



The Whiting Society of Ringers

Lottery

An exercise in “Ropesight” for simulator equipped towers

It is recommended that this exercise is carried out with the bells silenced to the public – it doesn't sound particularly nice. Each “go” lasts only a few seconds, so a session of a minute or two can be quite valuable. The overriding objective is to get the student thinking in terms of “place”, rather than “bell number”, and ultimately to be able to see what place he is in from the fall of the ropes.

Select the six ringers to participate, and allocate each a bell, one to six. There's no particular need to load the band with experience; it's better to let more students participate. No one outside is going to hear. Each ringer draws a card, face down, from the pack of six lottery cards, and doesn't let the other ringers see which one he has. The instructor privately views each student's card, and makes a note of who has what. The students then take hold to ring, taking the ropes they were allocated by the instructor at the start. The numbers on the cards refer to the place each must ring in, not the bell number!

One student must have the “Lead” card. He says, “Look to: going: gone”, as usual. He has the easiest job, and the one with the “Seconds Place” card has one almost as easy, as the “Look to” alerts him to whom to follow. However, the students with the remaining cards, “Thirds Place”, “Fourths Place”, “Fifths Place” and “Sixths Place” have no idea which rope to follow, and have to use ropesight to put their bells in the correct place. As soon as the bells are ringing in the correct order, the instructor can call “Stand”, and the process can be repeated.

With practice, the students will acquire the skill to pull off the bells in the correct order, and the exercise will prove valuable in weaning them off the obsession with following a “Bell Number” which is a consequence of calling call changes by bell number. Used in conjunction with other exercises, it helps them to develop ropesight.

There is much more about the use of “Practice Methods” to teach the fundamentals of change ringing in our books *Carry on Counting* and *Doubles or Quit* – see:

www.whittingsociety.org.uk

... for more information, and visit our on-line shop to see the full range of books about bells and bellringing.



Lead

1

1

Seconds
Place

2

2

Thirds
Place

3

3

Fourths
Place

4

4

Fifths
Place

5

5

Sixths
Place

6

6