

Hull Handbells Project

Notes on Learning Treble Bob Minor.

The following was written to a Kent TB learner on 6th November, 2019

I don't think there is ever a single right way of learning any one method, but a well-chosen approach can give results faster than just always using one single approach. Also, if you are really learning a method you will come back to study it several times.

Whichever preferred learning approach you use, time spent on studying and practising Plain Bob is never wasted. The knowledge and skills involved are fundamental to almost all further ringing.

For example studying the double place bell sequences for the three pairs in Bob Minor is important because that helps, big time, for more complex methods. Similarly being able to see coursing order in Bob Minor is a start and is the basis of seeing coursing order in say Cambridge or London. All of these "extras" help to overcome trips, trips should never be fatal to the touch.

But back to where we were at yesterday morning, "How to learn Kent?".

I see Kent and Oxford as progress methods, worth ringing for their own sake, harder than Plain Bob, easier than many other Treble Bob methods, and a whole lot easier than Norwich and Cambridge, let alone London.

And they are methods where the investment in time in Plain Bob starts to pay off. The essential structure (that word again) of both Kent and Oxford can be described in words as a set of rules:

- Treble rings Treble Bob Hunting.
- All of the other bells ring Treble Bob Hunting except:
- When Treble is in 1-2, places are made in 3-4 rather than dodging
- When treble is dodging above 1-2 the 1sts and 2nds places are made (just like a Plain Bob Lead end except Treble isn't leading).

That looks straightforward if you are ringing 1-2, and (to begin with) impossible if you're ringing 3-4 or 5-6.

The hardest part is the places. The spacings in Kent are counter-intuitive and deserve a lot of close inspection and memory work.

Bashing away at it if you are resilient and have a patient band around you will get you there in the end, but there are more fun approaches.

- Ringing Bastow Little Bob, Kent Little Bob, and Forward are all ways of building the skill, they all build up to Kent.
- Ringing simple plain methods like double bob develops the habit of following the treble when it's in someone else's hand.

So my encouragement this morning to look at Kent as a structure based on Plain Bob was really to show that as the methods become more complex there are different ways of using the skills acquired in Plain Bob.

On the website http://www.pchurch.org.uk/ringing/2me/6t.t.75_kent.html I chalked out the blue lines in great detail because the bobs in Kent are confusing especially if you have never met them before. My Mrs struggled with those bobs for ages.

So to summarise (as this e-mail went on a lot longer than I thought it would):

- Ring a lotalotalotta Plain Bob, 1,000 courses is a good start

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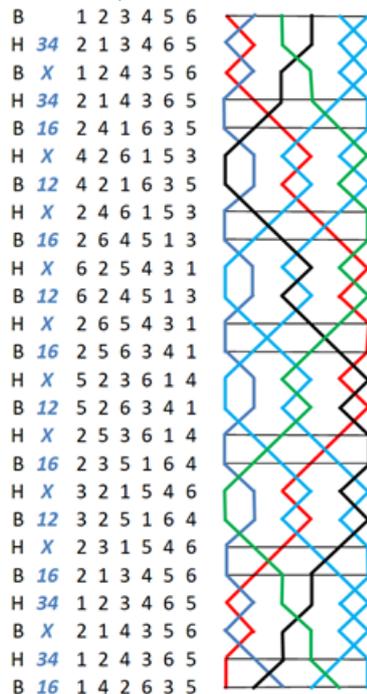
- Study Plain Bob carefully for spacings and coursing order
- Build the skill of tracking the treble a bit at a time when you are not ringing it
- Gradually build awareness of the coursing order
- Study the double lines of Kent
- Study the double lines of Kent as they relate to the treble
- Look at the rules for Kent and see how they play out as you ring the method
- Distil the rules for Bastow LB, Kent LB and Forward, then find some people to ring them with you for fun
- Ring a lot of Kent and Oxford just for fun.

Make a note of any light-bulb moments and jot me a note about them so I can improve the website for everyone.

I hope that helps, there's more on the website, especially about Blue Line artefacts, staging posts, coursing order, etc., but you don't need all of that for Kent and Oxford.

So what do I mean by structure. Structure is the way that all of the bells fit together.

Pictorially;



Some details about Kent:

- When you make 3-4 places up at the start of a lead, there's a bell making 3-4 places down; you will make 3-4 places up again at the end of the lead, and with that same bell making 3-4 places down.
- When you're in the slow,
 - when you lead, every bell hunts,
 - when you make 2nds, every bell dodges, including the treble above you, except for the bell leading.
- You start the slow work with a dodge with the treble, you then proceed to make 2nds over each bell in turn, and in Kent but not in Oxford those bells come to you in the coursing order.
- The 4 bells over which you make 2nds correspond to the treble dodging 3-4 Up, 5-6 Up, 5-6 Down, 3-4 Down.

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- End the slow work with a dodge with the treble, the next bell going into the slow is the bell after you in the coursing order

Talk to Chris Munday about methods, he always seems to have a gemstone of knowledge to share.

Hope that helps

Peter

www.pchurch.org.uk

PS (with apologies to vegetarians).

Q: How do you eat a cow?

A: One steak at a time.