

## ESRF UK REPRESENTATIVE REPORT 2011

The UKSRL Summer Series has seen a general reduction in crew entries this year due, it is suspected, to the reluctance by new rowers/crews to commit to increasing travel expenses in the economic downturn. For the first time this year, we have seen boats and sweeps unused on the beach and a shortage of rowers! However, there is much to be positive about. The standard of racing has been very high, particularly at this years Open Championships where in very small surf, crews from Henley and Leander found 'surfrowers can really row'.

Also positive is the continued involvement of crews from Celtic Longboat and Coastal Rowing fraternities, along with pilot gig rowers who are up for the surfrowing challenge. In the future both the UKSRL and ESRF must encourage more rowers from other disciplines for the continued growth of the sport. With the Olympics in the UK in 2012 we hope to see a resurgence in the rowing participation and will be pushing surfrowing harder than ever.

One final note: Pete Gaisford has announced his retirement as UKSRL secretary this year with a view to developing new sweeps and encouraging surfrowers throughout Europe. On behalf of the UKSRL I thank Pete for the huge contribution he has made to the sport both in the UK and throughout Europe over the last decade.

**Dan Berriman**

ESRF UK Rep