

## **Champion Athletes Stand With Greta - Inspired by a Generation**

*The Guardian, Saturday 31st August 2019*

Seven years ago, Britain hosted an Olympic Games that had set out to “inspire a generation”. And it delivered. The baton was duly passed to [Brazil](#) in 2016, who called for *um novo mundo*, a new world. Yet now Brazil’s government backs the destruction of rainforests. Our leaders seem unwilling to respond to the science. The Arctic melts, oceans acidify and wildfires rage, all as never before. That “new world” – our world – faces an existential threat, the climate and ecological crises. Thankfully, the 16-year-old climate activist Greta Thunberg asks: “Where are the adults?”

We sporting champions hear your call, Greta. Your courage and clarity have inspired us, and called us into the arena. Sport brings communities together across the globe and teaches us how to dream big, make sacrifices, push beyond perceived limits, and rise to the occasion. We now mobilise these qualities in support of Earth – alongside all young people fighting not just for their own future, but that of all life. While acknowledging that we and our sports must continue to reduce our environmental impact, we are stepping up in the spirit of fair play, teamwork and empowerment. And we call on other athletes and “everyday champions” to step up too, for in these times every person has the power to lead. Let us all unite as “Champions for Earth”, standing with young people all across the world for the global climate strike on 20 September.

**Anna Bentley-Ward** *Olympian 2012, Fencing*

**Tim Brabants**, *Olympian (Gold and two Bronze) 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012, Canoeing*

**Heather Fisher** *Olympian 2016. Rugby 7s*

**Rebecca Gallantree** *Olympian 2008, 2012 and 2016. Diving*

**Helen Glover** *Olympian (two Gold) 2012, 2016, Rowing*

**Laurence Halsted**, *Olympian 2012 and 2016, Fencing; The True Athlete Project*

**Dr Clare Halsted**, *Olympian 1972 and 1976, Fencing*

**Dave Hampton**, *World Championships, 1982, Rowing; Founder, Champions For Earth*

**Joie Leigh** *GB & England International, Hockey*

**Willi Moore**, *Olympian 1972 (Bronze), Cycling*

**Erin Nayler**, *Olympian 2016, New Zealand, Football*

**Pauline Peel née Bird** *Olympian 1976 and 1980, Rowing*

**Katie Rood** *New Zealand International, Football*

**Goldie Sayers**, *Olympian (Bronze), 2004, 2008, 2012, Athletics*

**Greg Searle** *Olympian (Gold and two Bronze) 1992, 1996, 2000 and 2012, Rowing*

**Etienne Stott**, *Olympian 2012 (Gold), Canoeing*

**Dan Tipney** *Junior International 2001-04, Rowing; Co-founder, Rowers Against Rubbish*

**Anna Turney**, *Paralympian 2010 and 2014, Alpine skiing; The True Athlete Project*

**Melissa Wilson** *World Championships, 2017 and 2018, Rowing*