



Captain

Toby Boone

Nationality: British

Languages: English

Birthday: 5th April 1978

**Joined
Illusion V:** October 2010

Bio: Born in the UK and raised on a farm, Toby spent his formative years on the North Norfolk coast. Aged 15 he was sent out to live with his uncle in Kenya, time out there was split between sailing on the East African Coast and playing rugby at school, club and under 21's national level for Kenya. Aged 18, Toby moved to France where he split his time between Skiing in the winter and yachting in the summer, by the time he was 21 Toby had set his mind on a yachting career and completed his Master 3000 yachts by 26. Toby has extensive experience from years of cruising the Mediterranean, Caribbean and Pacific Oceans. Toby is married and when not on the boat lives in Rutland, which when the tide is out, is the smallest county in England!!



Captain

Just Vriesendorp

Nationality: Dutch

Languages: English, Dutch,
French

Birthday: 8th August 1983

**Joined
Illusion V:** October 2012

Bio: Born in the Netherlands. Moved to India from age 2 for a few years and back to the Netherlands where he was raised on a house boat on the lakes. That's where his passion for boats started. From a very young age he was a very competitive dinghy racer with one world cup race in the 5.5m class. He left home from age 18 to live on the Ilse of White to obtain his yacht master and ocean master. After his gap year he studied Engineering, Design and Innovation in Amsterdam where he finished his Bachelor of Engineering. In 2009 he started yachting and knew this was his career path. In 2016 he completed his master 3000.



Chief Engineer

Christian J Lawson-Mckittrick

Nationality: British

Languages: English

Birthday: 28th August 1974

**Joined
Illusion V:** October 2020

Bio: Christian has been a Marine Engineer for 30 years, starting with an apprenticeship with the Royal Navy at age 16. Following his time in the RN, Christian joined his first yacht in Antigua, 1999 and has never looked back. He has circumnavigated the globe several times on both sail and motor yachts.

Born in Manchester, he now lives in the South Downs National Park with his wife Victoria and two young children Iris and Christopher. An avid sailor and a real thalassophile, Christian splits his time between family life and working on the ocean. His other great passions in life are automotive engineering (tinkering with his 500hp MK1 Audi TT) and cooking gourmet meals to impress his wife and friends.



Chief Engineer

Wes Jones

Nationality: South African

Languages: English

Birthday: 22nd September 1981

**Joined
Illusion V:** September 2012

Bio: 99% of engineers are just engineers... except this one, oh he is so much more. Wesley of Africa hails from Durban South Africa where he grew up and was schooled. Born to Mauritian parents he now lives in Antibes, France and still struggles to speak the French language and occasionally asks his mother to interpret his mail.

After High School Wesley attended University in Australia on a swimming and water polo scholarship before studying Law at University in South Africa and after 6 years at Uni realized Law had too many books to carry and headed out to sea.

For the past 10 years he has been at sea and decided engineering was his passion and is now in charge of everything that turns and goes bang.

2nd Engineer

Nick Wiles

Nationality: Australian

Languages: English

Birthday: 27th August 1985

**Joined
Illusion V:** October 2020

Bio: Nick is the offspring of an Indonesian mother and English father yet was born and raised in the beautiful Northern Beaches in Sydney. Despite growing up so close to the beach, Nick did not take up surfing, instead he is drawn to diving and wakeboarding. He spent his younger years playing football and competing in athletics until his mid-twenties. Work led him to central Queensland where he worked as a Project Engineer on various construction projects. The allure of an endless summer lead Nick to yachting and he has not looked back since.



2nd Engineer

Eddie Epps

Nationality: English

Languages: English

Birthday: 4th October 1991

**Joined
Illusion V:** January 2019

Bio: Born and raised in the maritime town of Portsmouth, south coast of England, Eddie spent his younger years studying mechanical engineering, alongside playing county rugby for Hampshire until the age of 22. His career started in the Aerospace industry before moving to marine engineering, after delivering and contracting for UK built yachts such as Sunseeker and Princess, he joined a 70m yacht as full time 3rd Engineer. Eddie now reside in Cork, Ireland with his Danish Fiancé. He still enjoys rugby just as much but is watching it with a beer in hand instead of playing it.



Chief Officer

Jason Pearce

Nationality: South African

Languages: English

Birthday: 1st November 1990

**Joined
Illusion V:** December 2016

Bio: Jason grew up in the coastal city of Durban, South Africa where most of his days were spent down at the beach and this is where his love for the ocean first began. After High school he wanted to branch out and pursue a career further afield, this is what lead him to a career on the high seas. He had been in the industry since 2010 and is currently studying for his Master 3000-ton license. Jason is a sports fanatic and enjoys a game of golf, tennis or any other sport where a ball is involved. In his spare time most of his trips consist of a mission in search of waves, great dive spots or the next snowboarding destination.



