
Conducting April Day

April Day is Plain Bob Doubles, rung with Grandsire singles instead of bobs, it is known as a variation rather than a method.

Calling April Day

Like Grandsire, the calls are made at handstroke, a blow earlier than a call in Plain Bob Doubles.

The bell making seconds is unaffected by the calls. Don't call the 2nd as observation bell, if you want a true 120 that comes round. Have the 3rd, 4th or 5th as the observation bell, to ensure the 120 does not end with a call.

If you become adept at spotting the observation bell, you can simply put calls in every time you know it's about to do so:

- If you have just dodged 3-4 down with a particular bell
- Or if you were ringing long fifths and saw a bell dodging 3-4 up in front of you

you know they should make seconds place at the next lead.

If the conductor is ringing the 3, 4 or 5, they can call themselves unaffected in a touch by calling a single when they make their first blow in lead and are about to make seconds place. Otherwise, the order of calls would be as follows:

- Pass treble in 2-3 (about to dodge 3-4 up)
- Pass treble in 5ths at the back (about to dodge 3-4 down)
- Pass treble in 4ths (about to make long fifths)

Conducting tips

One of the most common errors in ringing this variation is ringers momentarily forgetting to ring Plain Bob Doubles again immediately after the call. A good knowledge of the treble passing positions is essential when ringing any variation.

If a conductor and the rest of the band are very familiar with Plain Bob, this can be helpful if one ringer has a trip, but the singles will change the order of bells in a very different way than the native bobs would.

As the conductor, it may help to spot which bell is unaffected in each touch so that you can check they are making seconds every time you make a call. If everything is going to plan, they should be unaffected every time within the same 120.