

CREW PROFILE

FIREBIRD



A dedicated team of superyacht crew are on hand to provide a charter experience to remember.

FIRST CLASS CREW

Seamlessly working together to provide levels of service that go beyond the realms of even the best hotels, they make sure that every last detail is covered whether it is the welcome drink, setting up water toys for a day of adventure, or organising the best on-shore excursions not to mention operating the yacht. And with an exceptional culinary experience that is designed just for you on top of it all, the crew are the architects of your perfect getaway.

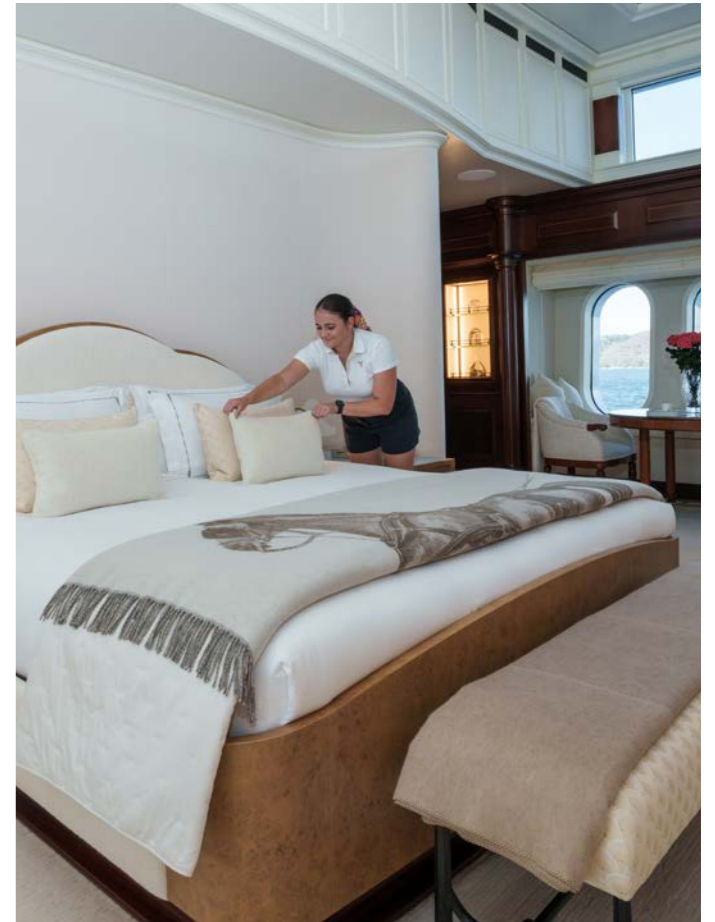
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PAUL HARMAN

CAPTAIN

NATIONALITY: BRITISH
LANGUAGES: ENGLISH

Paul is an experienced captain, having logged over 100,000 miles in 20 years in the superyacht industry. Originally working as a flotilla skipper in the Ionian, Greece, his love for the water stems from growing up on the UK south coast, where he sailed both yachts and dinghies.

He has completed a circumnavigation and has global cruising experience in a management capacity. With experience in both private and charter sectors, Paul has worked on some high-profile power and sail yachts. Paul is passionate about yachting and believes that owning or chartering a superyacht should be a pleasure for all involved. Outside of yachting, Paul is a family man and lives in the United Kingdom.

LEO HAMMETT

CAPTAIN

NATIONALITY: BRITISH
LANGUAGES: ENGLISH

Despite growing up in London, Leo spent his summers on the Sussex coast, dinghy racing and cruising in the Solent. These experiences piqued his interest in boating and led to a career in yachting. As Captain of Firebird, he brings a wealth of experience, having cruised extensively in the Mediterranean, Caribbean, and Eastern Pacific. He believes the crew are the centrepiece of a well-run, high-performance yacht and that a positive working environment helps create the ultimate guest experience. In his spare time, Leo splits his time between Barcelona and the south coast of England. He enjoys sailing, cycling, hiking, and music.





