

History of Le Drezen

The history of the company begins in 1926 when Jean Le Prince, from Léchiagat, created a trawl factory for the steam trawlers company, "La Chalutage" based in Lorient.

That same year, his daughter Clémentine married Louis Le Drezen from Le Guilvinec, a qualified engineer.

Important dates :

1929 : Louis Le Drezen creates his own netting factory opposite "la Chalutage".

1931 : The company expands when it buys "La Chalutage" and continues to flourish. New machines are purchased and the company employs a number of fishermen's wives from Léchiagat.

1940 - 1945 : During the war 39-45, Louis Le Drezen is called up and his wife Clémentine takes over the running of the factory. He was imprisoned in 1940 and freed in 1941 so he could continue to run the business. He was an active member of the French Resistance but was killed on the front line in February 1945. Clémentine continued to run the company with the help of her daughter, Monique.

1947 : Monique Le Drezen married Pierre Le Brun, a pilot from Le Guilvinec who then took over the management of the factory. Under his management, the company extended further.

1960 : In the 1960s, the fishing industry continues to flourish and the company adapts to the new demands of the fishermen and produces new equipment.

1970 : In 1973, a new factory is built, also in Léchiagat, in Le Guilvinec-Léchiagat's inner harbour in Kelareun.

1989 : Monique and Pierre Le Brun hand over the reins of the company to their sons Louis and Pierre who have been working there since 1970.

Now the leading manufacturer of fishing nets in France, Le Drezen continues to develop the export side of the company. Meanwhile, the fishing industry was up against some difficulties on a national and European level: reduction of fishing effort, quotas, the price of fuel, the arrival of new machinery... To ensure competitiveness, the company was forced to reduce the number of employees from 190 to 60, as it stands today.

Throughout the 1990s, with no visibility of the future of the fishing industry or the company, Le Drezen held on to its position on the national and international market thanks to its ability to innovate, its know-how and capacity to adapt.

1994 : Le Drezen sets up in Fraserburgh in Scotland.

2011: Louis and Pierre Le Brun decide to retire but do not have anyone to succeed them within the family or the company, so sell the company to the Dutch-Portuguese Royal Lankhorst Euronete.

2012: In July 2012, Royal Lankhorst Euronete sells its shares to a large American group «WireCo».

Today, Le Drezen is the last French netting manufacturer. The 10 000 m² site, situated in the heart of the 4th largest fishing port in France, is run by the founder's grandchildren and ranks among the world leaders of the market.

Based on the reliability of its service, the strength of Le Drezen also lies in its ability to innovate and manufacture top quality products.

Source : Roland Chatain