

Finchley Lane,
Hendon,
London,

Sir Steve Redgrave OBE,
PO BOX 3400,
Marlow,
SL7 3WX

Dear Sir Steve Redgrave OBE,

Firstly allow me to apologise for my word processor; although you won't be able to see this, the spell checker doesn't recognise your name ('Redgrave', *Sir Steve Redgrave OBE*) and so underlines it with an awful squiggly red line. I'm as offended by this as I'm sure you are considering that in doing so it disregards the fact that you are a five (5!) times Olympic gold medal winner so I am sincerely sorry about all this. I would of course have circumvented this problem by handwriting the letter that you now hold in your strong five (5!!) time Olympic gold medal winning hands were it not for the scarcity of right-handed writing materials in my house but I don't want to dwell on the matter so let us proceed to the crux of the letter (which you now hold in your strong five (5!!!) time Olympic gold medal winning hands)

My Dad is a keen rower and is forever rowing. When he isn't down the gym rowing he'll be talking about rowing or drawing pictures of rowing boats and, between you and me Sir Steve, he really drives mum crazy! For Christmas he got given a copy of Mathew Pinsent CBE's book which was signed by the author (Matthew Pinsent) and he was over the moon. It is now birthday o'clock (he'll be 51) and I can think of no better gift to give him than a signed copy of your own book. He has of course read it cover to cover (starting at the front and working back as convention dictates, enjoying it so much he was reluctant to put it down even when it was rowing o'clock) but I am confident he would welcome a copy to call his own. As for the inscription I would be grateful if you could write something encouraging regarding to rowing, perhaps along the lines of –

Happy birthday Keith, keep up with the rowing! Love Sir Steve Redgrave OBE

As it's your book and your signature I'll grant you a fair bit of creative licence. I applaud your dedication to your fans and I will be cheering you on to Gold medal number six in Beijing and number seven which you'll pick up in 2012, hopefully in London.

Thanks a million,
Yours happily,

Richard J Stanley