2nd Officer

Wesley Simpkins

Nationality: South African

Languages: English

Birthday: 1st February 1991

**Joined
Illusion V:** June 2020

Bio: Growing up in a small coastal town on the Kwa Zulu Natal South Coast Beach and ocean have always been important parts of Wesley's life.

Attending boarding school in Durban he spent most of his time swimming and playing water polo. Before beginning a career in yachting Wes studied photography in Cape Town and worked freelance.

When not working he spends most of his time with his wife and daughter.

His hobbies include surfing and trying his best to male it around the golf course.



Chef

Kdn Lyne

Nationality: Australian

Languages: English

Birthday: 22nd June 1983

**Joined
Illusion V:** March 2017

Bio: Kdn grew up in a hippy community in the Sunshine coast hinterland of Australia. There was no electricity or television which may explain why he has five brothers. It does not however explain why all his brothers have vowels in their names and he doesn't? Kdn's love of healthy cooking began at an early age using many organic vegetables from his parent large organic garden. At age fourteen Kdn left school because he didn't like it and began his apprenticeship to become a chef. After ten years of working in some of Australia's top restaurants Kdn started his first yacht job at age 24 and has spent the last 12 years traveling the world and working on a plethora of vessels. During this time Kdn has lived in Sri Lanka, Costa Rica and Bali but now lives back in Byron Bay on the east coast of Australia. When Kdn is at home he spends his time surfing, trying to convince his 2 daughters to surf and trying to convince his wife that he doesn't get to surf enough. Kdn also wants to buy a surf resort in Indonesia but is still not sure how to tell his wife?



Chef

Clement Brasseur

Nationality: French

Languages: French/ English /
Spanish / German

Birthday: 27th November 1987

**Joined
Illusion V:** October 2017

Bio: Clement was born in the North of France where chefs use a lot of butter and cream to make the winter more bearable. As he was turning 5, he made his birthday cake to bring to school ... A revelation!!! Since then, Clement has had one passion: making people happy with food. At the age of 17 this passion became a vocation, so he signed up for “Le Touquet” catering school. After a few years working in Michelin star restaurants, he started his yachting career, travelling all around the world, discovering new products and techniques everywhere he went. In 2011, the yacht on which he was working touched land in Costa Rica and he met his future wife. After a few years living in Spain and France and after the birth of their two daughters, Clément’s family moved to Costa Rica. When he is at home, Clement splits his time between his family and the development of his own bakery: Madame Baguette #madamebaguettecr



Chief Stewardess

Shannon McAlister

Nationality: South African/Irish

Languages: English

Birthday: 18th November 1986

Joined

Illusion V: November 2017

Bio: Shannon comes from a small town in the Drakensberg, a mountain range in South Africa where her thirst for adventure stemmed from. Although growing up inland she craved life near the ocean, this led her to yachting at a very young age. Her drive and challenge seeking personality allowed her to progress quickly. In between stints on various sized yachts she found her other passion and completed her advanced Yoga Teacher training in India, which she eagerly offers to guests. In her own time, you will find her doing yoga, immersing herself in surf culture or trying something new. With her skills, experience and creativity, she will ensure that your time on board Illusion V is memorable.



Second Stewardess

Chloe Hopcraft

Nationality: New Zealand

Languages: English

Birthday: 25th January 1994

**Joined
Illusion V:** January 2018

Bio: Chloe is Australian born and New Zealand bred. She spent her younger years running around her parent's kiwifruit orchard, attending countless dance lessons and sport practices and long summer holidays down the east coast of New Zealand. After graduating high school, Chloe couldn't leave the country quick enough, so off she went to chase those postcard picture dreams. Feeling as though she had rid the travel bug Chloe returned home to study a Bachelor of Communications degree in Auckland. After three years at university, intertwined with an internship at a boutique communications agency, Chloe was ready to spread her wings again. Chloe began her yachting career in 2016 and has worked on some of the largest and most current super yachts to date. You will find Chloe chasing the summer sun and soaking up everything each country she visits has to offer.

