

# Tribute To Olympic Athletes

Congratulations Team GB, well done and welcome back.  
From rugby pitch, from open sea, from trampoline and track.

Thanks for your tenacity, your power to enthral  
Was that a tiny gymnast or was that a rubber ball  
The runners and the jumpers and the boxers in the ring  
The rowers and the canoeists, golfers showing off their swing  
To all courageous athletes who set out upon their course  
And also to Valero, but he's different he's a horse  
Well done all competitors to Peaty, Bolt and Trott  
To Whitlock and Skelton with a star to beat the lot  
To all begoggled swimmers smashing records at the scene  
And divers ever stoical although the pool went green  
Applaud the preparation, and the effort, and the tears  
The winter morning runners training patiently for years  
The dogged dedication never lowering their eyes  
From being an Olympian, the ultimate, the prize  
Let's hear it for Mo Farrah; Mo you know our blood ran cold  
To see you on the ground but up you got and ran for Gold  
Well done Andy Murray with his power and his style  
Andy, now for pity's sake give us all a smile  
To every bright young person who went out and did their best  
Don't trouble if a medal doesn't decorate your chest  
Just say "I was selected I was young and fit and keen"  
"I was there at the Olympics in 2016"  
In Rio, Ipanema! Names to make the pulses race  
Corcovado, sugar loaf, the magic of the place  
Where over all, Christ the Redeemer scans the city frantic  
The beaches and favelas and the limitless Atlantic  
To every hammer thrower, shooter, queen of martial arts  
In every field of sport your teams have lifted up our hearts  
You were an inspiration, kept us mesmerised, excited  
Brexit gloom dispelled by your success we are united.

- Pam Ayres