tim Foster to establish another formidable crew in the coxless fours.

They won three consecutive world titles between 1997 and 1999, although Tim Foster was replaced by Ed Coode in the third of those years. However, the four were back together again for the 2000 Sydney Olympics and Pinsent collected his third gold medal. He also had the honour of being the Great Britain flagbearer at the opening ceremony.

At the 2001 world championships Matthew won the rare double of coxed and coxless pairs, with James Cracknell, and Neil Chugani in the coxed event.

The new combination of Pinsent and Cracknell was to be nearly as successful as the Pinsent/Redgrave pairing.

They won a second world title at coxless pairs in 2002 and between 2001 and 2003 they won three consecutive Silver Goblets. In total, Matthew won 14 times at Henley.

For the 2004 Athens Olympic Games, Matthew teamed up with Ed Coode, Steve Williams and James Cracknell in the coxless fours and they pipped Canada in a final that saw the lead constantly changing hands until Britain won by eight hundredths of a second. At the medal ceremony Matthew was in tears as he claimed his fourth gold medal to become only the third Briton (at the time) to win four golds after Steve Redgrave and Paulo Radmilovic.

Shortly after his Olympic triumph, Matthew announced his retirement from rowing on 30 November 2004 and a month later, it was announced in the New Year's Honours list that he was to receive a Knighthood, to go with the MBE he received in 1993 and OBE he got in 2000.

Between 2001 and 2004 Matthew served on the IOC Athletics Commission and since retiring he has been much sought after for media work and motivational and after-dinner speaking.

PURCHASE, Zachary Jake Nicholas

Born: 2 May 1986, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, England

Olympics competed in: 2 (2008, 2012)

Olympic medals:

2008 Gold – Rowing (Men's lightweight double sculls)

2012 Silver – Rowing (Men's lightweight double sculls)

A keen sportsman, Zac found rowing in 1997 while at King's College, Worcester. Being too small to row competitively he offered his services as a cox but soon his ability as a rower was spotted after he joined the Upton Rowing Club, and he took part in the junior world championships in 2003 and 2004.

In 2005 he progressed to the under-23 British squad he won the lightweight single sculls at the world under-23 championships in Amsterdam and a few weeks later went to Japan for the senior world championships and came close to another gold but was just pipped by the seasoned Greek sculler Vasileios Polymeros. Zac was just 20 at the time.

He became a fully-fledged member of the senior side in 2006 when Zac and girlfriend Felicity (Fliss) Hill, who he met at King's College and was also a rower, moved to Berkshire to be nearer the GB rowing team's base. In his first full season on the senior squad he won the world single sculls title at Dorney Lake.

As lightweight single sculling was not an Olympic event, Zac teamed up with Mark Hunter in 2007 in the double sculls in readiness for the Beijing Olympics and they won two silvers and a bronze medal at that year's World Cup and also won a bronze medal at the world championships. Prior to the 2008 Beijing Games the pair were unbeatable as they won all three World Cup races before capturing Olympic gold – the first lightweight rowing gold for Britain.

Due to illness, Zac had to miss the 2009 season but the gold-medal winning duo were back together again in 2010 and after a couple of World Cup wins they won the world title, which they retained in 2011.

Zac and Mark won the opening World Cup event of 2012 but then could only finish sixth in the other two races in Lucerne and Munich and they had a lot of pressure on to retain their Olympic title.

With the fervent home fans willing them on at Dorney they had a second gold within their sights with just metres to go but then they were overtaken in the final stages by the Danish pair who won gold by less than half a second.

To make up for the disappointment of winning only silver at the Olympics Zac married long-time sweetheart Fliss at St Pauls' Cathedral a month after the Olympics and then took 18 months away from the sport. He returned at the beginning of 2014 with a view to joining the heavyweight squad but that proved fruitless and he retired from competitive rowing in February 2014.

An excellent saxophonist, he performed live at the 2008 BBC Sports Personality of the Year Awards ceremony and later that month he learned that he had been made an MBE in the 2009 New Year's Honours list – for rowing, not saxophone playing!

REDGRAVE, Stephen Geoffrey

Born: 23 March 1962, Marlow, Buckinghamshire, England

Olympics competed in: 5 (1984, 1988, 1992, 1996, 2000)

Olympic medals:

1984 Gold – Rowing (Men's coxed fours)

1988 Gold – Rowing (Men's coxless pairs)

1988 Bronze – Rowing (men's coxed pairs)

1992 Gold – Rowing (Men's coxless pairs)

1996 Gold – Rowing (Men's coxless pairs)

2000 Gold – Rowing (Men's coxless pairs)

Steve Redgrave is quite simply one of Britain's greatest sportspeople and certainly one of its most celebrated Olympians.

He is Britain's most successful male rower in Olympic history with six medals, including five golds. Only his fellow Knight of the Realm, cyclist Sir Chris Hoy, has won more gold medals. But Sir Steve stands alone as the only Briton to win a gold medal at five consecutive Olympics. He is also the only man to be the Great Britain flag bearer at two Summer Olympics, 1992 and 1996.

