



Name: Will Semken

DOB: 15/06/1991

Grew up: Plymouth / Aldeburgh

Currently Living: Canterbury

Occupation: Student at the University of Kent

Sailing/ Yacht Club: Royal Thames Yacht Club

Position on Boat: Bow but trim or pit if needed

First sailing experience: Sailing with the family at Aldeburgh



Greatest sailing goal: To be a bowman on the winning Volvo Ocean Race boat

Greatest sailing achievement to date: Either getting my Yacht Master when I was 18 or picking up the Loch Long Trophy at Aldeburgh Regatta

Most memorable sailing experience: Winning my first ever trophy at Aldeburgh in a two-man keelboat. It was quite a big fleet and after a week of racing managed to get the win.

Meet the sailor...

Greatest strength you bring to the academy?

My passion and determination to win and get as far as I can in the world of professional racing. I can also bring my team working skills and my skill as a bowman.

Most influential person in your sailing career to date?

Probably my Father, he has taught me how to sail and always been there when things were hard.

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

To improve my racing ability, get up to a pro standard and race and train with dedicated young sailors.

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

It would have to be the Volvo Ocean Race, the speed of the boats, the huge challenge of thousands of miles of offshore and the close inshore racing makes it the ultimate keelboat race.

My worst moment (sailing)?

It would have to be changing a sail on a Tall Ship, in force 6 winds at night, at the end of a 14ft bowsprit being repeatedly dunked underwater as the boat punched through waves and that same night climbing up the rig to re run a jib halyard with feeling like the boat was trying to chuck me off!

Best sailing venue in the UK?

It has to be the Solent, nowhere else gives the same challenge of tides, shipping and competitive racing. And where else do you get to see ICAP Leopard training!

Top 3 career sailing results:

- 1) Aldeburgh Regatta 1st*
- 2) X – Yacht Solent Cup Class Win*
- 3) Warsash Spring Series Race wins*

Other notable achievements away from sailing?

I have done the 125 mile Devise to Westminster canoe race

Other interests away from sailing?

I like all forms of water sports and I am also a keen rifle and clay pidgin shooter and cyclist.

What's your greatest fear or phobia?

It used to be heights, but now I would say it would be being forced to stop sailing, I couldn't live without being on the water.

Who is your hero and why?

My hero would have to be Pete Goss, His autobiography made me realise what someone can do if they put their mind to it. He also turned round in the Vendee globe to sail back against savage conditions to save a fellow competitor from his sinking boat.

Any famous relatives?

Don't think so but it would be great if I had.