

Liverpool Judies

1. From Liverpool to 'Frisco a-rovin' I went,
For to stay in that country was my good
intent.
But drinking strong whiskey like other damn
fools,
Oh, I soon got transported back to Liverpool.

**And it's row (row) row bullies. Row!
Them Liverpool judies
have got us in tow.**

2. A smart Yankee packet lies out in the
Bay,
A-waitin' a fair wind to get underway.
With all of her sailors so sick and so sore,
They'd drunk all their whiskey and can't get
no more.

**And it's row (row) row bullies. Row!
Them Liverpool judies
have got us in tow.**

3. Oh, here comes the mate in an 'ell of a
stew.
He's lookin' for work for us sailors to do.
Oh, it's "Fore tops'l halyards!" he loudly
does roar,
And it's lay aloft Paddy, ye son-o'-a-whore!

**And it's row (row) row bullies. Row!
Them Liverpool judies
have got us in tow.**

4. One night of Cape Horn I shall never
forget,
'Tis oft-times I sighs when I think of it yet.
She was divin' bows under with her sailors
all wet,
She was doin' twelve knots with her main-
skys'l set.

**And it's row (row) row bullies. Row!
Them Liverpool judies
have got us in tow.**

5. And soon we'll be haulin' way on to the
Line,
When I thinks of it now, sure, we had a good
time.
Them sea-boys box-haulin' them yards all
around
For to chase that flash packet called
Thatcher MacGowan.

**And it's row (row) row bullies. Row!
Them Liverpool judies
have got us in tow.**

6. And now we've arrived in the
Bramley Moor Dock,
And all them flash judies to the pierhead do
flock.
The barrel's run dry and our five quid
advance,
So I guess it's high time for to get up and
dance.

**And it's row (row) row bullies. Row!
Them Liverpool judies
have got us in tow.**

7. Here's a health to the Cap'n where'er he
may be,
A bucko on land and a bully at sea,
And as for the chief mate, the dirty ol' brute,
We hope when he dies straight to hell he'll
skyhoot.

**And it's row (row) row bullies. Row!
Them Liverpool judies
have got us in tow.**



Brown, Terry,
a still photo from his video:
***The Spinners - Liverpool
Judies***

available on [YouTube](#) and other
places.

Notes:

Capstan shanty, popular on Liverpool ships!

Alternative Titles: Liverpool judies, Roll bullies roll, Row bullies row, Roll Julia roll, Towrope girls.

This version: CD: Three Sheets to the Wind: *All Tide Up*.

Hugill, Stan, 1994, *Shanties from the Seven Seas*:

[This Shanty] probably dates from the 1840s, since it was popular in the western ocean packets.

Two different themes were common and three tunes were used, with slight variance of these tunes among different sailor groups like those of the Tyne, Liverpool, Bristol Channel, London et cetera.

Notes on the words

Row bullies row - sometimes roll bullies roll.

Bullies - fellow-sailors

Liverpool judies - young girls - also used for the tide that pulls the ships up the Mersey. "In the case of this shanty the word judy - the common Liverpool word for a young girl - was used"
[Hugill (ibid)]

Got us in tow -

The phrase '**Towrope Girls**' was a common one in the days of sail. When a ship was homeward bound with a favourable wind someone would remark :

'Aye, the gals 'ave got 'old of our towrope, me hearties!'

They were a sort of magnet, supposedly pulling with sailors and their ship towards the land...
[Hugill (ibid)]

Packet - packet ship, delivering mail.

Fore tops'l halyards - halyards (ropes) to pull the topsail yards on the fore mast.

Main skys'l - skysail on the mainmast,

Skysail - The sail set next above the royal in a square-rigged ship, the sixth sail in ascending order from the deck, its two tacks secured to the ends of the yard on which the royal is set. Like the royal, it is a light-weather sail, set only when the wind is steady and favourable.

The **main skysail** is marked in the sail plan below

The author of skysail.com gives the sail plan below and the definition from the [The Oxford Companion to Ships and the Sea](#).

Box-haul - To turn a square-rigged ship about on the heel by bracing the sails aback. / to bring (a square-rigger) onto a new tack by backwinding the foresails and steering hard round.

Nick Burke, Sail plan, from skysail.com,