In a sport where a University background seems normal, Steve Redgrave's record of achievements is even greater when you consider he is a former comprehensive schoolboy with just one GCSE to his name. Although being dyslexic did not help him academically.

He started rowing with his hometown club in Marlow as a youngster but joined the Leander Club in 1989.

At the age of 18 Steve won a silver medal in the double sculls at the 1980 junior world championships. The following year he won the double sculls at Henley with Eric Sims and then repeated the feat in 1982 with Adam Clift. But he first came to the public and media eye after winning the Diamond Sculls in 1983.

A year later he was in the coxed four with Martin Cross, Richard Budgett, Andy Holmes and cox Adrian Ellison as Britain won its first Olympic rowing gold medal for 36 years at Los Angeles.

He regained his Diamond Sculls title in 1985 and in 1986 won an unprecedented three gold medals at the Commonwealth Games at Edinburgh when he won gold in the singles, coxless pairs and coxless fours. That same year he won the first of his nine world titles, seven of them with his long-standing partner Matthew Pinsent.

Redgrave won the first of three consecutive Olympic coxless pairs titles in 1988 with Andy Holmes, and he retained the title in 1992 and 1996, this time with Pinsent, who was also in the coxless fours crew with Steve when he won his record fifth consecutive gold at Sydney in 2000.

Between 1993-96 Steve enjoyed four unbeaten seasons.

After the 1996 Atlanta Olympics he said: "Shoot me if you see me in a boat again" – either the gun wasn't loaded or nobody took him seriously because he was back to win gold medal number five at Sydney. But he did eventually called it a day in 2001.

His tally of titles is impressive. He won five Olympic gold medals and one often forgotten bronze; nine world titles plus two silvers and a bronze. He also won 23 Henley titles between 1981 and 2001 including the Silver Goblets and Nickalls for coxless pairs seven times; the Wingfield Sculls seven times; the Steward's Challenge Cup for coxless fours on five occasions; the Diamond Sculls twice and the Double Sculls Challenge Cup and Queen Mother Challenge Cup, for quadruple sculls, on one occasion each,

After winning his fifth Olympic gold in 2000 it was little surprise that he was that year's BBC Sports Personality of the Year and he was honoured by them again in 2011 when he won their Lifetime Achievement Award.

Multi-talented, Steve turned his hand to bobsledding and was a member of the British team during the 1989-90 season. He has also competed in the London Marathon several times and his performances have helped boost the funds of his charity , The Steve Redgrave Fund, which was set up to use the power and inspiration of sport to bring about positive change in the lives of disadvantaged children, young people and their communities, and it has raised more than £5 million.

Steve was awarded a MBE in 1987, was elevated to a CBE in 1997, and received a Knighthood in 2001.

He is much sought after as an inspiration speaker and after dinner speaker, and he does a lot of media and television work. He also devotes his time to being a source of inspiration to diabetes sufferers since he was diagnosed with type 2 diabetes in 1997.

He was heavily involved with the 2012 London Olympics, and also played a big part in London getting the vote to host the Games in the first place. Consequently he had the honour of bringing the torch into the stadium with it before handing over to the seven youngsters who lit the cauldron to signify to start of the Games.

Steve met his wife Ann at the 1984 Olympics when she was in the British ladies eights team. They married three years later and she was the chief medical officer to GB Rowing between 1992 and 2001, but continued to act as a consultant doctor to the team and in 2011 became their first full-time medical officer.

Steve and Ann's daughter Natalie took up rowing in 2009 and was on the winning Oxford crew at the 2011 women's Boat Race. She then converted to netball and became a Blue at her new sport in 2012 and 2013.

REED, Peter

Born: 27 July 1981, Seattle, Washington, USA

Olympics competed in: 2 (2008, 2012)

Olympic medals:

2008 Gold – Rowing (Men's coxless fours)

2012 Gold – Rowing (Men's coxless fours)

Pete Reed was born in the United States but moved to Gloucestershire when he was a youngster. An all-round sportsman he was good at rugby, basketball and, with his US roots, American football. But rowing was still not in his sporting agenda at that time.

He joined the Royal Navy as an engineering officer cadet in 1999 and it was while he was in the Navy that he started using a rowing machine as part of his fitness regime and when he went to the University of the West of England at Bristol he started rowing in his second year and very quickly progressed from novice to president of the rowing club.

After Bristol, Pete then went to Oxford for two years in 2004 and was a rowing Blue in both 2004 and 2005 when he also gained selection for the Great Britain senior squad and as a member of the coxless fours that won all three world cup races in 2005 and also the world championship gold in Japan. They repeated the feat in 2006, again with all three world cup race golds and the world championship, this time on home waters at Eton Dorney.

Reed and his team-mates could only finish fourth in the 2007 world championships but the following year Pete, Steve Williams, Tom James & Andrew Triggs Hodge won the gold medal at the Beijing Olympics in a dramatic final which saw Britain overtake Australia with 200 metres to go and win by half a boat.

