

# Reliability, performance and manoeuvrability

*More and more sailing yachts have feathering or folding propellers. David Sheppard explains this growing trend...*

Reliability, performance and manoeuvrability you may think are three very pertinent reasons not to change your fixed propeller to a folding or feathering model. The reliability and performance of early propeller designs of the 1970's may have been questionable, but today's modern derivatives are built to withstand all types of conditions and usage. Most importantly, they have been rigorously tested and used successfully for many years around the world. This is what Sir Chay Blythe had to say about Autoprop.

*"I selected the Autoprop propellers for our fleet of 67 footers. The boats now have more than a million miles logged in the roughest conditions without a single propeller failure.*

*That's why we again selected Autoprop for our new fleet of 72-footers. In the 1992-1993 Challenge, a contestant was dismantled in the Southern Ocean leaving the skipper a difficult choice - sail under jury rig to South America or motor to windward 2000 miles to New Zealand in order to rejoin the race. To his credit, the skipper chose the latter course and made the run safely - a feat of seamanship made possible by the reliability and efficiency of the Autoprop.*

*I can highly recommend Autoprop propellers to all sail boat owners*



*The crew of Concert had good reason to be grateful for the reliability of their Autoprop*

*who want the very best performance under sail and power."*

Sir Chay Blythe

The trend is changing - more boat owners, skippers and their crew are realising the true potential of a folding or feathering propeller. Economy, speed, reliability and propeller dependence, are the bare essentials before casting off for a short or long voyage and our folding and feathering designs provide them.

Discerning sailors no longer settle for the fixed prop option, akin to towing a bucket. Just think about your hull shape, those clean lines, designed to be easily driven and handled, so why sail with the brakes on. Fitting a folding or feathering propeller will unleash the true sailing potential of your yacht and don't be surprised to get up to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a knot more speed with the lower drag.

Feathering and folding propellers are now

costing less, but most of the high-volume yacht production yards are still fitting conventional fixed pitch propellers. Many will not change or offer an alternative propeller. The decision to upgrade the propeller is left up to the boat owner and it is becoming the first choice on the "must have list" when buying a new boat. Making the correct choice and comparing the many propeller brands available can sometimes be confusing.

Bruntons offer a variety of propeller designs and we will help you to obtain the best propulsion solution for any given engine combination and yacht. We will ensure that all the essential elements to a good installation; pitch and diameter, fit to shaft, available clearance, are all carefully considered. We actually design and manufacture virtually all of the propellers we sell, and we have a propeller for every situation. Unlike some therefore, we have no reason to try and sell you anything but, exactly the right propeller for your yacht.

