



TOM FORRESTER-COLES

DOB: 31/10/90

Place of birth & grew up:

Born in Basingstoke and grew up near Chester.

Currently Living: Chester

Occupation: Studying Marine Engineering at Liverpool John Moores University

Sailing/ Yacht Club: Holyhead Sailing Club

Position on Boat: Trimmer



First sailing experience: At the age of eight I began sailing a topper at Budworth and at Anglesey. I then continued to sail at weekends as I learnt to sail and become familiar with the boat I then progressed onto local events.

Greatest sailing goal: Be part of a world winning sailing team. Win the Volvo Ocean Race.

Greatest sailing achievement to date: Selected for the British Keelboat Academy. Winning the 1720 Nationals twice in a row. Yachtmaster Offshore at the age of eighteen.

Most memorable sailing experience: My most memorable sailing experience would have to be training in Holyhead with my crew in a 29er, we had an Australian Coach (Rob Gibbs) it was seriously windy and the first thing we did was pop the kite. I remember the 50hp rib was following us going flat out; we caught a big gust and pulled away from the rib. I looked behind to see that the whole harbour was white water. It was a great feeling going that fast so close to the water, you get a great adrenaline rush.

Meet the Sailor....

Greatest strength you bring to the academy? *Experienced sailor achieving top results in different classes. Cool head*

Most influential person in your sailing career to date? *The most influential person would have to be my Dad for the support he has given me. Other people who have influenced me are - Tudur Owen and Ruairidh Scott for the experience I have gained whilst sailing with them.*

What do you hope to achieve from joining the Keelboat Academy? *Take the most of the opportunity to race with the academy on the TP52. Become a "rockstar!" be able to look back when I am too old for the academy and feel I have made the most of the opportunities presented to me.*

If you could compete in any Keelboat event what event would it be and why? *The focus this year is the Round Britain and Ireland Race, that is the event I would like to do. I have seven thousand of offshore sea miles and would like to apply my experience into that race with the team.*

In the long term I would like to compete in the Volvo Ocean Race.

Top 3 career sailing results:

- 1) 1st 1720 Nationals 2008 and 2009
- 2) 1st Royal Dee Regatta (Holyhead) – Castro 31
- 3) 1st Corby Cup (Holyhead) - 1720

Other notable achievements away from sailing? *Not really, I try and take the most of the opportunity to go sailing.*

Other interests away from sailing? *Water Skiing*

Who is your hero and why?

I don't really have a specific hero but I respect sailors/sailing teams that have made it in sailing.

Any famous relatives?! *None to date!*