



**Name:** Karen Thomas

**DOB:** 31/07/1993

**Grew up:** Southampton

**Currently Living:** Bangor

**Occupation:** Uni student

**Sailing/ Yacht Club:** Got a few! Port Dinorwic while at uni, RLYC and Calshot Sailing Club

**Position on Boat:** Undecided

**First sailing experience:** With my dad in our old mirror, pretty sure I fell asleep in the bottom on my first few trips out haha.



**Greatest sailing goal:** To go to a keelboat world championships or do a transatlantic crossing some day.

**Greatest sailing achievement to date:** Hmm.. probably either getting my Senior Instructor qualification last summer or being one of 5 from GB to be selected for the European team racing champs in Italy.

**Most memorable sailing experience:**

**Meet the sailor...**

**Greatest strength you bring to the academy?** Persistence to keep going and being able to adapt quickly and pick up new skills in unfamiliar situations.

**Most influential person in your sailing career to date?** Probably either my dad who taught me to sail then took me all over the country for many years competing or Ben Ainslie who sails at my club and I always used to see out on the water training in whatever conditions there were which kept me going through winter!

**What do you hope to achieve from joining the Keelboat Academy?** *To get more contacts and opportunities enabling me to go as far as possible in keelboat racing as well as learning more about running a campaign which again should help me progress.*

**If you could compete in any Keelboat event what event would it be and why?**  
*Probably the MedCup, great fleet racing and warm weather.. don't get much better!*

**My worst moment (sailing)?** *Optimist selections many years ago in Pwllheli with waves bigger than the boat, very little control and feeling very very sea sick.. not a pleasant experience .*

**Best sailing venue in the UK?** *Anywhere on the South Coast, especially the Solent.*

**Other notable achievements away from sailing?** *Scholarship for university and a 1<sup>st</sup> after the first year.. let's hope that continues.*

**Other interests away from sailing?** *Any watersports.. kayaking, canoe polo, swimming, windsurfing and even octopush (underwater hockey).. I could go on.*

**What's your greatest fear or phobia?** *Not really sure, used to be heights but I sorted that after forcing myself to go on some crazy rollercoasters in America :)*

**Any famous relatives?!** *Not that I'm aware of.. quite a common second name though so I'm sure there is someone floating around!*