

## A WESTERLY (Dave Evardson)

Dm C G A  
A westerly's a kindly breeze to help you where you're goin'  
Dm C G A Dm  
And if you've had a lousy trip, the bumper crews are knowin'  
Dm C G A  
They'll see you've got a westerly, & tek you on the spree  
Dm C G A Dm  
Sayin: come on Jack, for many's the trip you've done as much for me

### Chorus:

Dm C G A  
A westerly, a westerly, you've been a friend to me  
F C G A Dm  
Wi'out the occasional westerly, I don't know where I'd be

When I sailed out wi' Northern's, we had bumper trips galore  
I was a two-day millionaire each trip we came ashore  
But if a pal should land in debt, you'd stand him two or three  
And stuff notes in his pocket - you'd be his westerly

Then came that bloody Iceland trip, we struck a howling gale  
A boiling sea grabbed hold of me & dragged me o'er the rail  
Then back on deck she slammed me hard, then no more work for me  
Wi' a broken leg me pay was stopped, I'd need a westerly

So back a shore in plaster sore I thought down dock I'd hop  
And at the door o' Cottie's Bar I had to make a stop  
Three kindly lasses of the street all winked and smiled at me  
Sayin: come inside love, have a jar, d'you need a westerly?

Now, once inside they sat me down & ordered me a double  
Then pints until I had to plead: don't go to all this trouble!  
They disappeared for half an hour, & then returned to me  
Wi' a twenty quid collection, sayin' here's your westerly!

So trawlermen & pavement girls, I'll never run 'em down  
You'll never find their likes again in this or any town  
I'll not forget their kindness when misfortune came to me  
Or the days we helped each other out wi' a welcome westerly

### NOTES:

"A Westerly" was how Grimsby fishermen referred to a pal who would "sub" them through a lean spell ashore following a poor trip.

"Northern's" was Northern Trawlers - one of several major fleets that sailed out of Grimsby.

"Cottie's Bar" still exists - one of countless fishermen's watering holes in Freeman Street, Grimsby. This is reportedly a true story. When the trawlerman in question eventually recovered from his injury & was earning again, his wife made him go back to Cottie's, to repay the kindly prostitutes who'd sub'd him.