

Crew Profile

M/Y ILLUSION V

September 2022



CAPTAIN

Toby Boone



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



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 life 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 OFFICER

Jason Pearce



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.

CHIEF ENGINEER

Wes Jones



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.

CHIEF ENGINEER

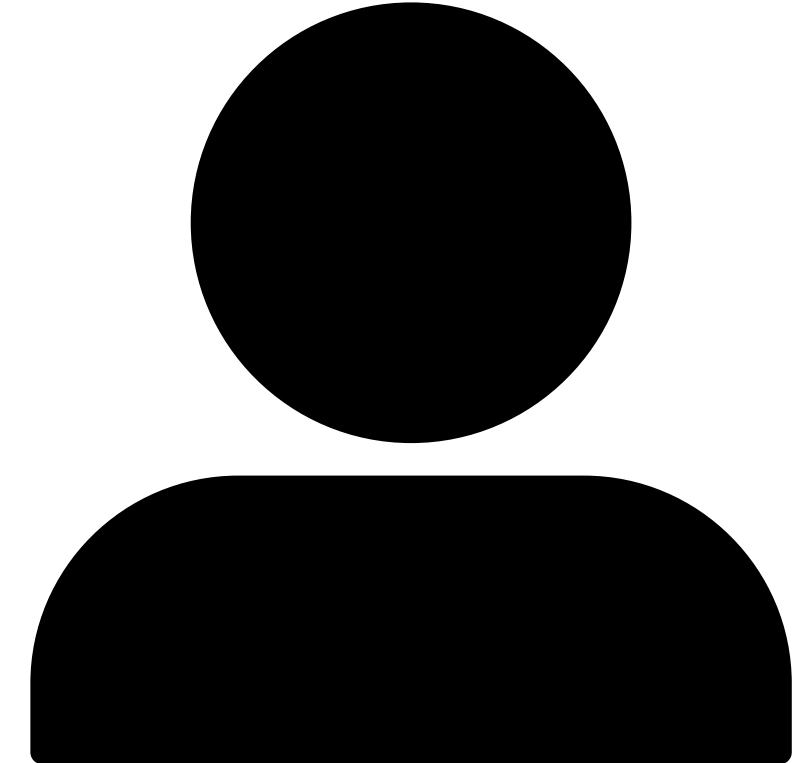
Christian J Lawson-Mckittrick



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.

2nd ENGINEER

Alen Ipsa



Alen naturally gravitated to mechanics at a young age. He was always with a tool in hand as the workshop was his playground in his homeland of Croatia. Alen's career began in mechanical engineering before moving to bulk carriers. He has now transferred those skills to luxury yachts. Alen is an avid guitarist with a healthy obsession for collecting vintage guitars. You will find him on the lookout for those rare finds all around the world.

2nd ENGINEER

Eddie Epps



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.

CHEF

Kdn Lyne



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.

CHEF

Clement Brasseur



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



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



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 MASSEUSE

Kelly Gunnell



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 channelled 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

Fiona Pagan



Fiona grew up in a small town in Hampshire, England with Dance and sport playing a substantial role in her life. Attending countless dance, singing and acting lessons throughout her youth, Fiona's passion for theater developed into a career path for her where she auditioned and confirmed a place at one of the top musical theatre schools in the country. After 3 rigorous years of training Fiona graduated with a BA honor in Professional Dance and Musical Theatre. After spending time in the industry Fiona decided to move her dancing feet front the stage to the gym floor, qualifying as a Personal Trainer and fitness instructor. She has a huge passion for fitness and wellness and is keen to put away any guests through their paces and get a sweat on during their trip.

STEWARDESS

Lauren Brokensha



Living on the banks of the Kruger National Park in South Africa, is where Lauren developed her adventurous spirit and the love for wildlife. Having a passion for education and children. Lauren went on to her teaching degree and furthered her studies by completing her honors in Remedial Therapy. Lauren's yachting career took off in 2019 where she has had the privilege of meeting people from all walks of life and has visited new and interesting places all around the world. In her spare time Lauren enjoys being active and outdoors and spending quality time with her family and friends.

DECKHAND

Mike Whelan



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



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

Grae Pullen



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.