



## KATHERINE WHITLEY

**DOB:** 15<sup>th</sup> October 1986

**Grew up:** Born in Guildford, grew up in Madrid and Buenos Aires

**Currently Living:** Guildford

**Position on Boat:** Pit

**First sailing experience:** I went on a sailing holiday with my father when I was about 12, he disappeared on a windsurfer and sent me off in a laser pico for the best part of a week. It was on the same holiday that I met a good friend who went on to take part in the Global Challenge 2004-2005. It was due to him and that race that I got hooked on sailing, and I just knew I wanted to do the same.



**Greatest sailing goal:** To manage a successful professional race campaign at the top level of the sport.

**Greatest sailing achievement to date:** Winning the L26 class at Cape Town Sailing Week. I only met the rest of the crew the morning of the first race and they completely adopted me and taught me so much. The whole experience of racing with Table Mountain as a back-drop was just amazing and great fun.

**Most memorable sailing experience:** My first ever head-sail change on a Challenge 72. I was first bow, standing on the pulpit in 25+knots as the bow repeatedly buried itself in the waves.

### Meet the sailor...

**Greatest strength you bring to the academy?** *A cool head in a tight situation, the ability to learn quickly and commitment to the team.*

**Most influential person in your sailing career to date?** *Dom Monkouse, Hedley Aylott and Alex Ballantyne, from Summit Sailing, who for so many years invited me to racing on their J109. Without them I would never have had the opportunities I've had. I'm especially grateful to Dom who offered me my first "real" job.*

**What do you hope to achieve from joining the Keelboat Academy?** *I would like to improve my own skills and knowledge of how to prepare and run a successful race boat. I look forward to sailing with other young people who are committed to a*

successful campaign and would like to make the most of all the opportunities and contacts of the BKA.

**If you could compete in any Keelboat event what event would it be and why?** Melbourne to Osaka double handed race, if does run again. Although I would love to be involved in Class40 racing.

**Top 3 career sailing results:**

- 1) 1<sup>st</sup> L26 Cape Town Sailing Week
- 2) 11<sup>th</sup> J109 Cowes Week 2008
- 3) 9<sup>th</sup> Lady-Helm RCYC Race

**Other notable achievements away from sailing?** 2:1 BSc Hons in Human Sciences from University College London.

**Other interests away from sailing?** Hockey, Surfing.

**Who is your hero and why?** Dee Caffari - it's amazing what she has achieved, especially in what is a relatively short space of time. She is such a great role model for female 'big-boat' sailing. Also John Simpson, not for any sporting prowess (!) but because he has led such an interesting life. Two people who would definitely have a place at my ideal dinner party.

**Any famous relatives?!** My grandmother always used to tell me we were (I suspect rather tenuously) related to the Russian royal family. More up to date one is that my sister is a DJ and used to work for HedKandi.