Stewardess Beauty Therapist

Becky Scott

Nationality: British

Languages: English

Birthday: 14th May 1986

**Joined
Illusion V:** April 2021

Bio: Becky is a beauty and massage therapist from the U.K. with over 8 years' experience on board super yachts, and 14 years within the spa industry. Becky enjoys keeping fit and partaking in running and training events whilst travelling. Becky is very passionate about the environment and strives to live a simple and healthy lifestyle so enjoys plant based cooking and organic farming. Becky also enjoys travelling and being immersed in new cultures. She was able to do this whilst living and working in Japan for the past 5 years. Becky will ensure you are relaxed and rejuvenated during your time on board. Choose from a range of relaxing massages, facials and nail treatments to keep you feeling fresh.



Stewardess Masseuse

Kelly Gunnell

Nationality: South African

Languages: English

Birthday: 23rd August 1994

**Joined
Illusion V:** January 2020

Bio: Kelly grew up in Johannesburg, South Africa with sport playing a substantial role in her life from a very young age. She was fortunate to represent South Africa in swimming which allowed her to discover her enthusiasm for travel. She channeled her love for sports into her studies and completed her degree in Sports Psychology at the university of Johannesburg and her post graduate degree in Sports Science with the addition of a sports massage degree. Kelly is extremely passionate about health and fitness and she hopes to aid people to live a healthy, positive lifestyle!



Stewardess

Sophia Bird

Nationality: English

Languages: English/French

Birthday: 24th March 1994

Joined

Illusion V: October 2020

Bio: Sophia was born in Dorset, England and moved at a very young age to the French Alps. She attended an international secondary school in the French Riviera allowing her to learn the French language and a cosmopolitan outlook on life. Her early years working in a ski resort has meant Sophia is a very competent skier who loves everything about the mountains and adventure. Sophia has a Degree in hospitality and has spent the last six years working within the hospitality industry, her work including event planning and working for a large backstage catering company specializing in music, TV and film events. Sophia hopes to put all of her past experiences and approachability into making your trip the best it can be.



Deckhand

Mike Whelan

Nationality: South African

Languages: English

Birthday: 15th June 1991

**Joined
Illusion V:** March 2018

Bio: Mike hails from the sunny seaside and mountainous town of Cape Town, South Africa. After completing his schooling with no clue on what to do next Mike decided to embark on a journey through parts South East Asia, to recreate his favourite character Scuba Steve and become a PADI Diving Instructor. It was through this, his love for the ocean became his passion.

After a short stint of studying copywriting and advertising, and an even shorter stint working behind a desk with big boy pants on, he decided to leave the real world behind and take on the seven seas.

Since then, he has worked on some of the biggest yachts in the industry. With his childish and outgoing persona, Mike works to ensure all guests have an unforgettable experience onboard.



Deckhand

Tim Spence

Nationality: South African

Languages: English

Birthday: 23rd January 1992

**Joined
Illusion V:** March 2019

Bio: Growing up in sunny Durban, Spence spent his school years playing South African schools' hockey and provincial cricket. Upon completing his degree in management and economics, he moved over to Scotland to play a season of semi-professional cricket.

Spence then relocated to Asia where he was a regional manager for a language company in Northern Vietnam. In 2018 he left his corporate job to set sail in remote Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia.

In his spare time, you can find Spence taking long walks on short beaches, surfing waves around the world or playing a casual round of golf.



Deckhand

Travis Poland

Nationality: South African

Languages: English

Birthday: 7th March 1997

**Joined
Illusion V:** October 2019

Bio: Travis grew up on Durban's Golden mile situated in South Africa. Growing up in the outdoors and on the sports field most of his time was spent at the beach with family and friends. Travis played provincial crickets at School level as well as state level in Australia. At the prime age of 17 he and his family immigrated to Australia where Travis lifeguarded on local beaches for 4 years. Moving back to South Africa in 2017 Travis was unsure of what to do with his future career so putting his love for the ocean and meeting new people together he decided to pursue life on the water. Travis has completed level entry courses to become a deckhand but it looking to climb the ladder. He holds an open water dive certificate. Travis is a people's person who is always driven to reach his goals. In Travis's spare time he enjoys a game of cricket, a round of golf with the boys as well as spearfishing and finding some empty surf break along any coastline where him and his close friends can paddle out and have a good time.



Deckhand

Grae Pullen

Nationality: South African

Languages: English

Birthday: 4th July 1993

**Joined
Illusion V:** January 2020

Bio: Born and Raised in a small town in Johannesburg, South Africa. Throughout his childhood one could always find him outside playing sports, or in the pool. Grae was a competitive open water swimmer and lifesaver throughout his schooling career. He Completed his Bachelor of commerce degree in Financial/ Management science at the University of Pretoria. Grae is always keen to jump in the water, throw a ball around and enjoy all that life has to offer.