

# The Handicapper

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**Intro:** 'til [D] boredom over-[A]-took us, and [E7] he began to [A] speak [A]

On a [A] warm summer's evenin' on a [D] boat bound for [A] nowhere,  
I [D] met up with the [A] sailor; we were both too tired to [E7] sleep.  
So [A] we took turns a steerin' in the [D] cockpit and the [A] darkness  
'til [D] boredom over-[A]-took us, and [E7] he began to [A] speak. [A]

He said, [A] "Son, I've made a life out of [D] crewin' in yacht [A] races,  
and [D] knowin' how the [A] boat sails by the way the telltale [E7] flies.  
So if [A] you don't mind my sayin', I think [D] you'd be losing [A] places.  
For a [D] taste of your [A] whiskey I will [E7] give you some ad-[A]-vice." [A]

So I [A] handed him my bottle and he [D] drank down my last [A] swallow.  
Then he [D] bummed a cigar-[A]-ette, ... and asked me for a [E7] light.  
And the [A] night got deathly quiet, and his [D] face lost all ex-[A]-pression.  
Said, "If you're [D] gonna play the [A] game, boy,  
ya gotta [E7] learn to play it [A] right. [A !]

You got to [A] know when to raise 'em, [D] know when to [A] reef 'em,  
[D] know when to [A] bear away and know when to [E7] run.  
You never [A !] count [A !] your [A] trophies when you're [D] sittin' in the [A] cockpit  
There'll be [D] time enough for [A] countin'  
when the [E7] handicapper's [A] done.

[A/////] (Key change) [C/////] [C/////]

[C] Every sailor knows that the [F] secret to sur-[C]-vival  
is [F] knowin' what to [C] throw away and knowing what to [G7] keep.  
'Cause [C] every boat's a winner and [F] every boats a [C] loser,  
and the [F] best that you can [C] hope for is to [G7] die in the [C] deep." [C]

And [C] when he'd finished speakin', I went [F] back towards the [C] cabin,  
saw his [F] glowin' cigar-[C]-ette ... and faded off to [G7] sleep.  
And [C] somehow in the darkness the [F] sailor, he went [C] over.  
But [F] in his final [C] words I found some [G7] wisdom I could [C] keep. [C !]

You got to [C] know when to raise 'em, [F] know when to [C] reef 'em,  
[F] know when to [C] bear away and know when to [G7] run.  
You never [C !] count [C !] your [C] trophies when you're [F] sittin' in the [C] cockpit  
There'll be [F] time enough for [C] countin'  
when the [G7] handicapper's [C] done. [C !]

You got to [C] know when to raise 'em, [F] know when to [C] reef 'em,  
[F] know when to [C] bear away and know when to [G7] run.  
You never [C !] count [C !] your [C] trophies when you're [F] sittin' in the [C] cockpit  
There'll be [F] time enough for [C] countin'  
when the [G7] handicapper's [C] done.

There'll be [F] time enough for [C] countin'  
when the [G7] handicapper's [C] done [C !]