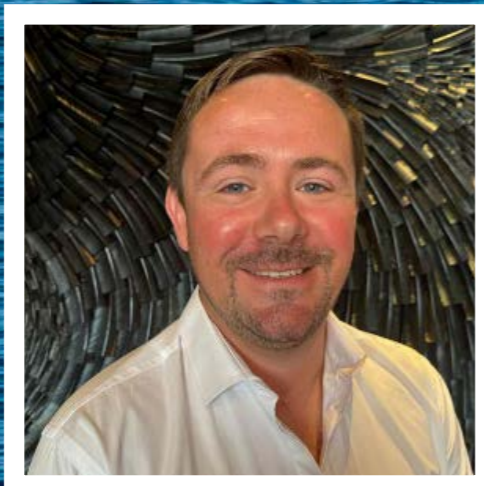
MICHAEL WANDER

CHIEF OFFICER

NATIONALITY: BRITISH

LANGUAGES: ENGLISH

Mike is from the United Kingdom. He has been sailing since the age of eight in the south of England and moved to Spain when he was ten years old. He spent three years at Bruguera Tennis Academy in Barcelona, where he trained and played against some of the best tennis players in the world. Mike joined yachting when he was eighteen years old. He worked hard and passed his Chief Officer's tickets at the age of twenty-one and his Master's at the age of twenty-four. He enjoys all sports, especially tennis, motor racing, and adrenaline-filled activities. He loves finding new activities, exploring new cultures, and visiting new places. In his spare time, he has a great interest in classic cars and is creating a collection of his own.



GARETH WILMOT

CHIEF ENGINEER

NATIONALITY: SCOTTISH

LANGUAGES: ENGLISH

Gareth has always loved the ocean, ever since watching Jaws on repeat as a child. Never letting his love for the sea wane, he decided to go traveling, spending 5 years in Madagascar and Southeast Asia and becoming a dive instructor. After a year working on the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, he had the opportunity to become a superyacht dive master, where he was lucky enough to dive in most locations between Canada and Australia. Over time, he spent more time on top of the ocean, moving into the bridge and working his way up to Chief Officer. He has since moved back to his hometown in Scotland with his young family in order to enjoy a more settled life.

JAMES GREGORY

SECOND OFFICER

NATIONALITY: BRITISH

LANGUAGES: ENGLISH

Growing up in a seaside town in Devon, England, James enjoys his free time surfing, cycling, and generally being active — but most importantly, having a great time doing it. Having spent eight years in yachting, with two years as an officer onboard large vessels, he has amassed thousands of miles on the bridge and a myriad of experiences on deck. With a love for the ocean and the industry, paired with a charismatic approach to life, we are excited to have James onboard Firebird.



SCOTT JACKSON

SECOND OFFICER

NATIONALITY: NEW ZEALANDER

LANGUAGES: ENGLISH

Scott is a Kiwi-raised young man. He spent most of his life at the skatepark or diving in the amazing waters of New Zealand. Scott loves playing golf and engaging in any type of adventurous activity that involves a challenge. He enjoys a good laugh and is always around to help, making any experience as enjoyable as possible. You'll find Scott on board either outside interacting with the guests or on the bridge. Scott has worked as a Second Officer for 2 years on vessels from 65 meters and up.





MAX THOMLINSON

BOSUN

NATIONALITY: BRITISH

LANGUAGES: ENGLISH

Max was born near the south coast of England. He learnt to sail as a cadet in the English Channel. He started his sailing career in 2012 on dinghies, progressing and racing in national events. At the age of 16, he trained as a dingy instructor. After this he then moved onto yacht races in the Solent. Throughout his childhood he knew that he wanted a career at sea. Max joined yachting at the age of 18 and has now gained over four years of experience. In this time he has been as far as Hong Kong and the Seychelles. He is constantly seeking adventure and is always happy to help others.



EMMA CROWTHER

BOSUN

NATIONALITY: BRITISH

LANGUAGES: ENGLISH

Emma grew up on a farm in Shropshire, United Kingdom. She graduated with a BSc (Hons) in Physical Education and Sport Science from the University of Worcester. After graduating, she wanted to combine sports and fitness with travel, so she joined yachting. In her spare time, she enjoys playing golf, kitesurfing, and music.

