



HAMISH MACDONALD

DOB: 03/02/1989

Place of Birth & grew up:
Glasgow/Leeds

Currently Living: Leeds/Oxford

Occupation: Oxford University
Medical Student

Sailing/ Yacht Club: Royal Dart
Yacht Club and RORC

Position on Boat: Mast/Grinder



First sailing experience: Probably at some point in my first year of life, on my Parents' and Uncle's Sadler 26. They used to hang my baby bouncer off the end of the boom... It would have been somewhere in Devon, where we still sail these days (it's a bit of a trek down from Leeds, but not as bad as from Glasgow).

Greatest sailing goal: I want to make it to the pinnacle of amateur sailing, whether that's F40s, RC44s or even higher, to the America's Cup. I have a special interest in offshore sailing, so to do the big offshores like the Sydney-Hobart and Middle Sea Race on a big boat would be incredible. Short term, I want JMII to win the Round Britain and Ireland Race.

Greatest sailing achievement to date: Either arriving in Antigua after sixteen days at sea on a 37ft racing yacht, or coming 12th out of 300 boats in the Fastnet last year on Chernikeeff II.

Most memorable sailing experience: Either hitting 27 knots in a storm on the transatlantic above, or the reach from Fastnet Rock to the Scillies, including the most pressured peel I've ever done, and around five hours of non-stop grinding on the waves.

Meet the Sailor....

Greatest strength you bring to the academy? *Mental and physical strength, and thousands of offshore and ocean miles.*

Most influential person in your sailing career to date? Indirectly, probably Kit Hobday and Peter Harrison for setting up the GBR Keelboat academy, without which I would never have been able to get involved with top level big boat racing so quickly.

What do you hope to achieve from joining the Keelboat Academy? I want to gain more experience of racing on a 52ft boat, not just as a member of a good team, but hopefully as an integral member of an excellent team. I also want to become a more rounded sailor, with the ability to perform any role on the boat with ease.

If you could compete in any Keelboat event what event would it be and why? The Volvo Ocean Race because it is the biggest challenge in crewed yacht racing in the world. I always like to challenge myself, and the sailing in the Volvo is a level up from anything else out there – those guys are mental.

Top 3 career sailing results if applicable:

- 1) Winner of the Classic division of the 2008 Swan World Championships
- 2) 12th out of 300 in the 2008 Fastnet
- 3) Winning various RORC offshore races (2008 De Guingand Bowl; 2009 Myth of Malham etc.)

Other notable achievements away from sailing?

- Being accepted for a place at Oxford Medical School.
- Playing for the OURFC U21s at Twickenham in the varsity match, winning the 2009 edition 53-17.
- Winning the 2009 Blues 2nd team varsity match 40-0 in horrendous conditions.

Other interests away from sailing?

- I play rugby for Oxford University U21s and Blues 2nd team. Next year I hope to be involved more with the Blues squad.
- I can play the bagpipes.

Who is your hero and why?

- Within sailing, Magnus Olson, for his ability to build a team, rebuild it after some unfortunate events and pull off the greatest comeback ever seen in sport.
- Outside sailing, Joe Simpson for his incredible mental strength (see 'touching the void')