

Blackbeard and the Health and safety at work Act

Bob Gessey 22/4/07

Blackbeard was a pirate, the scourge of the Spanish Main
South -south West to the West Indies and he sailed right back again
With the Nastiest Cruellest Cut throat crew that lived a pirate life
They pillaged and they murdered and Raped all day and sang and danced all
night

Blackbeard was the captain he sailed the golden coast
Blackbeard was the cruellest one, the one they feared the most
Sailing from Jamaica to the shores of Panama
To raid the Spanish Colonies of Nicaragua

A sailor joined in Cuba He wasn't like the rest
He became the Bosun's mate and started to impress
He influenced the seamen and complaints began to grow
With mutterings of mutiny from the decks below

The sea was calm so Blackbeard - called the crew on the deck
Brandishing his cutlass right up to the Bosun's neck
He said 'You are a traitor from the Spanish Embassy'?
He said I'm far more dangerous -I'm from health and safety

The atmosphere was electric as the man made his demands
The bosuns mate began to read the list from off his hands
I've got a list of changes and starting from the top
I'm giving you full warning sir, we want the weekends off

We wants a proper uniform and regular refreshment breaks
We wants to start a social club and flexible working rates
We wants to have a training day and one more thing its true
We wants a proper dental plan and health and safety too

Blackbeards great dilemma he had to acquiesce
And quite imperceptibly the ship became a mess
Where it took a single man to lift a treasure chest
now there's got to be two of them one with a yellow vest

All of a sudden the canon balls are locked inside a store
Sign a form in triplicate if you need some more
Complete a risk assessment if intending using force
You shouldn't climb the rigging if you haven't had a course

Blackbeard ruled by terror yes he lived it by the sword
But nowadays he's had to throw his cutlass overboard
So when he found a crewman stealing half a side of lamb
He dragged him to the flogging post and gave him an action plan

There's a piracy committee where the policy is past
You can read the minutes they'll be nailed upon the mast
It's difficult to sail the sea and live a life of crime
When 60% of the pirate crew is working flexi time

They introduced a Rota and they've had a fire drill
An occupational health check for when as pirates III
For counting out the treasure trove there's an audit trail
Reduced the crewman's alcohol..You shouldn't drink and sail

Instead of making it better Things got slowly worse
For every mile they travelled front they went two in reverse
When Piracy was over by 1763 It wasn't because of the British fleet
It was health and safety