Pete switched to coxless pairs in 2009, partnering Hodge and the pair won world championship silver medals in the three years from 2009 to 2011 behind the strong new Zealand pair of Eric Murray and Hamish Bond on each occasion.

He reverted back to coxless fours in 2012 and after two world cup race wins he won his second Olympic gold medal with Alex Gregory replacing Steve Williams from the 2008 gold medal winning team.

Since 2013 Reed has been rowing with the British eights and he won another world title at Korea. Up to the start of the 2014 season he had won 16 world cup races at pairs, fours and eights, including eight consecutive race wins (fours) between 2005-07.

Pete Reed was once measured as having the greatest lung capacity of all sportsmen, with a capacity of 11.68 litres. He was awarded the MBE in the 2009 New Year's Honours list.

SANDERS, Terence Robert Beaumont

Born: 2 June 1901, Charleville, Kilmallock, County Cork, Ireland

Died: 6 April 1985, Dorking, Surrey, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1924)

Olympic medals:

1924 Gold – Rowing (Coxless fours)

Like his three 1924 Olympic gold medal winning team-mates, Terence Sanders was educated at Eton and then Trinity College, Cambridge. And whilst the four rowed together at Eton, it was during their time at University that they gained a reputation for being the most successful crew of the era, with Sanders as stroke.

Sanders, along with James Macnabb, Maxwell Eley and Robert Morrison, won the Stewards' Cup and the Visitors' Cup at Henley in 1922. They also retained the Steward's Cup in 1923 and 1924, when the four schoolmates were also selected to represent Great Britain in the coxless fours at the Paris Olympic Games, which they duly won.

Sanders won his Cambridge Blue in 1923 on what was the only time Cambridge lost between 1914 and 1936. He ended his competitive rowing career in 1929 when he was a member of the

Leander eight that won the Grand Challenge Cup at Henley. In that same year he was co-editor, with George Drinkwater (a double Oxford Blue), of the official centenary history of the Boat Race.

At Cambridge, Terence obtained a first class honours degree in Mechanical Sciences and in 1924 he became a Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, where he held various positions until being appointed a lecturer in engineering in 1935.

He held a commission in the Territorial Army in 1939 but was run over by a tank (honest!) in 1941 and was transferred to the armaments design department of the Ministry of Supply and his ideas were to play a significant part in World War Two, including at the D-Day landings. He was demobbed with the rank of Colonel in 1946 and then joined the Scientific Civil Service before becoming the engineering advisor to the British Standards Institute in 1952, a job he held for 20 years.

Awarded the CBE in 1950, Sanders served as a councillor, magistrate, High Sheriff and Deputy Lieutenant of Surrey where he was also a chairman of the family firm Buckland Sand and Silica company in Reigate. The site of the company's quarry was used for filming of several Doctor Who episodes in the six-part series entitled The Seeds of Doom, broadcast in 1976.

In 1935 Sanders and his wife endured tragedy when their six month old son fell out of the second floor window of their Cambridge home and was killed,

SANDERSON, Ronald Harcourt

Born: 11 December 1876, Uckfield, Sussex, England

Died: 17 April 1918, Gommecourt, France

Olympics competed in: 1 (1908)

Olympic medals:

1908 Gold – Rowing (Eights)

Like his father before him, Ronald Sanderson was a Cambridge rowing Blue, and was part of the eight that ended Oxford's nine year winning streak in 1899.

Sanderson was a member of the Olympic gold medal winning eights at the 1908 Olympics but ten years later Lieutenant Colonel Sanderson lost his life in military action in France while serving with the Royal Field Artillery.

For further details see LEANDER CLUB in the [CLUB SIDES OR TEAMS WHO WON GOLD MEDALS REPRESENTING GREAT BRITAIN](#) section

SCARLETT, Alexander Frederick Yorke

Born: 29 April 1975, Ashford, Kent, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (2000)

Olympic medals:

2000 Gold – Rowing (Men's eights)

Fred Scarlett was educated at King's School, Canterbury before going to Oxford Brookes University to take a hotel and restaurant management degree. In his placement year, 1996, he worked for the Roux brothers and alongside Michel Roux at the famous La Gavroche restaurant.

With Oxford Brookes he won twice at Henley; the Temple Challenge Cup (eights) in 1995 and the Visitors Challenge Cup (coxless fours) in 1997.

In 1998 he turned to the coxless pairs with Steve Williams, a fellow Oxford Brookes student, and the pair reached the world championship final in Germany only to finish sixth. Williams went on to win coxless fours gold at the 2004 and 2008 Olympics.

After Oxford Brookes, Fred rowed with the Leander Club, and he returned to eights in 1999 and was in the British team that won the silver medal at the world championships in Canada. The following year he was a member of the first British Olympic eights gold medal winning team since 1912 at the Sydney Olympics. That was to be Fred's last race as he retired to pursue his career working for the Champagne companies Krug in France and Moët in the United States before later becoming a yacht broker.

Fred's father Jonathan rowed for Oxford in 1962 Boat Race. His grandfather Sir Peter Scarlett was a British diplomat who was ambassador to Norway and to the Holy See.

