

PAVILION “PIRATES” PUMMELED AT GRATTONS

The Omens of dark clouds all around on Sunday the 24th day of November 2019 were not good as the already depleted 6 gun crews of the rampaging “Pavilion Pirates” sallied forth individually in crews towards Crawley with the evil intent of crushing the carrion crews of “Grattons” **Note:-** “Gratton” in Olde English has several meanings e.g.: a place infested with crows, a clearing, a great hill or enclosure etc.

Arriving at “Grattons” the lead crew immediately captured a “Grattons” warrior and bribed her to join the “Pirates” replacing the missing member who was suffering a sudden attack of scurvy and no other volunteers for this perilous mission had been available..Thus one Patricia Sandiford, of “Grattons” accepted and joined “Pirates” crew No.5.

Rules of engagement and lines of battle were quickly decided between Captains of the day Phil Carter and Neil Cole. The first shots were fired by the “Pirates” at 4 bells (2pm) and it was noted that “Grattons” had installed some heavy guns on their decks. Grattons had prepared well.

The battle raged with the “Pirates” suffering more shots than were received on 4 gun decks, with only 2 gun crews delivering more shots than received.”Pirates” No.4 gun crew had suffered a massive hit due to “Grattons” No 4 gun crews’ persistant accuracy.

“Pirates” No’s 1, 3 and 5 gun crews were also suffering continuous hits from “Grattons” crews heavy guns. Crews No 2 & 6 were fighting well but after 10 broadsides the “Pirates” had suffered 57 hits and delivered 48 into “Grattons” decks. Both sides being exhausted, a truce was called at 7 bells (3:30 pm) and retired for refreshment.

The battle resumed a quarter hour before 8 bells (4.pm) and was fought with no quarter asked and none being given. The “Pirates” suffered on gun decks 1,3,4 & 6, receiving more hits than received but with decks 2 and 5 holding firm until an armistice was called at a quarter of the hour past 2 bells (5:15 pm).

Only “Pirates” gun crew No. 2, lead by Commander Dave Thomas had survived intact delivering 28 hits against 13 received whilst crew No. 5 Commander Jim Lindup suffered 3 shots below the waterline on the 20th broadside and finally receiving 19 hits to 18 given on the 21st broadside having fought a hard battle.

“Grattons” demanded the return of their warrior and showed clemency by allowing the “Pirates” to refresh themselves on a superb feast before they returned to their craft and licking their wounds, scurried away at 5 bells (6.30 pm) to the safety of the Pavilion HQ.

Pavilion had been pummelled with 143 hits received against 87 delivered.

Crew 1:	R. Humphrey,	J. Lay,	G. Kibbles,	R. Forrester
Crew 2:	G. Morrey	P. Tomley,	J. Gauntlett,	D. Thomas
Crew 3:	R. Kuhr,	I. Lay,	M. Steggell,	B. Bodicoat
Crew 4:	P. Carter,	C. Byrnes	A. Pannu,	C. Brown
Crew 5:	P. Sandiford,	P. Crompton,	G. Shallis,	J. Lindup
Crew 6:	B.Jones,	T. Rollasson	K. Byrnes,	K. Chapman