Beyond Treble Bob on Handbells

02: Building more complex methods.

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Contents:

1 Introducing Treble Bob Methods

We are still working within the confines of right place methods. The standard plain methods are:

Plain Bob, Reverse Bob, Double Bob, Little Bob, Single Court, Double Court, Single Oxford, Double Oxford, College Bob, St. Clement's College Bob.

Moving beyond these methods takes us into the realms of Treble Bob Hunting for the Treble. Pure Treble Bob, Delight, and Surprise are all sub-categories of Treble Bob methods.

In developing our understanding of Treble Bob methods, the dodging positions of the treble are called sections, 1-2 section, 3-4 section etc. And the transition between sections are known as cross-sections.

From the viewpoint of method structure, little distinction is made between the three sections where the treble dodges up versus the three where it dodges down. However, a distinction is made from a ringing viewpoint, and especially so for the sections that are followed by the half lead and the lead end, because the half lead is the reflection point for palindromic methods, and the lead end is the point where calls are made and one lead joins on to the next.

2 Method Structure Units

So the method structure "units" for treble bob minor are:

- 1-2 section & 2-3 cross section
- 3-4 section & 4-5 cross section
- 5-6 section & half lead
- 5-6 section & 5-4 cross section
- 3-4 section and 3-2 cross section
- 1-2 section & lead end.

3 Treble Bob sub-categories

The Treble Bob methods have a further 3 sub categories based on the places made at the cross sections: Pure Treble Bob, Delight, and Surprise.

- In Treble Bob, the cross sections are all 16
- In 4ths place delight the 2-3 cross section is 14
- In 3rd place delight the 4-5 cross section is 36
- In Surprise methods both 2-3 cross section is 14 **and** 4-5 cross section is 36

4 Building increasingly complex methods:

The foundation method, Oxford Treble Bob, requires little in the way of Place Notation elements; it incorporates X 34 X 16 in the 1-2 sections, and X 12 X 16 for all of the other sections and cross sections. The full Place Notation is:

X 34 X 16 X 12 X 16 X 12 X 16 X 12 X 16 X 12 X 16 X 34 X 16

And the pattern is sufficiently repetitive to become a rule based method:

- When the treble is dodging in 1-2: ring X 34 X
- When the treble is dodging above 1-2, ring X 12 X (Plain Bob Lead End Structure)
- Whenever the treble is moving between sections, lying behind, or leading in the Plain Course, the Place Notation is 16. i.e. All the bells ring Plain Hunting.

5 Some simple variations:

Sandal Treble Bob: X 34 X 16 X12 X 16 X 12 X 56, 16 (Oxford with 5ths at half lead)

Duke of Norfolk TB: Sandal with 2nds at Lead End

British scholars Pleasure TB; X 36 X 16 X 12 X 16 X 14 X56, 12

Ecclesfield TB (has maximum amount of Plain Hunting): X36 X 16 X 12 X 16 X 14 X 16, 16

6 Cambridge & Norwich

6.1 Cambridge Surprise

Cambridge S Minor is the classical, highly structured 6 bell method. It employs X14X and X36X in 2 different ways. The differences relate to the position of the treble which in some cases is within the places made and in some cases outside the places made.

In the 1-2 section, X36X is the structure and treble is in 1-2, outside the places, the cross section is 14 and Treble is inside

In the 3-4 section, X12X causes the treble to dodge but then the 36 structure enables the treble to hunt through 4-5

In the 5-6 section, treble is above X14X, and lies behind for the 5-6 half lead.

6.2 Norwich Surprise

Norwich is very close to Oxford T.B. Place Notation:

X 34 X 14 X 12 X 36 X 34 X 16, 16

Which can be seen as a simple derivation from Oxford TB. The differences being the internal places at the cross sections, and the X 12 X for the third section becomes X 34 X.

For the fact that Norwich is a simple derivation from Oxford TB., it is just as hard as Cambridge to ring on handbells.

7 Danger point.

Simply layering structural ringing techniques on a single blue line (towerbells) approach to double handed ringing is confusing and prone to error. It is better to learn structural ringing as one technique, and to study double lines as a second technique, and then to blend the two techniques. This blending will lead to the "shapes" described for Plain Bob and S Clements.

8 Learning to ring Cambridge S Minor by structure, thoroughly.

Take each section and cross section in turn, and work out the places in which bells in each pair of starting point positions will fall. Example:

1-2 section. PN: X 36 X 14

- Start 1,2: Places to hit: Cross 1&2, Cross back 1&2, Cross 1&2, 1&3
- Start 1,3: Places to hit: 2&4, 1&5, 2&6, 3&5
- Start 1&4: Places to hit: 2&3, 1&3, 2&4, 3&4
- Start 1&5: Places to hit: 2&6, 1&6, 2&5, 3&6
- Start 1&6: Places to hit: 2&5, 1 &4, meet 2&3, cross 2&3
- Start 2&3: Places to hit: 1&4, 2&5, 1&6, 1&5
- Start 2&4: Places to hit: 1&3, 2&3, 1&4, 1&4
- Start 2&5: Places to hit: 1&6, 2&6, 1&5, 1&6
- Start 2&6: Places to hit: 1&5, 2&4, 1&3, meet 1&2
- Start 3&4: Places to hit: cross 3&4, 3&5, 4&6, together 4&5
- Start 3&5: Places to hit: 4&6, 5&6, cross 5&6, cross 5&6
- Start 3&6: Places to hit: meet 4&5m cross 4&5, 3&6, 3&5
- Start 4&5: Places to hit: 3&6, 3&6, 4&5, 4&6
- Start 4&6: Places to hit: 3&5, meet 3&4, cross 3&4, 2&4
- Start 5&6: Places to hit: cross 5&, 4&6, 3&5, 2&6.

