

Course and After bells

Coursing is a way of describing how bells follow each other around in a method. One way to think of it is the order in which bells arrive at the front and the back.

A *course* bell is the bell you are coursing. The bell ahead of you when you arrive at the lead, or the back is your *course* bell.

An *after* bell is the bell that follows your bell. This is the bell behind you, which leads after you, or arrives at the back after you.

In plain hunt, the cycle of work is quite straightforward. It's helpful to know your course and after bells because you will meet them at the front and the back of the row.

The *after* bell will take your bell off the lead, and the *course* bell is the one that you take off the lead. These provide a reference point for ringing plain hunt.

Developing an awareness of course and after bells when ringing is helpful later on when progressing on to ringing methods.

The coursing order explained

In Plain Hunt the bells come down to the lead in a certain order.

- Your course bell is the bell you ring over before you lead.
- You take it off the lead.
- If you are ringing the **4** it is the **2**.

- Your after bell is the bell you ring over in 2nd place after leading.
- It takes you off the lead.
- If you are ringing the **4** it is the **5**.

This is known as the coursing order. In Plain Hunt, it is the order that the bells follow each other to the front or the back and also the order that they pass each other in between. It is a cyclic order so you can start anywhere.

In Plain Hunt Doubles (right) the treble passes the bells in the order **2453** whilst the 3 passes them in the order **4512** [bells can't pass themselves].



(Linked document: *Plain Hunt Worksheet*)