
Teacher notes for use in theory sessions

Place bells

Place bells refer to the work done in the first lead by a particular bell.

At the lead end each bell starts the new lead in a different position in the row and then rings the work rung by the bell which started that place in the first lead. For example, in Plain Bob Doubles the 2 rings seconds place bell until the first lead end. It becomes fourth place bell and rings the work that the 4 rang in the first lead. A grid diagram may help you explain this to your ringer. All the working bells ring each place bell in turn in the plain course of a method.

When a touch is called the bells move on to different paths and ring the work of the bell they find themselves in after the call. For example, fifth place bell in Plain Bob Doubles would become third place bell at the end of the first lead, but if a bob is called it makes the bob (two blows in fourth place) and becomes fourth place bell. It then continues to ring the work that the 4 would ring in the first lead.

Advantages of ringing by place bell

- Ensures that the ringer knows the starts of all the bells.
- Divides the method into smaller parts which may be easier to learn.
- If a ringer gets lost during the method they can be told which place bell they become at the lead end, enabling them to instantly know where they are in the method.
- Ringers know which place bell they become after a call and therefore what work to ring next.

Blue line

The blue line is a way of writing out a method in diagrammatic form. Some ringers find it easier to learn a method by visualising the blue line rather than learning the words. If the numbers of the bells in a method are written out in rows one underneath each other the bells move from place to place each row. When a line is then drawn between the path of a bell this is known as the blue line.

Circle of work

The work rung in a method is cyclical. All the bells start in different places in the circle and work through the work of all the working bells in a plain course of a method eventually returning to where they started as the method comes round. Some ringers find it easier to learn a method if they think of each piece of work represented on a circle.

Passing the treble

If a ringer learns where they pass the treble in each row and what work is related to the place in which they pass the treble it will provide an extra way of knowing which work is coming up next.

If a ringer has a temporary loss of memory concerning what the next piece of work should be, passing the treble can provide an aid to their memory as to which work in the cycle of work is coming next.