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Chief Engineer:

Finn Abramsson

Finn was born and raised on a little Island named Aeroe, Denmark.

After completing his schooling years there, he became a Ships Mechanic apprentice for Soeby Shipyard. Once his 4-year apprenticeship was completed he went onto serve in the Danish Army for nearly 2 years. Following his stint in the Army, Finn went to engineering school and subsequently had some sea time in the Merchant Fleet.

Finn's love for travel and devotion to his line of work has driven him to pursue his career in the Yachting Industry.

Since joining Te Manu in December 2006 he has enjoyed the opportunity to meet people from all over the world and to see so many beautiful places.

Stewardess:

Myla Trestiza

After growing up in Manila, Philippines, Myla moved to France to engage in her Yachting Career. She completed four years in the industry on both private and charter yachts before she decided to get her feet back on land and fulfill her childhood dream of becoming a Nurse Assistant.

Her nursing Diploma was completed in California where she also practiced for 2 years. Myla join Te Manu in Fort Lauderdale and has been on board since May 2007. She brings a lot of hard work and energy to the boat, and her love to help others is valued immensely.

Bosun:

Dudley Salt

Dudley was born in Cape Town, South Africa and was raised in a small town called Swakopmund, Namibia. After a taste of farm life where he found his interest for hunting and fishing, he moved back to his place of birth to complete his academic studies. After school Dudley was involved with extensive winemaking in the Stellenbosch Wine Region at a boutique winery for several different winemakers.

Following his love for the ocean Dudley joined up with Te Manu in March 2007 as a deckhand. After obtaining his Yacht Master and becoming a Jet Ski instructor he was promptly promoted to Bosun allowing his meticulous skills on deck to be passed onto others. Dudley enjoys spending his spare time diving and surfing round the hot spots of the world. Some would say he's 'living the dream!'

Stewardess:

Kate Morrison

Kate was born in New Plymouth, New Zealand and then moved down to Christchurch, where she completed her schooling.

Once she had completed her studies at boarding school she followed her parents footsteps into the hospitality industry, specializing in restaurants and wineries. She later went on to manage a busy city café in Brisbane, Australia for 2 years.

Having a taste of the hot climate in Queensland she took up flying for the Virgin Group where she had the chance to visit the many tropical sites of the South Pacific Islands.

The adventure of visiting new cities and places took her to St Maarten to seek a career in yachting, pursuing her goal to see more of the world. Kate joined Te Manu in December 2008 granting her the opportunity to capitalize on her love of travel and interest in people.

Captain:

Dave Johnson

Captain Dave was born in the United States but was brought up and educated in the North West of England. He completed his academic studies in 1989 when he graduated from Liverpool University with a degree in Mechanical and Production Engineering.

He began his professional Yachting Career in 1990 and joined the Motor Yacht Stefaren, a 54m Brooke Yacht, the first one to be built in Southampton, England.

Dave served on Deck for two years before obtaining the necessary qualifications to take over as the yacht's First Officer, a position he held for over seven years whilst working for two different owners and serving under several different captains.

Captain Dave joined Motor Yacht Te Manu (ex Motor Yacht Andale) as the first officer in April 1999 and during this time he completed four Atlantic crossings as relief captain and numerous voyages throughout the Mediterranean. In 2001 when the vessel changed hands he accepted the captain's position and has safely navigated the Atlantic & Pacific oceans. In 2004 Captain Dave received the award for the best captain of the year.

First Officer:

Phil Baker

Phil was born and raised in Christchurch, New Zealand where he qualified as a cabinetmaker and gained vast experience in Antique restoration. He has worked on yachts for over 22 years and gained his 3000ton Masters license in 2002. As a world traveled yachtsman Phil likes to explore different cultures and enjoys hiking. Phil has been a valuable crewmember aboard Te Manu since 2002, where he joined in Tahiti and cruised the Pacific, Caribbean and Mediterranean.

