

Rollin' Down the River

By Jack Forbes (1982)

This song reflects the workings of modern container shipping in the Thames estuary. OCL is the 'Ocean Containers Ltd' and a TEU is a 'Twenty foot Equivalent Unit' – an ISO container. Short Drag Roger arrangement.

Oh! I once was a rigger and I worked like hell
Rolling up rolling down
But now I'm sailing with the OCL
To go rolling down the river

When first I saw a TEU
I wondered where they stowed the crew

Chorus
Rolling up rolling down
We'll all get drunk in Tilbury town
Twenty four hours to turn around
And go rolling down the river

Well cargo comes in TEUs
A 20 foot box boys filled with booze

Tilbury girls go round in pairs
You won't catch them unawares

Chorus

There's a Tilbury girl called Kettle Jane
First on the boil then off again

She's got a mate called Teapot Anne
When she gets well brewed she likes a man

Chorus

<more>

Down on the dock-gates where the work is done
You can pick 'em up one by one

Well, we're the boys to see her through
To hell with The Channel and the TEU

Chorus

