



Name: James O'Mahony

DOB: 24/12/1989

Grew up: Cork, Ireland

Currently Living: Southampton

Occupation: Studying Ship Science at the University of Southampton

Sailing/ Yacht Club: Wessex Sailing Club

Position on Boat: Main Trim/Mast

First sailing experience: It was when I was 15 in Kinsale in Ireland for an ISA Level 1 course with my school. We were sailing Toppers and I was with Alan Macilwraith, and we just capsized all the time!



Greatest sailing goal: Sailing around the World

Greatest sailing achievement to date: Having only started to race keelboats competitively in October 2011, doing the Rolex Fastnet Race just 10 months later.

Most memorable sailing experience: It has to be the first time I went sailing with my friend, Alan, and it was windy and we were just constantly capsizing and swimming and he never let me helm again after that first day!

Meet the sailor...

Greatest strength you bring to the academy? A good balance of sense of humour and work ethic.

Most influential person in your sailing career to date? It's probably very cliché but Ellen Macarthur is definitely that person. She inspired me to push the boundaries and really get into sailing.

What do you hope to achieve from joining the Keelboat Academy? A better insight into racing keelboats and a knowledge of events while gaining contacts in the sport and the sailing industry.

If you could compete in any Keelboat event what event would it be and why? For me it has to be the Vendee Globe. Again probably a bit cliché but it is still the toughest and for me it is the pinnacle of sailing.

My worst moment (sailing)? Scraping 3 inches of snow off the deck of a J80 in December last year just before going out training for the day.

Best sailing venue in the UK? I have only ever sailed in the Solent and surrounding areas so I'm going to have to say the Solent!

Top 3 career sailing results:

- 1) 1st Overall RORC Cross Channel Race
- 2) 5th in the J80 Student Europeans
- 3) 3rd IRC 3, RORC Cervantes Race

Other notable achievements away from sailing? I am a black belt in Tae Kwon Do. I currently chair the Athletic Union Committee for the University of Southampton which has 79 sports clubs. I am also a Powerboat Instructor and an SRC VHF Assessor.

Other interests away from sailing? Skiing, Wakeboarding, Badminton, Kitesurfing, Cricket, Tae Kwon Do and many more.

What's your greatest fear or phobia? I hate spiders!! Ever since I was young and a massive one nearly fell onto me, I just can't stand them anymore!

Who is your hero and why? My hero would have to be..... I have no idea!! It's a question that I've never been asked before, and I really don't know!

Any famous relatives?! Unfortunately, not to the best of my knowledge!