JESSE GALEA

LEAD DECKHAND

NATIONALITY: AUSTRALIAN

LANGUAGES: ENGLISH

Jesse grew up in the southern suburbs of Sydney, Australia. He studied a Bachelor of Exercise Science at university and is a qualified dive master. His passions include traveling, rugby league, diving, free diving, and poker. Jesse always has a smile on his face and has been in yachting for over three years.



TALISKER HODGKINS-WEBB

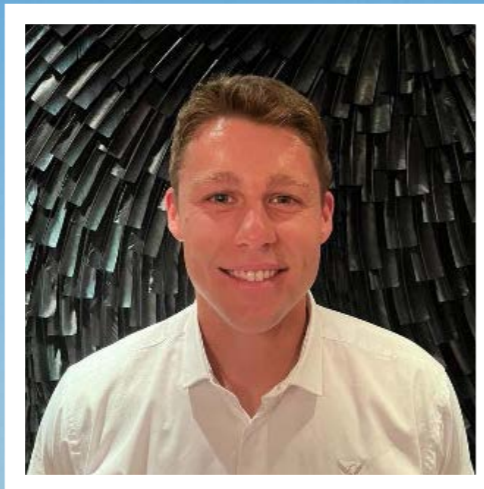
DECKHAND

NATIONALITY: BRITISH

LANGUAGES: ENGLISH

Talisker is an outgoing and energetic individual from the Lake District in the North of England. He enjoys downhill mountain biking and rock climbing, as well as having a passion for motor cars—especially the faster ones. His previous background was working for the Mercedes F1 team, where he made engine components for the F1 cars. Talisker started yachting so he could travel the world, chasing adventures. He would love to pursue the daredevil heights of skydiving, aiming to qualify to a high enough level to start base jumping and jump his way around the world.





ERNST ROBERTS

DECKHAND

NATIONALITY: SOUTH AFRICAN
LANGUAGES: ENGLISH

Originating from Bloemfontein, South Africa, Ernie grew up in a small, tight-knit family. He studied at the University of the Free State, earning three degrees in human kinetics. After completing his studies, Ernie played professional cricket for three years in Ireland, Scotland, and Australia. He has had the privilege of working with some of the world's top orthopedic surgeons, assisting in the treatment of sports-related injuries. After gaining experience in this field, Ernie decided to pursue his passion for adventure by joining the yachting industry. He has found his calling and is proud to be a part of the Firebird team.



FABIAN THOMAS

DECKHAND

NATIONALITY: BRITISH
LANGUAGES: ENGLISH

Fabian has always loved the ocean, having spent most of his holidays as a child with his head in the water snorkeling or fishing. He studied Geography at Exeter University, but on the campus in Falmouth, Cornwall. In his free time, Fabian tries to do adventurous things like diving and kayak fishing, but he also enjoys snooker and chess.

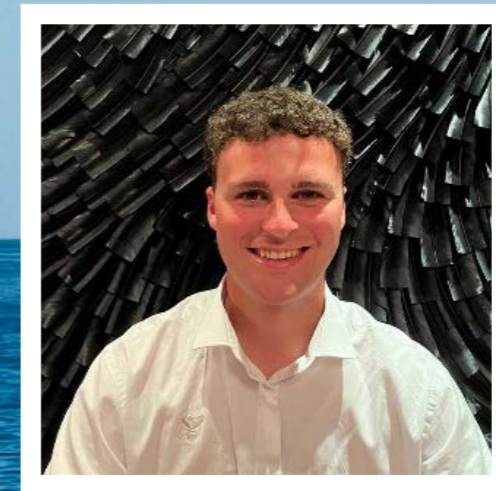
JAMIE FALCONER

DECKHAND

NATIONALITY: SCOTTISH
LANGUAGES: ENGLISH

Jamie is a fun and caring person who never says no to new adventures.

He grew up in the small town of Peebles in the Scottish Borders but moved to Glasgow at eighteen for university, where he obtained a degree in Psychology. Jamie has a real passion for football, supporting his team Rangers F.C. He also played and captained his university team for four years, competing against other teams around Scotland. Jamie is new to the yachting industry, having started working on yachts only in March 2023, but he is loving his life at the moment and is excited to continue traveling the world and visiting the most amazing places. He loves scuba diving and has already been able to go on a few dives with Firebird. However, he also has a dangerous love for karaoke, so don't give him the mic or else you won't get it back!





