

## 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 pier-head 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 at  
[youtu.be/Dtmzv2dV0cA](https://youtu.be/Dtmzv2dV0cA) :  
***The Spinners - Liverpool  
Judies***

**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*.  
Listen to **The Spinners** sing it on [youtu.be/Dtmzv2dV0cA](http://youtu.be/Dtmzv2dV0cA), where the words appear!

**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,... but here it means to the **tide that pulls** the ships up the Mersey.

**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 girls 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.

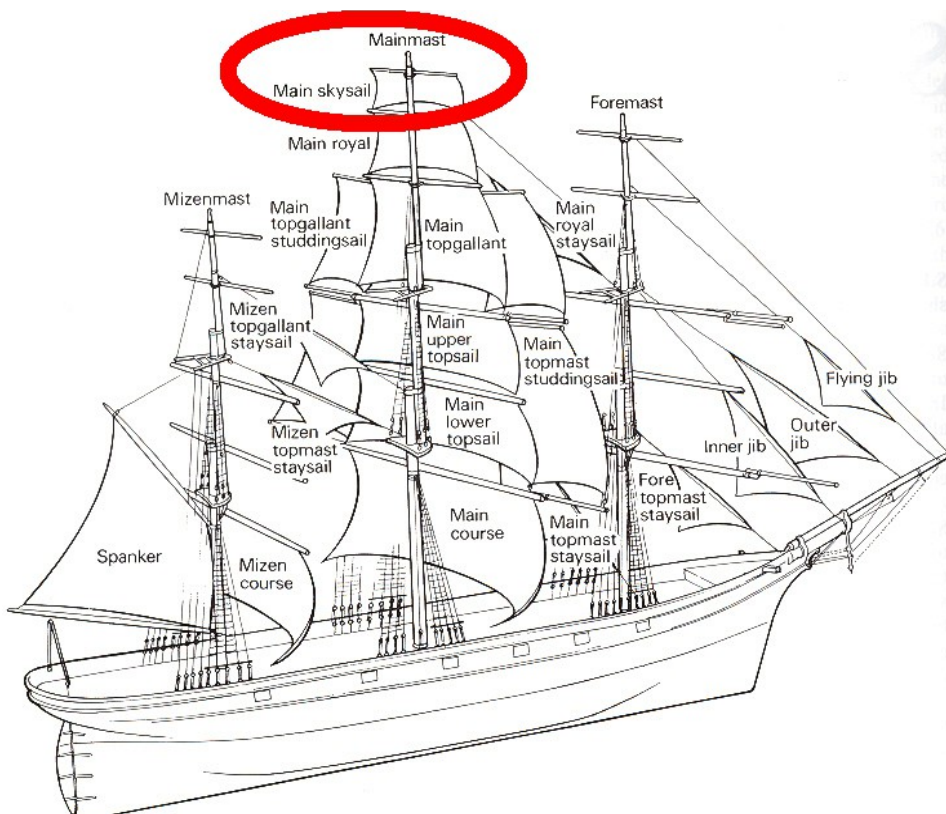
**Main skys'l** - skysail on the mainmast (see below)

**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 circled in the sail plan below.

The author of [skysail.com](http://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.



The **skysail** (skys'l)

Nick **Burke**, Sail plan, from [skysail.com](http://skysail.com),