



ALEX GARDNER

DOB: 11/05/1990

Grew up: Isle-of-Wight

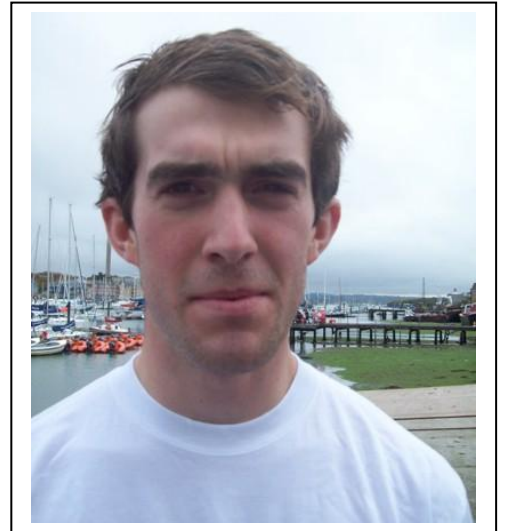
Currently Living: Newchurch, Isle of Wight

Occupation: Sailing instructor and waiter

Sailing/ Yacht Club: UKSA

Position on Boat: Helm / Trim / Pit

First sailing experience: In the Medina river, I was about 7 or 8 I think, I remember it being really windy and I had no control over anything and crashing a lot. Brilliant!



Greatest sailing goal: If I ever grow up I'd like to race around the World, Vendee or VO70 style, I think that would be cool, maybe compete in the Med-cup or something like that, real rock-star sailing.

Most memorable sailing experience: Hitching a ride on a TP52 for the first time, the feeling of 27kts under sail for the first time, trapezing single handed with three sails for the first time, I couldn't get the smile off my face when I got it going.

Meet the sailor...

Greatest strength you bring to the academy? *I like getting on with people and challenging people to perform, and like having a good time, I'd like to think I could make anyone smile at least once, except bus-drivers, they're impossible.*

Most influential person in your sailing career to date? *If I could say Ghandi I would, I'm a fan of autobiographies, particularly Pete Goss', if you haven't read it It's an amazing story of sheer determination to sail around the World alone, and he recalls how he picks up Danielli, who he was racing against, in the southern oceans, truly epic stuff.*

What do you hope to achieve from joining the Keelboat Academy? *I'd like to play a part in a campaign doing something impressive, like the "Tour du Voile", and see if we could achieve something serious.*

If you could compete in any Keelboat event what event would it be and why? *It's going to have to be the Audi Med-cup, very cool boats, the best sailors, and it's warm.*

Top 3 career sailing results if applicable:

- 1) 1st in class, 40.7 in Cowes week 2010
- 2) 2nd 40.7 Nationals
- 3) 11th overall, TP52 in 2009 Round the Island

Other notable achievements away from sailing? *I used to write and perform songs in my band "the Guinea-Pig Pirates", we never really came to much, but I'm proud of it and we had great fun.*

Other interests away from sailing? *Cycling, running, music: I play the piano and guitar, I used to sing, rugby, snowboarding, and I used to row, and sometimes I wish I still did when there is no wind.*

Who is your hero and why? *Although Iron-Man is very cool he's not real. I'll go with Laurence Dellaglio, an amazing sportsman, and the real meaning of it too, train hard, play hard, achieve everything you can, and stick in the rules (at least at the end of his career).*

Any famous relatives? *I feel a little inadequate here, I'm just going to make up that my uncle invented the moon.*