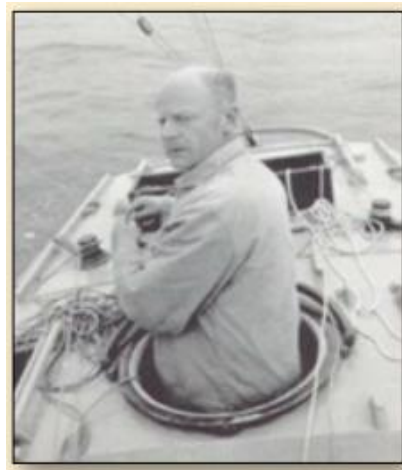


Winter Talk Report – Junk rig sailing – James Gray

It is always a good feeling to find out about something new!! And James Gray of the Junk Rig Association (JRA), gave us exactly that last night during his talk to Guildford Coastal Cruising Club (GCCC) members, both at the well-attended Papercourt clubhouse, and on Zoom.

James offered us an engaging, enthusiastic and amusing presentation. And possibly a “First” in that it was complete with a 1/10th scale working model of a Junk rig! Though we did have a “Houston, we have a problem” moment, as the rig, when fully raised, was taller than the ceiling space!!

First made popular on the 50’s and 60’s by a certain adventurer called Blondie Hasler on “Jester”, Blondie took part in an OFSTAR race and came a commendable second, arriving “fresh as a daisy”, due to the benefits offered by the rig-set-up.



This well-written article on the man and his boat can be found on the JRA website.

<https://www.junkrigassociation.org/Resources/Documents/Hall%20of%20Fame/Hall%20of%20Fame%20-%20Blondie.pdf>

James stressed the ease of being able to raise, and reef, the rig at any point of sail, and that it was simple. Except that it did seem to have as many lines and as much “string” as any Bermudan sloop Reefing consists of reducing the number of panels in use, and more-recent development of the junk sail itself has seen the panels cut to provide a contoured shape and create an aerofoil shape, complete with a variety of rigid, bendy, and even hinged battens.



James then gave a list of pros and cons, which generated interesting and spontaneous questions from the floor. A junk rig tends to sail better downwind than a Bermudan sloop, but doesn't sail as fast to windward. It is generally considered easier to buy a junk rigged boat than to convert a conventional sloop-rigged boat. Some space below deck is compromised, but above all, the ability to adjust sails from a hatch position makes for easier sailing. James keeps his boat at Gravesend on the Thames, and prefers passaging to racing.

The talk ended with applause from all for a presentation with a difference!

Membership of the JRA is just £8 per annum if you are quick, and accept their 3 times a year newsletter by email. There is also a YouTube channel, and a Facebook presence.



To join the JRA. https://www.junkrigassociation.org/join_jra

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