

= Matt Byrne =

Matthew " Matt " Byrne ( born 8 October 1974 ) is a British wheelchair basketball player . He participated at the 2004 Summer Paralympics in Athens where he finished in third position . At the 2008 Summer Paralympics in Beijing , Byrne finished in bronze medal position with Great Britain . He played for United Kingdom at the 2012 Summer Paralympics in London .

= = Personal life = =

Byrne was born in 1974 in Nottingham . He is a paraplegic , meaning that he has an impairment in motor or sensory function of the lower extremities . He was introduced into wheelchair basketball during his rehabilitation at a hospital following a motorcross accident at the age of fifteen he is also married to Anna Byrne that is a teacher at the long eaton school .

= = Wheelchair basketball = =

Byrne first played wheelchair basketball in 1991 , and joined the Sheffield Steelers club for five years before moving to the Nottingham Jaguars , near where he was born . His current club , the Wolverhampton Rhinos ( RGK TCAT Rhinos ) , have won the Super League many times during his time there . He made his début for the Great Britain national team in 2001 .

Byrne participated in the 2001 / 2002 European Championships in Amsterdam , his first time competing at a major international event . He and the United Kingdom national team finished in fourth position , out of medal contention . In 2002 , he won a silver medal at the 2002 World Championships in Kitakyushu , a city on the third @-@ largest island of Japan . He finished third and won a bronze medal at the Sassari 2003 European Championships .

Byrne competed in the 2004 Summer Paralympic Games in Athens , Greece ; he and the United Kingdom national team won the bronze medal . Following his first Paralympics , Byrne and his team won a silver medal at the 2005 European Championships in Paris and took fifth place at the world championships in Amsterdam the following year . The U.K. team won the silver medal at the European Championships in Wetzlar , Netherlands in 2007 .

Byrne and the U.K. team proceeded to win bronze at the 2008 Summer Paralympics in Beijing . The following year , he also won bronze at the European Championships in Adana , Turkey . In 2011 , he and his team won gold at the European Championships in Nazareth , northern Israel .

Byrne was a member of the U.K. ' s wheelchair basketball national team at the 2012 Summer Paralympics , held in London . The team finished in fourth place after losing to Canada and the United States . In 2012 , Byrne was made co @-@ captain of the Great Britain Men 's Wheelchair Basketball team .