



## KIRSTY MATTHEWS

**DOB:** 23/10/88

**Grew up:** Isle of Wight

**Currently living:** Plymouth as Student or Isle of Wight home

**Occupation:** Plymouth Uni

**Sailing/ Yacht Club:** Royal Victoria Yacht Club

**Position on Boat:** Pit

**First sailing experience:** My first sailing experience was when I was 7, in my Oppie at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club in Fishbourne, IW. My dad had taken me to a cadet night at the club. From then on, I sailed from the club almost every Friday after school. This was the first time I was actually sailing by myself, but being from a family of sailors I was bought up around the water and the sailing world.

**Greatest sailing goal:** To win a European championships and one day a World championships. To aim to do the media role on board a Volvo Ocean Race boat as this combines both of my passions - sailing and photography.

**Greatest sailing achievement to date:** Winning Red Funnel Easter Challenge 09 on Chernikeeff 2. It was during this event when the hard work we had been putting in as a team began to pay off and we started to believe in ourselves and that we could go out win events. I was proud of what we had achieved as a team, and what I'd achieved personally. The oldest sailor on the boat was only 24 and we were sailing a high performance yacht and winning... which is pretty cool.

**Most memorable sailing experience:** Broaching on Chernikeeff 2 while doing 25 knots in the Solent. It happened during one of the first times I was sailing on the boat.



## **Meet the sailor...**

**Most influential person in your sailing career to date?** *My older brother, Kelvin (who is also in the BKA) for always pushing me further. When I sail with him, he always gets the best sailing out of me. He has built up my confidence in the boat and I am always learning more when I sail with him.*

**If you could compete in any Keelboat event what event would it be and why?** *I am really keen to start competing at an international level of keelboat sailing and I hope that I will get to go to the J80 Europeans with the Academy in 2010.*

**Other notable achievements away from sailing?** *I am currently in my 3rd year of studying photography at the University of Plymouth and getting here has been hard work.*

**Other interests away from sailing?** *I enjoy photography and graphic design as well as other sports like skiing and cycling.*