MILLIE PARR

PURSER

NATIONALITY: BRITISH

LANGUAGES: ENGLISH

Millie found her love for travel during her time at Bristol University, where her studies in archaeology took her on excavations to North Carolina and Antigua. Having gotten a taste for adventure, her time in the London PA life was short-lived, and she ran off to Cape Town to join the Superyacht industry as a deckhand. In her free time, Millie loves exploring new places and immersing herself in other cultures. A huge fan of beaches and very keen to be actively involved in wildlife conservation projects and historical site preservation, she is excited to be a part of the Firebird Foundation.



OLIVIA FARMER

PURSER

NATIONALITY: BRITISH

LANGUAGES: ENGLISH

Olivia is from Devon in the South-West of the UK. She spent much of her young life sailing on the Exe Estuary and walking on Dartmoor, activities she loves to this day. Olivia worked in London for a superyacht agency before following in her parents' footsteps and working on board yachts. When not at work, Olivia loves reading, playing golf, and scouting out a good pizza. She hopes to study and further her knowledge of wine over the next year.

ABIGAIL CROWTHER

CHIEF STEWARDESS

NATIONALITY: BRITISH

LANGUAGES: ENGLISH

Abbie grew up on the border of England and Wales and throughout her life has always had a passion for hospitality. Her background in hospitality includes a year as a wedding stylist, where she developed a flair for table design, a season as a chalet host in France, where she enhanced her appreciation of wines, and nurtured her love of service, which ultimately led her to the yachting industry. She now joins after five years in the industry, working and travelling on a number of vessels between the Mediterranean and Caribbean seas. In her spare time, she enjoys travelling, skiing, and most recently, flower arranging, for which she has just completed a qualification.



TONI COMPAIN

CHIEF STEWARDESS

NATIONALITY: FIJIAN

LANGUAGES: ENGLISH

Toni grew up in Fiji and is an experienced chief stewardess. She has a wealth of knowledge and an enthusiasm which is infectious throughout her team. She has worked on numerous prestigious vessels and brings a elegant flair to all her work Firebird.





HANNA VINCENT

SECOND STEWARDESS

NATIONALITY: CANADIAN

LANGUAGES: ENGLISH

From Victoria, BC, Canada, Hanna grew up knowing that she wanted to explore the world. After a couple of years at university, Hanna was introduced to yachting, where she quickly discovered she could travel while pursuing her various interests. Hanna enjoys practising and teaching yoga and Pilates, diving, and reading. Learning about wine and coffee is her favourite part of the service. Hanna also has a diploma in graphic design and completes small projects during her time off.



AMY GRANT

HEAD OF HOUSEKEEPING

NATIONALITY: SCOTTISH

LANGUAGES: ENGLISH

Originally from the Highlands of Scotland, Amy found her love for the hospitality industry from a young age through working in restaurants and cafes in her hometown. She continued this passion through university in Glasgow, where she studied Hospitality Management and Marketing, while gaining experience in bars and fine dining venues. Soon after university, Amy joined the yachting industry where she began learning the ins and outs of the stewardess role and making the most of her desire for travel and new experiences. During her time off, she enjoys catching up with friends and family back in the UK or exploring new places on her ever-expanding bucket list.

PASCALE KEMPER

MASSEUSE STEWARDESS

NATIONALITY: SOUTH AFRICAN

LANGUAGES: ENGLISH

Pascale was born in South Africa and grew up on the sunny East Coast.

Her love for the outdoors and keen interest in adventure landed her first job at Singita Sabi Sands. After working in the African Bush, she spent a summer season in France. Her time at Le Grand Hotel Thalasso & Spa allowed her to grow within her industry and learn the beautiful language. Following six seasons on leading high-end vessels, she took a break to advance her knowledge in dermal aesthetics. Her passion for aesthetic and holistic therapies keeps her curious to always learn more.

In 2022, she accepted a temporary position on a busy charter vessel, which inspired her to continue her yachting journey.



