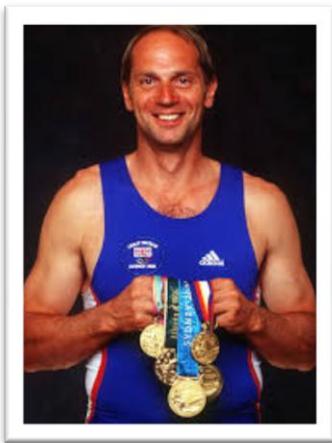


Ten the most famous British sportspeople.

1 Sir Steven Redgrave

Redgrave's five gold medals at successive Olympic Games put him top of all lists, chronicling English sporting endeavour. One of only three Olympians to have achieved the feat - Matthew Pinsent was with him in the British boat for the last two golds - the greatest ever rower achieved a phenomenal feat to overcome diabetes and beat the world yet again at the age of 38 in Sydney three years ago.



2 Lester Piggott

Nine Epsom Derby and three Prix de L'Arc de Triomphe victories were among the highlights of a riding career which brought him more than 4,000 winners. Piggott rode his first winner at the age of 12 and went on to win the champions Flat race jockey title 11 times. His conviction for tax fraud in 1985 cost him a year of liberty as well as a previously bestowed OBE. He finally retired from the saddle at the age of 59 in 1995.



3 Ian Botham

English cricket's greatest all-rounder. It is not so much Botham's runs or wickets tallies but the flair with which he scored and took them which put him ahead of the rest. Forever remembered as the irresistible force which transformed the 1981 home series against Australia - 'Botham's Ashes' - in which his unbeaten 149 and Bob Willis' eight-wicket haul brought England back from the brink at Headingley. He dominated with bat and ball in a

series he had begun as England captain but ended as its all-time cricketing hero, under the guidance of new leader Mike Brearley.



4 Paula Radcliffe

Distance runner who has made phenomenal strides since moving from the track to the streets to set a new standard in women's marathon running. Radcliffe won the London Marathon on her debut in 2002 - in the second-fastest time ever. Back on the track, she added Commonwealth Games 5,000 metres and European 10,000m golds. In the same year she set a new world-record time in winning the Chicago Marathon and has since smashed the 10km world record and broken her own marathon best in a successful defence of her London title.



5 Lennox Lewis

England's outstanding heavyweight boxer, Lewis has beaten the best of his contemporaries in a career which first saw him win the WBC heavyweight title in 1992. He has since twice regained and unified the world title - his victory over Vitali Klitschko last June making him the third-oldest boxer to retain the heavyweight title.



6 Sir Bobby Charlton

Charlton's goals propelled England to the World Cup final and English soccer's greatest day when they beat West Germany 37 years ago. Renowned for a thunderbolt shot which brought him many goals from midfield, he scored 49 times in 106 internationals and went on to win the European Cup with Manchester United in 1968 - to add to three league titles and an FA Cup along the way.



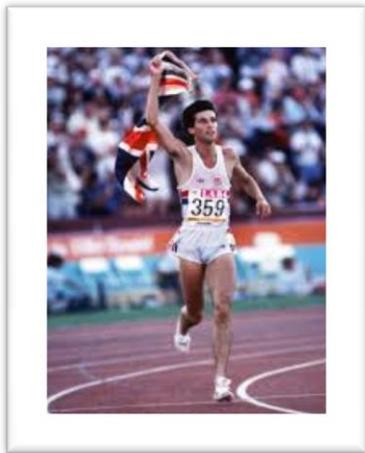
7 Nick Faldo

Three Open and three Masters titles make Faldo by far England's most successful golfer. He has also won 30 European Tour titles and has twice finished top of the tour rankings since his debut in 1976.



8 Sebastian Coe

England's greatest ever middle-distance runner, who plied his trade through the late 1970s to the mid-1980s in a golden period which often saw him racing for glory against his great rival and compatriot Steve Ovett. Coe finished second to Ovett in the 800 metres at the Moscow Olympics but hit back to prevail in the 1500m and was to return with the same medals from Los Angeles four years later. Coe also held the 800m and 1,000m world records and following his retirement was elected as a Conservative MP in 1992.



9 Daley Thompson

The only feasible contender to Redgrave's claim to be England's greatest-ever all-round athlete. Thompson coincided with Coe and Ovett as this country went through an unprecedented era of track-and-field success. As a decathlete, Thompson excelled in both elements - notably in a series of duels against his great German rivals Jurgen Hingsen and latterly Christian Schenk. He also won Commonwealth gold three times, European gold twice and the world title once.



10 Fred Perry

The last Briton to win the Wimbledon men's singles title and - since that feat has not been achieved since 1936 - worthy of inclusion for that alone in the top-10 list. Perry won his titles in consecutive years, from 1934 to 1936, and was also the first player in the world to win all four Grand Slam singles titles.

