

The Wellerman – a sea shanty

There once was a ship that put to sea
and the name o the ship was the billy of tea
The winds blew hard
her bow dipped down now
blow me bil-ly boys blow ha!

V1 Tenors

There once was a ship that put to sea
and the name o the ship was the billy of tea
The winds blew hard
her bow dipped down now
blow me bil-ly boys blow ha!

CHORUS all sing

Soon may the Wellerman come
to bring us sugar and tea and rum
One day when the tonguein' is done
we'll take our leave and go

V2 Altos

She had not been two-o weeks from shore
when down on her a-a right whale bore
The captain called all hands and swore he'd
take that whale in tow ha!

V3 Sops

Before the boat had hit the water
the whal-es tail came up and caught her
All hands to the side harpooned
and fought her when
she dived down be-low ha!

V4 Bass A2

No line was cut, no-o whale was freed
and the cap-tains mind wa-as not on greed but he belonged to the whale man's creed.
She took that ship in tow ha!

V5 Altos

For forty days or even more
The line went slack then tight once more
All boats were lost, there were only four and
still that whale did go ha!