



**Name:** Joanna Ireland

**DOB:** 30/06/1990

**Grew up:** Falmouth, Cornwall

**Currently Living:** Exeter/ Falmouth

**Occupation:** Student at University of Exeter

**Sailing/ Yacht Club:** Restronguet Sailing Club

**Position on Boat:** Helm or Main sheet trimmer

**First sailing experience:** At local sailing club in an optimist being pushed backwards and forwards between two parents.



**Greatest sailing goal:** To compete in the Volvo Ocean race.

**Greatest sailing achievement to date:** Finishing in the top third at the Laser Radial World Championships.

**Most memorable sailing experience:** Sailing in a Laser Radial qualifier at Lowestoft and the waves being so big that you could not see any of the boats in front.

**Meet the sailor...**

***Greatest strength you bring to the academy?***

*Having only ever raced competitively in a one design boats I am good with being able to work in pressurised situations. I am quick at learning new skills.*

***Most influential person in your sailing career to date?***

*Eddy Shelton– He was the person who taught me to sail. Without his knowledge, enthusiasm and drive I would not be the sailor I am now.*

**What do you hope to achieve from joining the Keelboat Academy?**

*To improve on all aspects of Keelboat racing and especially to improve my understanding of the rigging on the boat. Further my knowledge of other roles on the boat.*

**If you could compete in any Keelboat event what event would it be and why?**

*The Med Cup because you are racing with the best and it's warm.*

**My worst moment (sailing)?**

*Capsizing on the way in to the slip way at Weymouth and not being able to right my boat. As a result my boat crashing into the pontoon, it was horrible!*

**Best sailing venue in the UK?**

*Falmouth – The Carrick roads*

**Top 2 career sailing results:**

- 1) 2<sup>nd</sup> British Girl at the Laser Radial World and Europeans 2007 and finishing in the top third.*
- 2) Finishing 5<sup>th</sup> in the ladies BUSA team racing nationals.*

**Other notable achievements away from sailing?**

*Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, Completing a year abroad studying in a different language.*

**Other interests away from sailing?**

*Skiing, cycling and playing the piano.*

**What's your greatest fear or phobia?**

*Being stung by a jellyfish.*

**Who is your hero and why?**

*Ben Ainslie – Having learnt to sail at the same club as Ben there is always been the belief I can be as successful as him. His commitment to sailing has led him to achieving the greatest things.*

**Any famous relatives?!**

*I don't think so!*