The above is written in detail to emphasize that ringing a method requires all of the starting place combinations for each section and cross section need to be interpreted into places to strike in, and that needs to be done at handbell speeds.

It is unwise to attempt to memorise the places, better to use a memory technique to generate the places subconsciously.

The recommended memory technique is to associate the structural places with the work of the treble in each section.

9 Cambridge Surprise, the sections and cross sections

9.1 1-2 Up and 2-3

X 3-6 X 1-4

The 3-6 Section causes the treble to dodge in 1-2 (or vice versa), the 36 hunting box is made by the 4 working bells that exclude than the one dodging with the treble.

The 1-4 Cross section causes a dodge in 5-6 (like a Plain Bob Bob), BUT, the treble hunts through 2-3.

A consequence of X 36 X 14 is that the bell that starts from 6th place plain hunts all the way down to lead

9.2 3-4 Up and 4-5

X 12 X 36

We choose only to ring standard sections in Minor, X 1-2 X (Plain Bob Lead end structure)

In Surprise the 4-5 Cross section is 3-6.

9.3 5-6 Up and half lead

X 14 X 56

The 5-6 Section has Treble dodging in 5-6 and hunting in the 1-4 “box” below.

The treble lies behind as the pivot bell makes 5ths, and the other pairs of bells dodge together.

9.4 5-6 Down and 5-4

X 14 X 36

The X 14 X is hunting work with treble dodging above.

The treble then hunts down 5-4 through the 3-6 cross section places.

9.5 3-4 down and 3-2

X 12 X 14

We choose only to ring standard sections in Minor, X 1-2 X(Plain Bob Lead end structure)

The 14 cross-section brings the treble down to the 1-2 section.

9.6 1-2 down and lead

Clearly dodging in 1-2 and hunting above.

Note the bell that crossed with the treble in 2-3, hunts through the 3-6 box all the way to 6ths.

10 Further Observations on Cambridge S Minor

The blue line for a single bell is relatively easy to memorise as it contains large chunks of easily referenced work. The structural approach for handbell ringing gives a completely different experience of the method.

Cambridge S Minor is a fluid method with 4 instances in each lead of bells travelling, uninterrupted, between lead and lie.

At the same time, one bell dodges for the treble in 1-2, makes places and dodges with the treble in 3-4, makes places and dodges for the treble in 5-6.

In that last dodge, the bell with which it dodges starts making the places.

11 Norwich Surprise, the sections and cross sections

11.1 1-2 Up and 2-3

X 3-4 X 1-4

The 3-6 Section is unchanged from Oxford Treble Bob.

The 1-4 Cross section causes a dodge in 5-6 (like a Plain Bob Bob), BUT, the treble hunts through 2-3. So a dodge in 5-6 for the section is linked to a dodge for the cross section.

11.2 3-4 Up and 4-5

X 12 X 36

We choose only to ring standard sections in Minor, X 1-2 X (Plain Bob Lead end structure)

In Surprise the 4-5 Cross section is 3-6. But in Norwich the dodge in 5-6 links on to the two already performed.

11.3 5-6 Up and half lead

X 34 X 16

This can be thought of as a variation from Oxford, by moving the pair of places made in 1-2 into 3-4. However, this section is the cause of most difficulty in ringing Norwich, and demands study both of the front work and of the places, and the way they run to the half lead which is 1-6 and quite fluid.

The treble lies behind as the pivot bell leads, and the other pairs of bells ring plain hunting.

11.4 5-6 Down and 5-4

X 34 X 36

Again, this section demands study

The treble then hunts down through the 3-6 cross places.

11.5 3-4 down and 3-2

X 12 X 14

We choose only to ring standard sections in Minor, X 1-2 X(Plain Bob Lead end structure)

The 14 cross-section brings the treble down to the 1-2 section.

11.6 1-2 down and lead

Clearly dodging in 1-2 and hunting above.

Note the bell that crossed with the treble in 2-3, hunts through the 3-6 box all the way to 6ths.

12 Further observations on Norwich Surprise Minor

Whilst the places made, especially at the cross sections give the method its detail workings, associating parts of that working with the treble is key to safe ringing of Norwich. Especially note:

Pivot bell is 2, just as it is in Oxford TB.

The course level structure of Norwich is valuable.

The natural coursing order is well preserved.

Touches that work for Kent and Oxford TB, work for Norwich S.

13 Summary

- Oxford TB can be rung, with the exception of the placed made as treble dodges in 1-2, as an extension of the structures already met in Plain Bob.
- Pure Treble Bob, Delight, and Surprise methods can be tackled in a consistent manner
- **The fundamental approach associates the places made as part of the method with the work of the treble**
- The work of the treble (in Minor) can be seen as 6 sections linked by four cross-sections and the half lead and lead end.
- In learning a method a ringer needs to be able to ring a section and cross section starting from any pair of places.
- Experience of ringing Plain Bob and Oxford Treble Bob is immensely valuable.
- The methods become harder as progress is made into the Surprise methods
- Cambridge is to be respected as a difficult method to ring owing to the amount of structure and the way that the structure relates, variably to the work of the treble.
- The detailed learning of the combinations of place and structure cannot be avoided.