



## AARON COOPER

**DOB:** 24/01/89

**Grew up:** Walton-on-Thames, Surrey

**Currently Living:** Southampton

**Occupation:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Oceanography at Southampton University

**Sailing/ Yacht Club:** Originally Frensham Pond when I used to sail dinghies. Now involved with the Southampton University, Wessex Sailing Club.

**Position on Boat:** Bow



**First sailing experience:** When I was 5 my Dad took me out in an Enterprise on Littleton lake, near Sunbury. I don't think I could of been much help but obviously enjoyed it none the less.

**Greatest sailing goal:** Sailing in the America's Cup on the bow of some of the most exciting boats in the World.

**Greatest sailing achievement to date:** 12<sup>th</sup> Overall in Rolex Fastnet 2009

**Most memorable sailing experience:** The first time helming offshore at night, coming back from Le Havre in 40knots. Sailing the boat back in, ducking and diving large container ships that sheltering behind the Island of Wight in the pitch black.

### Meet the sailor...

**Greatest strength you bring to the academy?** *I'm calm under pressure and have good endurance.*

**Most influential person in your sailing career to date?** *My first helm in dinghies inspired me to compete. Winning my first race gave me the passion to carry on competing.*

**What do you hope to achieve from joining the Keelboat Academy?** *Further my knowledge of other roles further back in the boat such as trimming and gain experience and contacts in the international yacht racing circuit.*

**If you could compete in any Keelboat event what event would it be and why?** *Louis Vuitton Trophy or America's cup (if they ever go back to a multi-challenger mono-hulled event). I love inshore, close-quarters racing and the adrenaline and excitement it bring. This event would be the ultimate inshore yacht racing regatta.*

**Top 3 career sailing results:**

- 1) 12<sup>th</sup> Overall in Rolex Fastnet, 2009
- 2) 1<sup>st</sup> Red Funnel Easter Regatta, 2009
- 3) Cadet World Team, 2005

**Other notable achievements away from sailing?** *Completed the Flora London Marathon 2009*

**Other interests away from sailing?** *I cycle, play badminton and play the guitar*

**Who is your hero and why?** *Lance Armstrong as his sheer endurance in a physical and mental sense. Obviously a strong minded and committed individual.*

**Any famous relatives?!** *Distantly related to Adrian Stead the world class tactician.*