Chef:

Joanne Dew

Joanne was born and raised in Cape Town, South Africa where she firstly studied nursing for year before completing her three-year graduate diploma in Cordon Bleu Cuisine. To begin her career as a chef she managed one of the leading boutique hotels of the world, where through the people she accommodated and worked with, she really found her love for cookery.

After 9 years at the guesthouse, Joanne decided it was time to take her adoration for cooking overseas. For three years she traveled extensively throughout Asia, Europe and the Pacific, in this time Joanne had the opportunity to work at Wemyss Castle in Scotland where she was fortunate enough to present her fine cuisine for Royalty.

Following her 3 years of travel Joanne found herself working on the Crew Ship Crystal Symphony. After much pleasure of working while traveling, she thought to look for something a little more personal that had similar attributes. This is where she united with Te Manu in May of 2001; quickly becoming our much loved mother hen on board. Joanne continues to strive in an intimate work environment, cooking with robust Mediterranean flavors and specializing in whatever we love best!

Chief Stewardess:

Sunami (Suignette) Van Den Berg

After leaving school, Sunami completed a one-year secretarial training course at Rustenburg College. She then joined the South African police force in 1993 where she specialized in crime scene investigation as a detective in Cape Town.

In 1997 Sunami traveled to the United States to begin a new career in the Yachting Industry. During the next four years she worked as a stewardess on a variety of both sailing and power yachts and traveled extensively throughout the Caribbean, eastern coast of the United States, Canada and the Mediterranean.

Sunami joined Te Manu in 2001 cruising the Pacific and later became Chief Stewardess. She is dedicated and always looking to make the most out of every situation.

Stewardess:

Iloise Moolman

Iloise was born in Pietersburg, now known as "Polokwane," South Africa in 1983 and was then raised in Cape Town, where she graduated from Paarl Valley High School. She is the second oldest of four sisters. Iloise is a very active person, loves outdoor sports and has competed on a provincial level in Jet Ski racing and surfing for Western Province in South Africa.

She loves traveling and decided to study Travel and Tourism. Iloise realized soon after her first employment as a travel agent that she has a lot more of the world to see. She decided to accept an opportunity at a summer camp in the US, Wisconsin as a Ski Instructor for an all girls summer camp. Once she had completed the summer she went on to travel through the states eventually meeting up with Te Manu in The Bahamas in May of 2005, making her dream come true of travelling and working at the same time.

Deckhand:

Oliver Johnson

Oliver was born in Birkenhead in 1990 and raised in Huddersfield England. He grew up with a very keen interest in Sports, including Football, Athletics and Rugby where he represented his school team to the cup finals. Including his sporting achievements he was also nominated as a Student Senior Manager for Shelley College.

Once completing his schooling in 2009 Oliver day worked for Te Manu in Ibiza, this is where he found his interest for yachting. This lead to him being offered a position on board and joined the Yacht in Viareggio, Italy in July of 2009.

Oliver still has plans of becoming a.....

Second Engineer:

John Morton

John was raised in the rural county of Devon, England. After finishing his schooling he completed a 2-year apprenticeship in electronic and data communications in 1990 with the

British Army where he stayed on to serve a further 8 years. His work with the Royal Corps of signals has taken him to many carrying areas of Europe, from a summer in Cyprus to a winter in Norway, as well as travelling further afield from Canada to the middle east.

After leaving the Army in 1998, John was employed with Cable and Wireless in the UK where he developed his career in Telecommunications and IT. He moved to Bideford, North Devon in 2002 to take up a post being one of two engineers responsible for the running and maintenance of the most recent transatlantic cable system's.

John has always enjoyed the ocean; he started windsurfing in 1992 and competed in local championships. Several years ago he exchanged his windsurfer for a sailing dinghy and has been sailing locally on dinghies and small yachts for the last 10 years. Realizing that working in one place was not the lifestyle for John; he gave up working for Cable and Wireless to gain some yachting qualifications to allow him to pursue a career as an engineer onboard a large yacht.

John joined Te Manu in July of 2009 and is looking forward to a successful career in yachting.