
Conducting Reverse St Bartholomew

Reverse St Bartholomew is St Augustine, rung with Plain Bob plain leads. It is a variation rather than a method, and because (like April Day) it is a mixture of Grandsire Singles and Plain Bob, it is much more commonly rung than St Augustine.

Calling Reverse St Bartholomew

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

The bell making seconds is unaffected by the calls, but bell 2 can never be called unaffected in a touch of 120 as this simply comes round after 40 changes.

Only three possible touches of 120 are available. If the conductor is ringing the 3, 4 or 5, they can call extents with themselves unaffected. If you are adept at spotting another bell about to make seconds, you can put calls in every time this is about to happen. Otherwise, the order of calls is as follows:

- Pass treble in 3rd place (when about to make long thirds) – dodge 3-4 up instead.
- Pass treble in 4th place (when about to double dodge 4-5 up) – make long fifths instead.
- Pass treble in 5th place (when about to double dodge 4-5 down) – dodge 3-4 down instead.

Because the method temporarily switches to Plain Bob Doubles at a call, these treble passing places should be reassuringly familiar.

Conducting tips

The most common trip happens when a ringer continues ringing Plain Bob Doubles after a bob. Watch out for ringers drifting off and forgetting to switch back.

As a conductor, try to keep an eye on the bell making seconds at each call, it should be the same bell three times during an extent. If you see a different bell than you were expecting, it is likely that a swap has occurred.

Making the call at the right time is essential, as ringers need time to react quickly to the calls. So, if you realise you've missed a call or it's likely to be late, it's better to allow a plain course to go round and time the call right next time, than put it in late.