



SAM MATSON

DOB: 21.02.1991

Place of birth & grew up: Exeter

Currently Living: Ottery St Mary

Occupation: Hotel general assistant until 23.04.2010 (gap year)

Sailing/ Yacht Club: Exe sc

Position on Boat: All

First sailing experience: Was bought up in a sailing family, therefore sailed for as long as I can remember, in many different boats (dinghies and keel boats). Began sailing competitively by the age of 8 and have continued to sail at a high level ever since.

Greatest sailing goal: Race solo around the world and running a successful offshore racing campaign.

Greatest sailing achievement to date: Completing the 2009 Rolex Fastnet race in the 2 handed division. Becoming under 15 national cadet champion 2005

Most memorable sailing experience: Planing down a wave at 12knts approaching Plymouth in the 2009 Fastnet with spinnaker, at night, 2 handed!

Meet the Sailor...

Greatest strength you bring to the academy? 100% commitment and the desire to learn and develop new and existing skills.

Most influential person in your sailing career to date? My dad for getting me involved in sailing at such a young age and running many successful solo offshore races/campaigns.

What do you hope to achieve from joining the Keelboat Academy? An opportunity to race in many keelboat campaigns both offshore and coastal, as well as to create new contacts involved in professional sailing.

If you could compete in any Keelboat event what event would it be and why? Both the Volvo ocean race and the vendee globe, due to my determination to

No image

sail around the world pushing the boats to their limits for the longest possible time and experiencing the greatest feeling of pride and achievement when completing the race.

Top 3 career sailing results:

- 1) 1st U15 national cadet champion (3rd overall) 2005
- 2) 24th in the 2009 Rolex Fastnet race (2 handed)
- 3) 4th in IRC 2 at Royal Dart regatta 2009 in a J109 (fully crewed)

Other notable achievements away from sailing? *Achieving 3 B's at A-level (biology, geography and PE)*

Other interests away from sailing? *Cross country cycling, skiing, windsurfing, surfing, drumming.*

Who is your hero and why? *Sir Robin Knox Johnston, for being the first to sail solo non-stop around the world in 1968 and to still be involved in solo racing at the age of 70!*

Any famous relatives?! *Not that I know of.*