

President Report

The 2011 European Surf Rowing Championships were hosted by France at Soulac sur Mer and arranged by Sauveteur Beglais. The event was very well organised and included officials from FFSS of french lifesaving.

The ESRF management agreed at the meeting of the 16th October 2011 for the UK to host the 2012 European Surf Rowing Championships at Perranporth, Cornwall, UK.

The ESRF management conducted two Executive meetings through the year.

In May 2012 a UK womens surfboat crew competed at the Arena Rescue 2012 Montpellier, France. Surfboats were provided by the French Surfboat League and the venue is easy to access by flights within the UK. The scheduled date for Arena Rescue 2013 is 17 - 20th May.

In June at the Diamond Jubilee Pageant nine UK based surfboats helped to represent Australia on the river Thames. On the same weekend at the Twickenham rowing club I had a meeting with Mr Bert Hunt – President ASRL and Mr Paul Murphy – Gallipoli 100.

Mr Hunt and Mr Murphy have been training the rowers in Turkey to row surfboats in preparation for the centennial remembrance on April 25th 2015. Both confirmed that there will be approximately 40 surfboats in good condition and available for collection after the event. The organisers of the Gallipoli 100 would like to ensure the surfboats are collected on April 26th.

In July I was asked by Charles Dallemagne to conduct a Sweeps course in Belgium. Unfortunately due to family commitments and the close proximity of the Olympics I had to decline the invitation. However, it is my intention to assist nations within Europe to help develop competent surfboat Sweeps. Surf Life Saving Australia has helped to produce the Surfboat Manual and a Surfboat Sweep DVD.

ILS has confirmed that there will be a World Life Saving Championships 2014 in Montpellier, France and there is to be a World Surfboat Championship included within the event.

Peter Gaisford
ESRF President