For his services to rowing Fred was awarded the MBE in the 2001 New Year Honours list.

SEARLE, Gregory Mark Pascoe

Born: 20 March 1972, Ashford, Kent, England

Olympics competed in: 4 (1992, 1996, 2000, 2012)

Olympic medals:

1992 Gold – Rowing (Men's coxed pairs)

1996 Bronze – Rowing (Men's coxless fours)

2012 Bronze – Rowing (Men's eights)

Greg Searle and his older brother Jonny are the reigning Olympic coxed pairs champions as the event has not been contested since they won it at Barcelona in 1992, along with cox Garry Herbert.

Greg started rowing in 1985 after watching Jonny win the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup at Henley with Hampton School. Greg also rowed for Hampton School until 1990 and he first represented Great Britain at the 1988 junior world championships, finishing fourth in the coxed pairs. But in the next two years he was a member of the coxless fours that won consecutive gold medals.

He was fourth in the senior eights at the 1990 world championships and followed that with a bronze medal in 1991. He then turned to coxed pairs with brother Jonny and in their first year together they were Olympic champions in a remarkable race which saw them come from third position at the halfway stage to second with 25 strokes to go when they turned a full length deficit into a half a length win over the powerful and experienced Italian team.

Greg and Jonny (and Garry Herbert) followed their Olympic triumph with gold at the 1993 world championships. Perhaps remarkably, for a man who has enjoyed such a long career, that was Greg's last gold medal in a major championship, although he did win the coveted Diamond Sculls at Henley in 1997.

Greg won a second Olympic medal, a bronze in the coxless fours in 1996 and four years later finished fourth with Ed Coode in the pairs at Sydney. They led up to the 1250 metre mark before giving way to the French and in the final 15 strokes were overtaken by the American and Australian pairs to deprive them of a medal. Greg and Coode had won the Silver Goblets and Nickalls Challenge Cup at Henley prior to the Olympics.

Greg retired from competitive rowing in 2001 to take up a position as a grinder in the America's Cup and he competed in the Challenger series with GBR Challenge.

Remarkably, after nearly nine years away from the sport Greg made a comeback in the autumn of 2009 with the aim of winning his second Olympic gold medal on home water in 2012 at the age of 40.

A member of the British eights he won a silver medal at both the 2010 and 2011 world championships. The crew was placed in all three events in the 2012 World Cup but Greg failed to win that second Olympic gold and had to settle for a bronze at Lake Dorney.

A fanatical Plymouth Argyle football club supporter, Greg was awarded the MBE for his services to rowing.

SEARLE, Jonathan William C

Born: 8 May 1969, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, England

Olympics competed in: 2 (1992, 1996)

Olympic medals:

1992 Gold – Rowing (Men's coxed pairs)

1996 Bronze – Rowing (Men's coxless fours)

Jonny Searle was educated at Hampton School he was a member of their crew that won their first Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup at Henley in 1985. He later went to Queen's College, Oxford, where he became a three-time winning rowing Blue and was also President of the Oxford University Boat Club in 1989-90.

Searle first attracted attention as a member of the coxless fours that won the silver medal at the 1986 junior world championships and a year later he turned that silver into gold.

After winning a bronze medal in the eights at the 1991 senior world championships he teamed up with another member of the crew, brother Greg, to form a coxed pairs partnership, along with cox Garry Herbert. And in their first season together the three men carried off the gold medal at the Barcelona Olympics in 1992 after winning a dramatic race in the closing stages against the Italians.

The three men added a second gold to their collection when they won the world championship coxed pairs the year after their Olympic triumph.

Jonny (and Greg) then turned to coxless fours and won a silver medal at the 1995 world championships and followed that with a bronze medal at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

Jonny retired after winning a silver in the coxed fours at the 1999 world championships in Canada and has remained in touch with the sport he loved so much and became a steward at the Henley Royal Regatta.

Like Brother Greg, Jonny was awarded the MBE for his services to rowing.

SOMERS-SMITH, John Robert

Born: 15 December 1887, Hersham, Surrey, England

Died: 1 July 1916, Pas-de-Calais, France

Olympics competed in: 1 (1908)

Olympic medals:

1908 Gold – Rowing (Coxless fours)

The son of Robert Vernon Somers-Smith a famous Oxford athlete who was an Oxford Blue and also the Amateur Athletic Club (forerunner of the AAAs) national 880 yards champion in 1869 and 1870.

Robert junior was educated at Eton before also going to Oxford where he attended Magdalen College and rowed for them although he wasn't a Blue his brother twice raced in the Boat Race, in 1904 and 1905.

Robert was in the Magdalen crew that won the Stewards' Challenge Cup and Visitors' Challenge Cup at Henley in both 1907 and 1908 when the four, consisting of Somers-Smith, Robert Cudmore, Angus Gillan and Duncan Mackinnon went on to represent Great Britain at the Olympic Games and beat Leander to win the gold medal.

A solicitor by profession, he served as a captain with the London Rifle Brigade during the first World War and in 1916 was one of the first officers to be awarded the Military Cross for his bravery in action at Ypres the previous year.

