

# THE HULL HANDBELLS PROJECT

*Promoting double-handed change ringing throughout the East Yorkshire region.*

Newsletter Number 30, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

---

## ***News roundup: Recorded lengths.***

### **Beverley and District Ringing Society**

#### **Kingston-upon-Hull**

33 Westbourne Avenue  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2019, in 37 mins, 11G

#### **1260 Plain Bob Minor**

1-2 Neil Turner  
3-4 Rebecca Legowski  
5-6 Christopher L D Munday (C)

33 Westbourne Avenue  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2019, in 43 mins, 15C

#### **1376 Plain Bob Major**

1-2 Rebecca Legowski  
3-4 Neil Donovan  
5-6 Peter Church  
7-8 Christopher L D Munday (C)

33 Westbourne Avenue  
Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2019, in 2 hrs 41 mins,  
15C

#### **5120 Plain Bob Major**

#### **Composed By Simon Humphrey**

1-2 Rebecca Legowski  
3-4 Neil Donovan  
5-6 Peter Church  
7-8 Simon Humphrey (C)  
First peal: 1-2.

## ***Out and about.***

The first meeting of the month for "Older but no Wiser" (5<sup>th</sup>) took a turn for the new with a quarter of Plain Bob Minor being rung in one room whilst we battled at the edge of our ability in the next room.

Treble Bob Hunting, Oxford Treble Bob Minor, and Kent TB Major were interspersed with plain courses and touches of Plain Bob Minor and Major. A very good start to the month. And the group motored on.

An occasional absence for foreign travel was followed by a throng of 10.

There is a solid focus on Plain Bob Minor and Major, and a concerted attack on Kent TB. A full course of Kent TB Major was rung on 19<sup>th</sup> March.

There was a great 10-bell session one evening in the middle of the month, with some plain hunting, and several courses of Plain Bob Royal being rung.

Equally a good practice quarter peal stood us in good stead for a successful peal attempt, and many thanks go to Chris Munday for his unstinting support.

The peal was preceded by a chunk (about 1,000 changes) of ringing which failed but gave us a good warm-up. Rebecca Legowski rang her first peal pretty much error free, so congratulations Rebecca. Very well done.

In the 10 days following the peal, the BellBoard entry was viewed over 1,000 times, and in some cases the performance was greeted with incredulity. The peal became the featured performance on BellBoard.

Equally important is the progress being made elsewhere. **Neil Turner** building his skill at conducting Plain Bob Major, **Chris Church and Karen Lane** starting to call bobs and singles in Bob Minor. Other people are progressing; but the use of Handbell Manager and Abel definitely speeds learning and skills development. It seems that not everyone has a happy relationship with Abel, nor with Kent TB., so some focused workshops are now needed.

Plain Bob Minor and Major and Kent TB Minor spiced with an occasional course of S Clements CB Minor were the order of the day in Market Weighton on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> with **Bill Lennox, Neil Turner and Karen Lane**, and again on **Tuesday 26th** with **Ros Baxter**, and **Rebecca Legowski, Chris and Peter Church** making up the bands.

**John Atkinson, Ron Barclay, James Blackburn, Chris Munday and Peter Church** met for a 10 bell practice on Tuesday evening (26<sup>th</sup>). Numerous ( 5 or 6) courses of Plain Bob Royal were rung as well as three courses of Plain-Little-Plain Major whilst the kettle was boiling.

# THE HULL HANDBELLS PROJECT

*Promoting double-handed change ringing throughout the East Yorkshire region.*

Newsletter Number 30, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

---

## **Statistics**

The peal of Plain Bob Major brings the total number of handbell peals for the society to 28, including 3 of Doubles, 10 of Minor, 13 of Major and 2 of Royal. The total number of peals rung is 1,106, so handbells is definitely a minority sport in East Yorkshire.

## **Techniques**

We had an e-discussion during the month on “how to keep track of the treble”, this being one of the ways of ensuring that you are still ringing the method correctly.

### **Track the Treble is a vitally important skill.**

And my experience in learning 7-8 to Yorkshire Surprise Major is that it is all too easy to get to an easy bit, relax, and lose track of the treble. Perhaps we all do that. And the solution is twofold,

- a) learn the method even more thoroughly,
- b) practise, practise, practise.

- a) Learn the method for handbells.

Just because you can ring Bob Minor on towerbells doesn't mean you know it for handbells. Look at the pairs again. Learn, that is embed it in your memory so you can ring it on your thumbs with your eyes closed (not whilst driving), at handbell speeds and know you have got it right.

Then.

Learn where the treble is for every change in the course for all pairs. Memorise it.

- b) Then ring it on the simulator 10, 20, 100 times following the position of the treble as well as ringing your pair.

When you have done all that, ringing on the physical bells will be a doddle.

I really can't teach you this skill, you have to learn it for yourself.

## **Inspiration**

I am inspired by Barbara Arrowsmith, “The Woman Who Changed her Brain”. She had severe learning difficulties from a very young age.

Her solution, when she found it as an adult, was to force her brain to do harder and harder tasks. And then she found the impossible daily tasks were within her reach.

How does that apply to us?

If you have trouble with learning a place notation, try learning the constant pi to 5, 10, or 20 digits, then go back to the Place Notation.

Having trouble with visualising a method grid? Try navigating a car with the map 90 degrees out of sync (make north on the map point to the left or right compared with the direction of travel)

OK. Off my soapbox before you throw rotten tomatoes.

--oo0oo--

A handbell peal of 8 Spliced Surprise Major was less popular on BellBoard than our peal of Plain Bob Major this month.

--oo0oo--

## **Peter Church**

[www.handbellringing.org.uk](http://www.handbellringing.org.uk)