# CHRIS BOARDMAN MBE APPOINTED AS NEW SPORT ENGLAND CHAIR

# Chris Boardman MBE has been appointed as the new Chair of Sport England. He takes over from Nick Bitel, who has been Chair since 2013. Boardman will carry out a four-year term from 22 July 2021 to 21 July 2025.

The cycling star won a gold medal in the individual pursuit at the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games. He has broken the world hour record three times and worn the yellow jersey on three occasions at the Tour de France.

Following his sporting career, he became Head of Research and Development for the Great Britain Cycling Team from 2004 to 2012, supporting the Olympic team to win eight gold medals at the 2008 Beijing Games. He is one of the UK’s most prominent cycling and walking advocates and has been policy adviser to British Cycling since 2012.

Over the past four years, Boardman has been working with the Mayor of Greater Manchester on a plan to create the largest cycling and walking network in the country. He is currently the Transport Commissioner for Greater Manchester, helping the mayor to deliver a fully integrated transport system with active travel as its foundation.

Boardman will play a critical role in supporting and developing grassroots sport and physical activity and getting more people active across the country as it recovers from the pandemic.  He will also support Sport England to deliver its ambitious 10-year strategy, ‘Uniting the Movement’, published earlier this year.

**Chris Boardman MBE said:**

"I am delighted to take up the position of Chair for Sport England. Sport and activity are central to my own life and it’s clear they have a heightened importance for all of us right now. I am looking forward to helping the team bring opportunities to be active to more people than ever before.”

**Tim Hollingsworth, Chief Executive of Sport England, said:**

“With his background as a successful athlete and his incredible work in transforming attitudes to cycling and activity in our communities, Chris is a fantastic appointment as Chair of Sport England and we’re really looking forward to working with him. As we begin to deliver on our ambitious 10-year strategy ‘Uniting the Movement’, I have no doubt that Chris will play a significant leadership role and a crucial part in our work to transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity.

“Chris is building on the fantastic eight years of his predecessor, and I am so grateful to Nick for his counsel, support, experience and wisdom during my three years as CEO and for everything he has done to ensure Sport England is in the best possible shape to thrive in the years to come. He has been a brilliant Chair and we have been lucky to have him.”

**Nick Bitel, the outgoing Chair of Sport England, said:**

“It has been a privilege to serve as Chair of Sport England for the last eight years and I am immensely proud of the organisation as it stands today. The resilience it has shown and the way in which it has supported sport through the pandemic has been outstanding, and I am so grateful to everyone who works so hard to help people live active and healthier lives. I know that Chris will be an outstanding leader and take Sport England to new heights and I wish him every success over the coming years.”

**ENDS**

Notes to editors:

* Sport England is an executive non-departmental public body sponsored by the [Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/WAGXCKrO7s2458XTMvmD2?domain=gov.uk).
* The appointments process is regulated by the [Commissioner for Public Appointments](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/AQCjCL9g1iRQnNGiq6e80?domain=gov.uk). Under the Code, any significant political activity undertaken by an appointee in the last five years must be declared. This is defined as including holding office, public speaking, making a recordable donation, or candidature for election. Chris Boardman has declared no such political activity.