Sadly, on the first day of the Battle of the Somme he was killed in action at Gommecourt on 1 July 1916, the day after the first anniversary of his brother Richard's death who was killed in action in Flanders.

SOUTHWOOD, Leslie Frank "Dick"

Born: 18 January 1906, Fulham, London, England

Died: 7 February 1986, Long Wittenham, Oxfordshire
England

Olympics competed in: 2 (1932, 1936)

Olympic medals:

1936 Gold – Rowing (Double sculls)

The son of a Fulham pawnbroker, Dick Southwood had a relatively short rowing career but in the six years between 1933 and 1939 he took part in three memorable sculling races.

He was educated at Latymer Upper School in Kensington and took to rowing when he joined the Auriol Rowing Club. His potential was spotted by Jack Beresford junior who tempted him to join him at the London Rowing Club as a sculler.

Southwood took part in the single sculls at the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics but could only finish fourth after being hit with cramp. But the 1936 Berlin Olympic would be a different story.

The year after his Olympic failure Dick won the prestigious Wingfield Sculls by beating Denis Guye, also of the London Rowing Club. Guye had won the Wingfield in the previous three years and Southwood's time of 21 minutes 11 seconds was a record (some say 'suspect' record) and was not beaten until 1988, by Steve Redgrave,

In 1935 Dick teamed up with his mentor Jack Beresford to form a partnership with the aim of winning the Olympic double sculls gold medal.

They went to Berlin with 10 months practice and 2,000 miles on the water behind them but to win the gold medal they had to beat the strong German pair. Germany had won the first five rowing gold medals of the Games and looked like taking the double sculls but Dick and Jack clawed their way back into contention and stepped up a gear in the final 200 metres to win by two and a half lengths. Beresford later claimed it was the greatest and sweetest win of his career. And to make it even sweeter, they won in front of Hitler.

Southwood won only once at Henley and that was with Beresford in the special Centenary Double Sculls to mark the 100th anniversary of Henley in 1939. They actually dead-heated with the reigning Italian European champions Giorgio Scherli and Ettore Broschi. All four rowers were so exhausted after the race that there was no re-run and both crews were awarded the title

jointly.

Dick Southwood died at his Oxfordshire home three weeks after his 80th birthday in 1986. In his will he left more than £1.5 million (the majority of his net estate) to St Joseph's Hospice in Hackney.

STANNING, Heather

Born: 26 January 1985, Yeovil, Somerset

Olympics competed in: 1 (2012)

Olympic medals:

2012 Gold – Rowing (Women's coxless pairs)

Heather Stanning obtained a BSc (Hons) in Sports Technology from the University of Bath. She then attended Sandhurst Military College and was commissioned into the Royal Artillery in August 2008.

A very keen sportswoman she excelled at sailing and snowboarding before taking up rowing, and at the 2007 world under-23 championships in Glasgow she won the gold medal in the coxless pairs with Olivia Whitlam.

But the glory years started after forming a partnership with Helen Glover in 2010 which saw them win the coxless pairs silver medal at the world championships in New Zealand. Captain Stanning was given two years away from her Garrison to prepare for the 2012 Olympic Games.

Her regiment gave her full support as she went on to win a second world championship silver medal in 2011. And she then fully justified her two years away training, because Heather and Helen became the first British women to win an Olympic rowing gold medal when they crossed the line ahead of Australia and New Zealand to take the coxless pairs gold medal at Dorney Lake,

Seven weeks after her Olympic triumph Heather rejoined her Garrison at Larkhill and went on a tour of Afghanistan. It forced her to miss the 2013 rowing season but she teamed up with Helen Glover once more in 2014 and the winning just carried on coming when they won the first World Cup race of the season in France.

Heather was awarded the MBE in 2012 New Year's Honours list

SWANN, Sidney Ernest

Born: 24 June 1890, Sulby, Isle of Man

Died: 19 September 1976, Minehead, Somerset, England

Olympics competed in: 2 (1912, 1920)

Olympic medals:

1912 Gold – Rowing (Eights)

1920 Silver – Rowing (Eights)

Sidney Swann came from a sporting background. His father, Reverend Sydney Swann, rowed for Cambridge in the Boat Race three times and Sidney's brother Arthur rowed in the 1920 winning Cambridge team.

Sidney appeared in four Boat Race crews 1911-14. With Arthur, Sidney won the Silver Goblets at Henley in 1913 and 1914.

Sidney's greatest achievement was in winning Olympic gold in 1912 as part of the Leander eights. Of the 18 crew that took part in the all-British final, Swann was the only Cambridge man in the British team.

Like his father before him, Swann entered the Church and was Chaplain to the Forces during the First World War. He continued rowing and won a silver medal at the 1920 Antwerp Olympics.

After serving in Africa with the Church, the Rev. Canon Swann was appointed Chaplain to King George VI in 1941.

Swann 1912 was the first Manxman to win an Olympic gold medal, the second was cyclist Peter Kennaugh in 2012.

