

European Rowing Board  
Nomination and Letter of Motivation

Matthew Pinsent

Dear Colleagues,

I hope that this letter will help you to understand my motivation for the European Board and this role in the sport that we all love so much.

Like many of us I started rowing as a teenager going out on the water and having fun but, as is very predictable, I was completely hooked on the sensation of making a rowing shell move fast in the water. By the time I left school I was part of the World Junior Championships and on the way to a full time career in the sport.

I raced at two Junior Worlds, three Oxford Cambridge Boat Races, 12 World Rowing Championships and four Olympics. In addition to dozens of World Cups, invitation races in Europe and other continents. I finished my competitive career on Lake Schineas at the 2004 Athens Olympics with my fourth Olympic gold medal by 0.08 seconds.

And that might have been the end of the rowing story. But I have spent a lot of the twenty years since 2004 volunteering and helping at rowing events so that the next generations can have an even better experience as they progress through the sport.

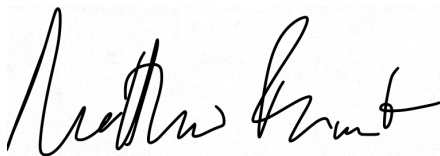
I serve as a World Rowing umpire and attend events in that role. I have a deep knowledge of international rowing and the Managers and coaches within it - some of whom I raced alongside. I have been on the Management Committee of Henley since 2015 and have to understand the business case for every rowing event that we stage including ticketing, spectator experience, broadcast, marketing and corporate relationships.

I volunteer at many rowing events in the UK as umpire, control commission and driver and see the challenge of growing the sport, appealing to wider audiences with streaming and social media and cherish the chance to develop the appeal of rowing on a domestic and international stage.

I've worked in the BBC Sport at 5 Summer and 4 Winter Olympics (and hosted their coverage of the European Rowing Championships) and understand the pressure of the mixed zone, the demands of media and the chance for athletes to tell their stories.

I hope that I bring an extra dimension to any Organising Committee with direct experience of racing and winning at the highest level and an empathy with the competitors when they are on the biggest sporting stage of all.

I hope you can support my candidacy and look forward to seeing you in Kruszwica, Poland in September when I am proud to be a jury member for the European U23 Championships.



Matthew Pinsent