

## The Junk Rig Association Summer Rally and AGM 2012

By Peter Manning

The first rally of the 2012 season was held at the Mayflower sailing club at Plymouth, England over the weekend of 26<sup>th</sup> and 27 May. This meeting was also the venue of the 2012 Annual General Meeting of the association.

Thirty four members attended the Rally/AGM over the course of the weekend.

Five members indicated their intention of bring their boats but due to the strong winds forecast for the Saturday, only three boats decided to sail.

Paul and Mo Fay brought *Ti Gitu*, a Fay 40 designed and built by Paul. Jonathan Snodgrass brought his Sunbird 32 *Lexia* whose exploits during the 2011 Azores and back (AZAB) race have been featured in the last two issues of the magazine and Clive Warren came in his 26' Newbridge Pioneer '*Stay Free*'



*Ti Gitu*

Photo by Andrew Bailey



*Lexia*

Photo by Andrew Bailey



*Stay Free*

Photo by Peter Manning

We all met up in the Mayflower Sailing Club for lunch and chat before joining the boats..



*No guessing who is in town!*

Photo by Andrew Bailey



*Members at the Mayflower Sailing club*

Photo by Andrew Bailey

Trying to get all the members who want to sail onto the boats can sometimes be challenging for the rally organiser so it was with some relief when Richard Burke who was going to be in the area in his Contessa 26 *Mariposa* made contact and offered to take two members out sailing.

It was only when we returned to the Mayflower SC in the evening that we learned that *Mariposa* has no engine and is propelled by a yuloh, and could not get her anchor up so was unable to take anyone sailing.

The wind strength was at least a force 6 with gusts up to force 7, a yachtman's gale, which made for some enjoyable and boisterous sailing for our members. For others out in Plymouth Sound there was some hair raising moments as their Bermudian rigged boats heeled over and appeared to be on the verge of a knock down.



*Top left and Bottom right Ti Gitu*  
Photos by Andrew Bailey

*Top right and bottom left Lexia*  
Photos by Peter Manning





*Lexia preparing to sail*

Before setting out with his crew Jonathan Snodgrass fitted a new type of ball parrel to his battens similar to the balls fitted round the mast of gaff rigged boats to assist with hoisting the sail.



*Lexia's crew fascinated by 'Snodders Snotters'*

Photos by Andrew Bailey

The crew look on intrigued as the new ball parrels which Jonathan has christened 'Snodders Snotters' are fitted. Sadly Jonathan reported that on the first attempt they were not as successful as he had hoped.

Plymouth can be full of surprises. Moored up against the trip boat jetty was the replica of the *Matthew*. The original *Matthew* carried John Cabot and crew to Newfoundland in America.



*The Matthew in Plymouth open to visits by the public*

Photos by Andrew Bailey

Over 500 years ago John Cabot and his crew set sail for Asia aboard the original Matthew hoping to trade goods and commodities with the people who lived there. However, he finally arrived on the coast of Newfoundland and therefore was the original discoverer of North America, not Christopher Columbus as most people believe. In 1997 the replica Matthew followed the same course as John Cabot in 1497 and sailed across to Newfoundland. It carried the same number of crew members as the original, shipped the same stores and took the same amount of time to complete the crossing.

Another surprise in Plymouth was the presence of Pirates one looking suspiciously like Johnny Deppe one of the stars of 'Pirates of the Caribbean' series of films.



Photo by Andrew Bailey



Pirates of Plymouth Hoe ! Photo by Andrew Bailey

Whilst out sailing we heard that a diver was late in surfacing and may be in trouble so the offshore lifeboat along with other vessels raced to the scene to help in the search. It is not know what happened to the diver. Hopefully he was rescued uninjured.



*Lifeboat racing to join hunt for missing diver*  
Photo by Andrew Bailey



In the evening members met up again at the Mayflower Sailing Cub for the rally dinner after which the annual general meeting was held where there was lively debate on a number of topics followed by the declaration of the results of the election of the contested posts on the committee. The acting Chairman Edward Hooper was then able to disclose the names of the elected members of the new committee.

Sunday dawned with the wind having abated. Indeed there was hardly any wind at all.

We met again outside the Mayflower sailing club as the club does not open on Sundays. We were very pleased to see *Mariposa* sailing up and down outside the Queen Anne's Battery Marina and ready to take on board her crew for the day.

Once everyone was allocated to the boats they headed out towards the start in for the Jester Azores Challenge. Although most of the boats in this challenge sported Bermudian rigs there were two junk rigged boats taking part. The first was *Jester*, not the original which was owned first by Blondie Hasler then by Michael Richey before being lost in a storm, but a replica now owned and sailed by Trevor Leek. The second boat is *China Blue*, similar in looks to *Jester* and owned and sailed by Tim McCloy.



*China Blue on the left and Jester above at the start of the Jester Azores Challenge.*

Photos by Edward Hooper

Whilst the challenge and spectator boats were waiting for the start of the Jester Azores Challenge the fog came down. I think this was an advection fog which if I am correct develops when warm moist air comes into contact with a cold sea as would be the case in May.



*Jester and other entrants at the start of the Jester Azores challenge.*  
Photo by Andrew Bailey



*Mariposa heading out to watch the start of the Challenge.*  
Photo by Andrew Bailey

Some of us went to watch the start of the Jester Azores Challenge from the hillside adjacent to Cawsand bay. Although the boats were rather too far a way to get a good view we did manage to see the effect the advection fog had on the bay with The Great Mew Stone almost totally obscured. Suddenly we hear a loud foghorn but could see no ships. After a while the eerie shape of the Brittany ferry could be seen in the fog heading through the sound.



*The Great Mew Stone disappearing in the fog*  
Photo by Roy Denton



*The Brittany ferry appears out of the fog*  
Photo by Peter Manning

With practically no wind Richard Burke on the engineless *Mariposa* had the opportunity to show off his skills using his yuloh. The science of making and using Yuloh's has been discussed on our website recently and it appears it is not easy either making or using one.



*Richard Burke using his yuloh on board Mariposa*

Photos by Andrew Bailey



And finally, this curious little boat was spotted sailing amongst the Jester Challenge yachts.

*Photo by Andrew Bailey.*