For further details see LEANDER CLUB in the [CLUB SIDES OR TEAMS WHO WON GOLD MEDALS REPRESENTING GREAT BRITAIN](#) section

THOMSON, Gordon Lindsay

Born: 27 March 1884, Wandsworth, London, England

Died: 6 July 1953, Staplehurst, Kent, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1908)

Olympic medals:

1908 Gold – Rowing (Coxless pairs)

1908 Silver – Rowing (Coxless fours))

The son of a Scottish-born surveyor, Gordon Thomson was educated at University College school in Hampstead before going to Cambridge Trinity Hall.

Having rowed at Henley and won the Thames Challenge Cup with the Thames Rowing Club eights in 1905, he then represented Cambridge Trinity at Henley in 1907 and the following year, as a member of the Leander Club, he was selected for the London Olympic Games and he won the gold medal in the coxless pairs with John Fenning.

A few hours later Thomson and Fenning joined Philip Filleul and Harold Barker in the coxless fours but that had to settle for a silver medal behind Magdalen, Oxford.

The year after his Olympic success Gordon won his rowing Blue but Cambridge lost to Oxford. That same year he lost in the final of the Diamond Sculls to the German Rudolph Lucas.

He had mixed fortunes at Henley after that.

In 1910 he won the Silver Goblets with John Burn and in 1911 he was in the Trinity Cambridge four which lost to Thames Rowing Club in the final of the Stewards' Challenge Cup. He did win the Steward's in 1914, as a member of the Leander crew.

He rowed with the Leander eights in the 1920 Grand Challenge Cup at the age of 36. Thomson got cramp shortly after the start and his crew never recovered as Magdalen, Oxford went on to win.

The following year, by which time Thomson had turned to coaching, he guided Lady Margaret, Cambridge to second place to Eton in the Ladies' Challenge Plate at Henley and in 1922 he coached the Cambridge University Boat Race crew.

In addition to being a fine rower, Douglas Thomson was a good rugby player and played for London Scottish and Surrey.

Thomson obtained his pilot's license in 1914 and at the outbreak of World War One he joined the Royal Naval Air Service and he was awarded both the DSC (Distinguished Service Cross) and DFC (Distinguished Flying Cross) for his bravery and gallantry.

TRAPMORE, Stephen Patrick

Born: 18 March 1975, Hammersmith, London, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (2000)

Olympic medals:

2000 Gold – Rowing (Men's eights)

Steve Trapmore started his association with rowing at the age of 12 when he used to cox for his father's eight at Molesey Boat Club but at 15 he took to the oars when he joined the Walton Rowing Club on the Thames. Within two years he was in the Great Britain team and he competed in the fours at the 1993 world junior championship in Norway. He also won at Henley in 1993.

After a year training with Leander he went to study electrical engineering at Nottingham University where he continued his rowing. He also trained with the Notts County Rowing Association.

He won a complete set of medals at the world championships. The first being a bronze in the coxed fours in 1997 and a silver then followed in the eights at Canada in 1999.

The Olympic gold medal at Sydney came the following year when Steve was the team's stroke. However, unlike many of his team-mates he kept on rowing and won a third world championship medal, a gold in the coxed fours in 2002.

A back injury forced him to retire in 2003 and he set up an IT business with a friend, but he carried on rowing coaching in his spare time until 2008 when he was offered the full time head coach job at Imperial College. He held that post for two years before being offered the head coach job at the Cambridge University Boat Club.

For his services to rowing he was awarded the MBE in the 2001 New Year Honours list.

WARRINER, Michael Henry

Born: 3 December 1908, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire, England

Died: 7 April 1986, Shipston-on-Stour, Worcestershire, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1928)

Olympic medals:

1928 Gold – Rowing (Coxless fours)

Educated at Harrow and Cambridge, Michael Warriner rowed for Cambridge Trinity Boat club as did his three coxless fours gold medal winning teammates from the 1928 Olympics, John Lander, Richard Beesly and Edward Bevan.

Whilst at Cambridge he became a three-time Blue, taking part in the winning Boat Race crews of 1928, 1929 and 1930. He was president of the Cambridge Boat Club in the third of those wins.

Warriner won three times at Henley with the First Trinity club, winning the Visitors' Challenge Cup in 1928 and the Stewards' Challenge Cup and Ladies' Plate in 1929.

After his rowing days he working in the Colonial Service and ran an engineering business. He served in World War Two and was awarded the MBE in 1945 for his work with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) where he became an acting Major.

He served as the Deputy Lieutenant of Warwickshire and then served as an Alderman of the Warwickshire County Council.

He died at the family home at Weston Park, Shipton-on-Stour in 1986 at the age of 77.

WATKINS (née Bebington), Anna Rose

Born: 13 February 1983, Leek, Staffordshire, England

Olympics competed in: 2 (2008, 2012)

Olympic medals:

2008 Silver – Rowing (Women's double sculls)

2012 Gold – Rowing (Women's double sculls)

Ann Bebington, as she was then, started rowing in 2001 when she was at Cambridge, from where she obtained a PhD in Mathematics.