CARMEN STEENEKAMP

NURSE STEWARDESS

NATIONALITY: SOUTH AFRICAN

LANGUAGES: ENGLISH

Carmen comes from a farm near a little town called Barkly East in South Africa. Her kindness and love of looking after people led her to pursue a career in Nursing. After four years of studying, she received her BCUR degree. She joins Firebird now after a year's hands-on nursing experience, followed by her first taste of the yachting industry based in Florida. She is very excited to combine her love of medicine with the high seas aboard her first full-time boat, Firebird. In her off time, she likes hiking, water activities, and being in nature.





MAEVA DOWNING

STEWARDESS

NATIONALITY: IRISH
LANGUAGES: ENGLISH

Maeva grew up on the sunny island of Mallorca and is a second-generation yachting enthusiast. Having been raised by both parents in the industry and having completed her first Atlantic crossing at the age of seven, pursuing a career in yachting was a natural choice for her. She combines her previous hospitality experience with an innate passion for travel and adventure to build a successful and exciting career.



SOPHIE BROOKS

STEWARDESS

NATIONALITY: BRITISH
LANGUAGES: ENGLISH

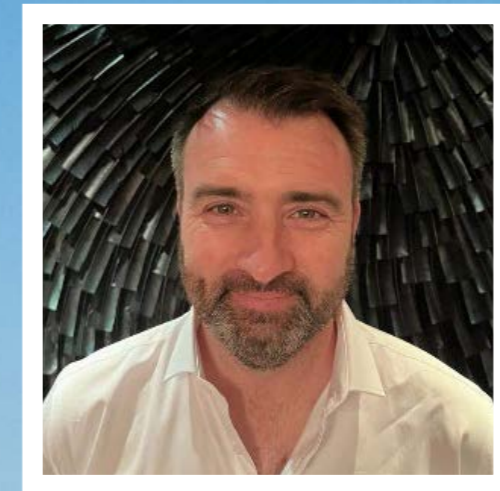
Sophie is originally from York, England. After completing her Masters in Modern History in 2021, Sophie taught English as a foreign language to young children and worked as a private history tutor. During this period, she also developed her career in hospitality, working as a barista in cafes, at a private members' club, in restaurants, and at a cocktail bar. Sophie is an adventurous and active individual who loves exploring new places, practising yoga, and diving.

SCOTT WALKER

CHIEF ENGINEER

NATIONALITY: BRITISH
LANGUAGES: ENGLISH

Scott's passion for the ocean runs deep. Born with sea legs, he's spent more time in the water than on land. After hitting the books to study marine engineering, he took a detour to race sailboats professionally for four thrill-filled years. But his love for engineering called him back, and he dove into his studies once more. Since earning his degrees, he's embarked on an epic 14-year yachting voyage—and he hasn't looked back. For Scott, every day on the water feels like play. Whether he's surfing, sailing, wakeboarding, or scuba diving, this fun-loving seafarer is in his happy place. It's no wonder he loves his career. For this ocean enthusiast, work and play go hand-in-hand.



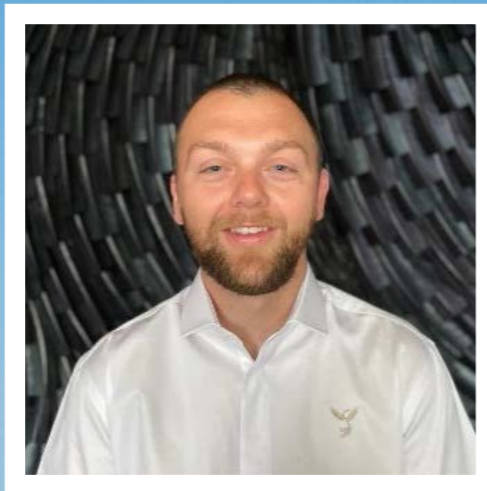
ALEX MANNING

CHIEF ENGINEER

NATIONALITY: BRITISH
LANGUAGES: ENGLISH

Alex grew up in rural France where his parents ran an Auberge, so he was lucky enough to attend a French school and experience a different culture. When he moved back to the UK, he found a passion for engines and studied Diesel Mechanics. However, it wasn't until he ventured back to the South of France that he found his way into yachting, where he could combine his passion for engines with his newfound love for the sea. He has now been an engineer on yachts for over 10 years and still loves every minute of it. In his spare time, he enjoys being a dad, but he also loves boxing, cycling, and the occasional game of golf.





