

President Report

The 2010 European Surf Rowing Championships were hosted by the Netherlands and organised by Surfboat Holland. Due to the poor weather conditions at Wijk aan Zee beach, organisers agreed to move the event to Ilmuiden beach on the other side of the breakwater. I would like to thank Wendel Rontgen and his fellow organisers for helping the ESRF to make a speedy change of venue to allow the European Surf Rowing Championships 2010 to be completed.

Management of the ESRF has proved to be difficult this year with a lack of enthusiasm from the Vice Presidents to attend the Skype conference call meetings convened by Kelly Brennan and myself. For the ESRF to prosper it does require a small amount of time, and above all, a commitment to the project.

I would personally like to thank Kelly Brennan – ESRF General Secretary for her single minded enthusiasm to the organise the European Surf Rowing Championships 2011 at Soulac sur Mer, France. The support from Begle Lifesaving Club and the Mayor of Soulac has helped immensely. Kelly is to stand down this year as ESRF General Secretary – Treasurer. We wish her good luck upon her move to Canada. Thank you for all your enthusiasm and encouragement for the sport within Europe, you will be missed by all of us.

The World Life Saving Championships 2014 are to take place in Montpellier, France. There will be a World Surfboat Championship.

The 25th April 2015 will mark the centenary year for the Gallipoli campaign in World War One. During the campaign many thousands of British, Australian, New Zealand and Turkish soldiers died. To mark this sombre event the Australians are shipping 50 surfboats to the Gallipoli peninsula with 100 crews, to row for two days along the peninsula to arrive at the landing beaches on 25th April 2015. The majority of these surfboats are to remain in Turkey. It would be opportune for all members of the ESRF make a plan on how to recover some of these surfboats to mainland Europe for the benefit of the European surfboat rowing clubs.

Peter Gaisford
ESRF President