After University she rowed with the Leander Club and in 2003 she won a gold medal in the coxless fours at the world under-23 championships. The following she rowed in the eights and added a bronze to her gold medal, in the coxless pairs.

She made her senior international debut in 2005 when she was in the eights at the world championships in Japan but they could only finish fifth.

She switched to her favourite double sculls in 2006, teaming up with Anabel Vernon. The pair won the world Cup series in their first season together but could only finish fourth in the world championships on Dorney Lake.

A change of partner in 2007 saw Anna row with Elize Laverick and the pair won the bronze medal at both the world championships at Munich in 2007 and at the Beijing Olympic Games.

Rowing with Anabel Vernon again in 2009 she won a silver medal at the world championships. But it was only after forming a new partnership with Katherine Grainger that the gold medals came her way.

After an undefeated season in 2010 they then went on to win the world championship gold medal in New Zealand. They retained their double sculls title at Bled in 2011 and at Dorney Lake the following year they won the Olympic title as Anna became the first Leander member to win a women's Olympic gold medal.

Little surprise that Anna and Katherine were named the FISA World Rowing Female Crew of the Year in 2010 and 2012 and also the Sunday Times Women's Sports Team of the Year for those same years.

Ann was awarded the CBE in the 2012 New Year's Honours list.

She is married to Oliver Watkins and they had their first baby in September 2013. Ann ran in the 2014 London Marathon, raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support

WELLS, Henry Bensley

Born: 12 January 1891, Kensington, London

Died: 4 July 1967, Newton Abbott, Devon, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1912)

Olympic medals:

1912 Gold – Rowing (Eights)

Henry Wells was cox to the Oxford Boat Race team in the last four races leading up to World War One. He was on two winning crews.

He was also cox to the 1912 Olympic winning team.

During the War he served with the 6th London Brigade and was awarded the Military MBE in 1919. Having been called to the Bar in 1914 he was appointed a County Court Judge in 1934. He retired in 1958 after struggling with severe deafness in the latter part of his career.

For further details see LEANDER CLUB in the [CLUB SIDES OR TEAMS WHO WON GOLD MEDALS REPRESENTING GREAT BRITAIN](#) section

WEST, Kieran Martin

Born: 18 September 1977, Kingston-upon-Thames, London, England

Olympics competed in: 2 (2000, 2004)

Olympic medals:

2000 Gold – Rowing (Men's eights)

Keiran West was introduced to rowing by father and was coxing at the age of 10. But when he outgrew that role he took to sculling and he was the national single sculls champion for his age group when he was 15.

Educated at Dulwich College he went to Cambridge for the first time in 1995. Sadly he suffered a back injury at the same time he was out of rowing action for around three years.

However, shortly after returning to action he was selected for the Great Britain squad in 1998 and in 1999 he eventually made his Boat Race debut, having appeared in the reserve race the previous year. He rowed in four Boat Races between 1999 and 2007. He left Cambridge and took up a teaching post at Wimbledon College but he returned in 2004 for further studies. It is the longest span between first and last Blue in Boat Race history.

He was Captain of Cambridge University Boat Club 2001 and in his four races was on three winning teams.

As a member of the Great Britain squad he won a silver medal in the eights crew at the 1999 World Championship in Canada. That was followed by Olympic glory at Sydney in 2000. He then moved from eights to coxed fours and won a gold medal at the 2002 world championships in Seville and a silver the following year in Milan.

He was back in the British eights boat at the 2004 Olympics but he returned home without a medal this time. His victory in 2000 meant he was the first Cambridge University oarsman to win an Olympic gold medal whilst still at University.

In addition to his Olympic and World titles, Kieran won the Head of the River race and the Head of the River fours and in 2008, a year after his retirement, he made a comeback to win the Visitors' Challenge Cup at Henley.

Kieran's older brother Damian rowed for Oxford in the 1996 Boat Race and represented Great Britain from 1993 to 1997

For his services to rowing Kieran was awarded the MBE in the 2001 New Year Honours list.

WILLIAMS, Stephen David

Born: 15 April 1976, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, England

Olympics competed in: 2 (2004, 2008)

Olympic medals:

2004 Gold – Rowing (Coxless fours)

2008 Gold – Rowing (Coxless fours)

Steve Williams started rowing at the age of 13 whilst at Monkton Combe School in Bath. He then went to Oxford Brookes University to study History and Town Planning. At Oxford Brookes he won the Temple Challenge Cup and the Visitor's Challenge Cup at Henley.

He made his international debut in 1997 when he appeared at the world Under-23 championships. That same year he went to the senior world championships as a reserve but the following year he joined the senior squad and in his first world championships he finished sixth in the coxless pairs with Fred Scarlett. The duo went on to win the gold medal at the world university championships that same year. Also in 1998 Williams won the Silver Goblets & Nickalls Challenge Cup at Henley with Simon Dennis

Steve was overlooked for the 2000 Olympics but won his first world championship that year when Steve, Rick Dunn, Toby Garrett, Graham Scott and Alistair Potts won the coxed fours. The following year he won a coxless fours gold medal with Dunn, Garrett and Ed Coode.