CHRIS CLARKE

SECOND ENGINEER

NATIONALITY: BRITISH

LANGUAGES: ENGLISH

Chris is originally from Wolverhampton, England, and began his apprenticeship to train as a marine engineer in 2008. He started out building yachts at Sunseeker, then moved on to work in a variety of boatyards before joining the yachting industry in 2013. Although his specialty is mechanical engineering, Chris loves a challenge and will have a go at fixing any problem presented to him. Chris now lives in West Wittering on the South Coast. Between rotations, he enjoys fixing his own boat, spending time paddle surfing, and hanging out with his grumpy cat, Big Toni.



FABIAN MARTENS

SECOND ENGINEER

NATIONALITY: DUTCH

LANGUAGES: ENGLISH, DUTCH

Fabian comes from Rotterdam in the Netherlands. From an early age, he has always been in and around boats and ships. With his family working at sea, it was an easy choice to fulfil his own thirst for adventure there as well. With a commercial shipping background and several years on yachts, he is capable of providing for the daily technical needs on board. In his time off, he likes to unwind on his classic motorcycle and indulge in his passions for history, art, and sailing.

JAMES SNELLEMAN

HEAD CHEF

NATIONALITY: AUSTRALIAN

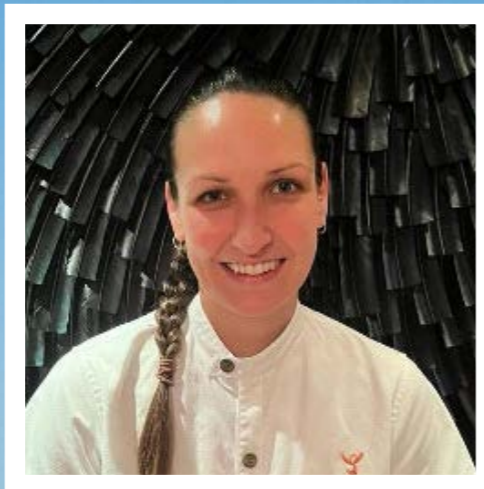
LANGUAGES: ENGLISH

James grew up in the northern suburbs of Melbourne, where he currently resides with his wife and two young children. His passion for food was sparked early during a trip to China. Working alongside some of Australia's finest chefs exposed him to natural and indigenous food sources.

James enjoys hiking along coastlines, through forests, and across beaches in search of samphire, mushrooms, and edible flowers. He spent five years as second in command at 'Attica', Australia's highest-ranking restaurant, under chef Ben Shewry, contributing significantly to the cuisine's creative development. Attica was ranked 21st on San Pellegrino's World's 50 Best list.

In 2016, James shifted his career focus to Europe to apply his culinary skills in the yachting industry. Shortly after his move, he participated in and won first place at the 2016-17 MYBA Charter Broker Show Chef's competition in Genoa, Italy.





AMY GELDERBLOM

SOUS CHEF

NATIONALITY: SOUTH AFRICAN

LANGUAGES: ENGLISH

Amy was raised in Cape Town, South Africa, where she has cooked since she could reach the kitchen counter. Daughter to parents with a very keen food culture, it was no surprise when Amy went to college; she traded her school blazer for a chef jacket. She has twelve years of culinary experience and has worked in fine dining restaurants, 5-star hotels, on Seabourn Cruise Line, and now on superyachts. As a classically French-trained chef, Amy's expertise lies in baking and patisserie, as well as simple family-style food, but she naturally has some fine dining skills up her sleeve. Amy looks forward to sharing her passion through plates onboard Firebird.



FRANCES ATTWOOD

SOUS CHEF

NATIONALITY: BRITISH

LANGUAGES: ENGLISH

Born in Derby, in the Midlands in England, Frances has had a love of food from a young age. After completing her apprenticeship and working in a Michelin-starred restaurant, she won the Young Chef of the Year award in 2017. Frances then began working around the world to explore new flavours and places. She is currently enjoying her second year of yachting and is a keen chocolatier, drawing inspiration from local flavours which she incorporates into her chocolate creations.

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