

Fiona Freckleton



Summer VIII's Blades 80 & 81

Fiona Freckleton, an accomplished rower and dedicated educator, began her rowing journey upon arriving at Somerville College, Oxford, in 1978 to study Mathematics. Within 24 hours she was on the river with many other Somerville freshers, discovering a new and totally absorbing sport. Her college rowing involvement includes bumping St Hugh's to take Head of the River in 1980 and rowing over Head in 1981.

In 1982, while pursuing an MSc in Numerical Analysis and Mathematical Modelling, she stroked the Blue Boat and continued as stroke for the OUWBC Blue Boat during her PGCE year in 1983, though both years saw defeats to Cambridge. After a brief period of club rowing and teaching at The Cherwell School in Oxford, she began attending National Squad trials.

Her international career began in 1986 when she represented Scotland in the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh, finishing fourth in the coxless pair. In September 1986, she moved to London to teach at Westminster School. Initially intending to retire from competitive rowing, she was drawn into the Tideway rowing scene and benefited from Westminster's support of her international aspirations.



Somerville 1st VIII 1980



World Championships 1991

Between 1988 and 1994, she competed in various capacities for Great Britain. Highlights included:

- **1988:** Part of the GB VIII, though the crew was not selected for the Olympics.
- **1990:** Bow in GB's coxless four, competing at the World Championships in Tasmania.
- **1991:** Partnered with Miriam Batten in the GB coxless pair to win Britain's first open-weight women's sweep World Championship medal (bronze).
- **1992:** Part of the GB VIII at the Barcelona Olympics, a challenging season marred by illness and last-minute crew changes.
- **1994:** Concluded her rowing career with a bronze medal for Scotland in the single scull at the Commonwealth Regatta in Canada.

Transitioning from competitive rowing, she continued to coach at Westminster and in 1996 became the school's first female housemaster since its founding in 1560.

Married to Nigel and mother to twins William and Katherine, she relocated to the Fens in 2001, taking on a new chapter as a Mathematics teacher at Bishop's Stortford College. Although no longer involved in rowing, her remarkable career has left an enduring legacy in both sport and education.



Oxford Womens' Blue Boat 1983