

CAPTAIN'S PROFILE



Captain Owen Jones talks about his job on board Diamond A to Frances and Michael Howorth.

What made you join the superyacht industry?

I was brought up in Qatar where my father was a civil engineer. My brother and I spent many hours on the beaches swimming and sailing in the warm waters.

What was your first superyacht and when did you join her?

I joined Little Sis 16 years and moved from a Deckhand to become her Captain inside a space of 13 months and there is no way you could do that now.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I love arrival at the bigger ports. After a long sea passage a complex pilotage into the massive harbour really adds to the excitement. Top of the list are Hong Kong & New York City.

Which is your favourite Mediterranean port and why do you like it?

Genoa and Portofino. I love most of the ports on the Italian coast but if I am truthful the harbour I most look forward to is the next one.

How does being a Captain affect your family life?

I have become a VSAT Daddy, without it I could not chat with Rhys my two year old son every day using skype.

What makes your yacht special?

Firstly, she is big, strong, sea worthy and spacious. I also love the programme we work to. It's the perfect mix of charter and owner's use.

Do you have a pet hate and if so what is it?

I do not like the trend away from bespoke charter experiences towards production holiday experiences. Time after time we are visiting the same ports and anchorages in the company of other white yachts.

If you had a magic wand what would you change in the job?

The idea that bigger is better! It has to stop sometime soon and once you have done all you can to improve the hardware it will be time to turn your attention to the software. In superyachts the hardware is the yacht herself, the software is the crew. The next big thing will be to give them a higher grade of on board training that will enhance the guest experience.

What's the most curious request you have had made of you?

Whilst Captain of a yacht under charter to a Middle Eastern family we had to cover up on board any sculptures of the naked form and remove paintings that showed bare breasts. The amusing thing was that we were cruising the coastline of the Balearic Islands where the family went to the beach everyday on which there were ladies wearing little else save dental floss.

What is the most funny superyacht experience you can recall?

That has to be a Chief Engineer on one of my earlier commands, he was a great prankster. On one occasion when we had just dropped anchor off Pamplona beach, he jumped into the sea fully clothed wearing his engine room clothes, then swam around

to the stern of the boat as we lowered the swim platform and the guests assembled to go ashore. Shouting as he swam, he accused us of leaving him on the dock in St Tropez and causing him to swim after the yacht.

What advice would you give to someone new entering the industry?

Learn from others and promise yourself you will be a better Captain than those you have worked for. There is room in all of us for improvement. Never forget you are part of a team. Your company's only product is the satisfaction of your owner and his guests, it's all about the level of service.

How would you like to be remembered as a Captain?

As being safety conscious, my motto is "If you think you should do it, then do it now". I also tell crew to be prepared to walk away from the job especially if you are being asked to do something you inherently know to be wrong.

What would you like to do when you cease being in command of a superyacht?

I have to stop? Who says so?

Quick Fire

Favourite Motorcar: E Type Jaguar

Favourite Motorbike: Vespa

Favourite Movie of all time: The Godfather

Favourite Book: The Cruel Sea by Nicholas Monserrat

Favourite Movie Star: Keira Knightley

Favourite Music Artist: Pink Floyd

Favourite Music Track: Another Brick in the Wall

Favourite Super Yacht: This one of course!

Favourite City: Monaco

Favourite Super Yacht destination: The Maldives Islands

Favourite Classic Super Yacht: Velsheda

Captain's CV

Name: Owen Jones

Age: 48

Nationality: British

Previous yachts as crew: Little Sis

Previous yachts in command: Little Sis, Southern Cross III,

Christine, Ultima III

Current yacht: Diamond A (ex Ultima III)

Number of crew: 15

Charter Central Agent: David Price at Hill Robinson

Charter Fee per week: Low season €280,000 and

High season €350,000