



RICHARD CLAY

DOB: 16/11/1986

Place of birth & grew up: Born in London, grew up in Salisbury.

Currently Living: London

Occupation: I work in advertising

Sailing/ Yacht Club: Spinnaker

Position on Boat: Towards the back.
Ideally tactics maybe main trim.

First sailing experience: My very first sailing experience was on a yacht in Turkey when I was barely six months old. I caught the sailing bug early while dinghy racing at Spinnaker. Soon I was competing in sailing events around the country. I still am.

Greatest sailing goal: Getting heavily involved in managing a successful campaign would be great. Ideally starting with the Commodores Cup in 2010.

Greatest sailing achievement to date: Getting into the BKA this year and the RYA keelboat squad the year before.

I was also pretty pleased about doing tactics on the boat that finished 4th in the 1720 Europeans in 2006.

Most memorable sailing experience: Perfectly executed port flyer in the first race of the 2006 1720 Euros springs to mind. Also the first time I was on the TP52 when it took off downwind. Brilliant.

Meet the Sailor.....

Greatest strength you bring to the academy? *Onshore I'd hope I can help with advertising, marketing and getting sponsorship.*

I also bring commitment, tenacity, enthusiasm and a belief that a good team truly is greater than the sum of it's parts.



Most influential person in your sailing career to date? *It's horribly clichéd, but definitely my Dad. He got me into sailing when I was young and has been a constant source of support and great advice.*

If you could compete in any Keelboat event what event would it be and why? *The America's Cup would be sensational. It is quite simply the pinnacle of inshore keelboat racing. To get there would be an incredible achievement.*

Top 3 career sailing results:

- 1) 4th 1720 Europeans 2006
- 2) Three time U18 Firefly National Champion
- 3) Quarter finalist at BUCS team racing 2009 (Durham's best ever result)

Other notable achievements away from sailing? *I was Satire editor of the student newspaper in Durham last year. I've climbed Kilimanjoro.*

Other interests away from sailing? *Advertising, football, squash*

Who is your hero and why? *Bill Bernbach – A seminal figure in the history of advertising industry. What I find most inspirational about him was his willingness to innovate, find creative solutions and most importantly his ability to recognise talent and ability in people when they often couldn't themselves. Such qualities are essential in building the best teams and producing great results.*