Coode was replaced by Josh West for the 2002 worlds but they could only take silver after losing by a quarter of a second to the Germans. The same four took silver again a year later but by the time the 2004 Athens Olympics came around, Steve Williams was now teamed up with Ed Coode, Matthew Pinsent and James Cracknell and the formidable crew took the gold medal. For their exploits they won the [FISA Male crew of the Year award for 2004](#).

Steve was the only one of the gold medal winning crew to carry on racing and a new partnership of Williams, Alex Partridge, Pete Reed and Andy Triggs Hodge was formed and they won all three coxless four races at the 2005 World Cup and then went on to win the world championship gold medal.

The foursome won all three World Cup races again in 2006 and repeated their world championship success at Eton Dorney.

That was Steve's last major gold medal until the 2008 Beijing Olympics when Steve, Reed, Triggs Hodge and Tom James took the gold medal from the fancied Australians, who led for much of the race. But thanks to a big push in the final 400 metres the British four got up to win by 1.28 seconds.

Steve announced his retirement on 22 January 2010 and like many of his former team-mates he became a motivational speaker. He also didn't sit still because, within two months in 2011 in back-to-back expeditions he walked to the North Pole and also to the summit of Mount Everest – only the second Olympic champion to reach the summit of the world's highest mountain.

Have been awarded an MBE 2004 he was then made an OBE in 2008 New Year's Honours list.

WILSON, John Hyrne Tucker

Born: 17 September 1914, Bristol, Rhode Island, United States

Died: 16 February 1997, Exeter, Devon, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1948)

Olympic medals:

1948 Gold – Rowing (Coxless pairs)

The coxless pairs gold medal at the 1948 London Olympics were John Hyrne Tucker Wilson and William George Ranald Mundell Laurie. But, fortunately for the commentators of the day they were known simply as "Jack" and "Ran".

The older of the two, Jack Wilson had a relatively short rowing career. He was born to English

parents in the United States and was educated in Texas before going to Shrewsbury School in 1924. It was here that he first took up rowing and was in the winning Shrewsbury eight that won the Ladies' Plate at Henley in 1932.

After going to Pembroke College, Cambridge, where he read engineering, he became a three time Blue, appearing on three winning Boat Race crews in 1934, 1935 and 1936. He was appointed the president of the Cambridge University Boat Club in 1935. Olympic team-mate Laurie was also a member of the same three winning Boat Race crews.

Also, at Henley between 1933-35 he won the Steward's Cup twice and the Grand Challenge Cup on one occasion during a great era for Pembroke.

Wilson joined the Sudan Political Service in 1936, which probably cost him a place on the British eights at the Berlin Olympics. Laurie always maintained that had Jack been in the boat they would have won a medal.

Wilson took leave from Sudan in 1938 to return to England and row at Henley where he won the Stewards' Cup with Leander and the Silver Goblets with his new doubles partner Ran Laurie. The next time Wilson and Laurie raced together was to be ten years later.

Wilson returned to Sudan, where Laurie also worked with him. After the war, the two men took further leave to return to Britain to take part in the Silver Goblets which they won with ease, despite only three months training together. Such was the ease of their win that the "Desert Rats" as they became known, were selected to represent Britain at the Olympics a month later when, despite a late challenge from the Swiss brothers Hans and Josef Kalt in the final, they won gold by nearly three seconds.

Wilson returned to Sudan and was the deputy Governor of the Bahe El Ghazal region when the country obtained independence in 1954. He then left and went to Canada to look for work but was not successful and returned to England where he got a job with the Stewart and Lloyds steel company (later nationalised as part of British Steel Corporation) where he stayed until his retirement in 1976.

After retiring from competitive rowing Jack Wilson maintained a close connection with the sport he loved and in 1951 he coached the Pembroke College crew to winning the Ladies' Plate at Henley. He became a steward at Henley in 1953 and he never missed the annual regatta and was actively involved with such duties as timekeeping up to the year before his death.

He retired to Budleigh Salterton in Devon and died in his adopted county in 1997.

WORMALD, Leslie Graham

Born: 19 August 1890, Maidenhead, Berkshire, England

Died: 10 July 1965, Knightsbridge, London, England

Olympics competed in: 1 (1912)

Olympic medals:

1912 Gold – Rowing (Eights)

The son of Sir John Wormald, Leslie Wormald rowed for Eton and Oxford and was a member of the winning Boat Race crew in 1911 and 1912 and was a member of the Leander Club that represented Great Britain at the 1912 Olympics he rowed at number three and helped them to win the gold medal.

He won a Military Cross serving with the Royal Field Artillery during World War I, where he reached the rank of Major. Wormald eventually left Britain to retire in Marbella, Spain. He died at the Hyde Park Hotel in London in 1965 while on a visit to England.

Wormald's second daughter Benita married Jack Bowles who was at one time a director of the National Trust.

For further details see LEANDER CLUB in the [CLUB SIDES OR TEAMS WHO WON GOLD MEDALS REPRESENTING GREAT BRITAIN](#) section

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JACK BERESFORD

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