

# THE HULL HANDBELLS PROJECT

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

Newsletter Number 41, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

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

### ***Quarter Peals***

#### **Beverley & District Society**

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

33 Westbourne Avenue  
Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2020

##### **1264 Plain Bob Major**

1-2 **Rebecca M Legowski**  
3-4 **Christine M Church**  
5-6 **Karen A Lane**  
7-8 **Peter Church (C)**  
First Major "inside": 3-4.

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

33 Westbourne Avenue  
Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2020

##### **1296 Plain Bob Major**

1-2 **Peter Church**  
3-4 **Rebecca M Legowski**  
5-6 **Roderick R Horton (C)**  
7-8 **A John Atkinson**  
250<sup>th</sup> quarter on handbells: 1-2.

#### **Kirk Ella**

60 Riplingham Road  
Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2020

##### **1440 Cambridge Surprise Minor**

1-2 **Rebecca M Legowski**  
3-4 **Peter Church**  
5-6 **Christopher LD Munday (C)**

#### **Barrow and District Society**

##### **Melton Ross**

3 West Holme  
Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2020

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

1-2 **Heather L Peachey**  
3-4 **Peter Church**  
5-6 **Barry F Peachey (C)**  
1<sup>st</sup> Quarter in hand as Conductor.

#### **Beverley & District Society**

##### **Melbourne, East Yorkshire**

1 Melbourne Park  
Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2020

##### **1344 Plain Bob Major**

1-2 **Jenny M Hastings**  
3-4 **Karen A Lane**  
5-6 **Samuel M Austin (C)**  
7-8 **Neil Turner**

#### **Wilberfoss, East Yorkshire**

28 Millfield Close  
Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2020

##### **1264 Plain Bob Major**

1-2 **Jenny M Hastings**  
3-4 **James R Startin**  
5-6 **Karen A Lane**  
7-8 **Neil Turner (C)**

#### **Barrow and District Society**

##### **Melton Ross**

3 West Holme  
Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2020

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

1-2 **Barry F Peachey**  
3-4 **Peter Church**  
5-6 **Heather L Peachey (C)**  
1<sup>st</sup> Quarter in hand as conductor since 2004.

### ***Peal***

#### **Beverley & District Society**

##### **Kirk Ella**

60 Riplingham Road  
Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2020

##### **5040 Plain Bob Major**

Composed by SJ Beckingham  
1-2 **Christopher LD Munday**  
3-4 **Peter Church**  
5-6 **Samuel M Austin (C)**  
7-8 **Roderick R Horton**  
250<sup>th</sup> Peal for B&D: 7-8.

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## **Out and about.**

We “opened the batting” with a good quarter peal of Plain Bob Major with **Chris Church** ringing an inside pair for the first time. Well done Chris.

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>

## **Older But No Wiser.**

We were pushing the boundaries for Jenny Hastings and Karen Lane, and my notes included:

- Plain Bob Major by a ladies band, **Rebecca, Jenny, Karen, Chris.**
- Kent TB Major inside for **Karen and Jenny**, that being a first for both.
- Some testing touches and a “re-used calling pattern” touch of Bob Major from **Chris Munday for Chris Church.**
- Treble Bob Hunting on 10 bells for all present at the time.
- A long touch of Bob Major for Hilary
- Courses of Cambridge S Minor and Bourne S Minor in one room at the same time as Kent TB Minor by a ladies band in another room.

**Chris Munday’s** comment was that the treble bobbing on 10 was solid enough to have a shot at Kent TB Royal, but we just didn’t have enough time.

The following day, Wed 5<sup>th</sup> had saw gathering in Hull, where **Roddy Horton** called his own composition to a quarter of Plain Bob Major. A perfectly acceptable, almost trip free quarter (1296 changes) was rung in 36 minutes which equates to 2hrs 20 minutes peal speed.

This was **Peter’s** 250<sup>th</sup> quarter on handbells half of which have been rung since the start of the Hull Handbells Project in 2016.

We persuaded **Gwynneth Moffat** to have a brief ring later that evening, Plain Bob, Double Bob and Kent Treble Bob were given an airing.

When Chris Munday indicates he has an evening available for a quarter peal, we grasp the opportunity, and on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> we rang (after firing out at around 500 changes) a trip

free quarter of Cambridge Surprise Minor.

The following Tuesday (11<sup>th</sup>) seemed to be less successful, Kent TB Major proved to be a challenge too far and we found it difficult to settle into a rhythm. So we digressed into St Clement’s College Bob Minor and Single Court rung as Original.

The group redeemed itself with some well struck spliced Plain and Little Bob Major.

The Peal Band met again that evening and rang Plain Bob Major. We’re beginning to get to know the method now.

Two days later **Barry Peachey’s** ancient handbells were used for **his first quarter in hand as conductor**. Even the most experienced towerbell ringers can get a buzz out of handbell achievements, well done Barry.

For various reasons we didn’t ring again until the Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup>. What a difference a week makes, we had a very productive and enjoyable session today. My notes include:

- Kent TB Minor swapping the pairs, and Oxford TB Minor.
- Some Little Bob Minor.
- An very trying touch of Plain Bob Major from the maestro.
- A valuable course of Kent TB Major
- Plain Hunting and Treble Bobbing on 10
- Several courses of Plain Bob Royal with swapping pairs for the learning benefit.
- A course of Plain / Little / Plain Royal.
- All the parts of a course of Hull Surprise Minor, twice, but never in one contiguous piece.

The extra skill that **Chris Munday** brings to the party makes a massive difference.

The beginners workshop scheduled for 15<sup>th</sup> was reset for Friday 21<sup>st</sup> owing to illness (it’s no use trying to learn stuff with a clogged up brain). **Karen’s son, Mark**, was the target and we had a fun time drilling him in the basics of

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Plain Hunting. He now needs lots of practise time.

On the last Tuesday in the month six met for practise, **Chris, Chris, Rebecca, Neil, Karen and Peter**. My notes included:

*“. . .but I just need to remark on what a brilliant session we had on Tuesday.*

*The Plain Bob Royal was creditable as was the Plain Hunting and Treble Bobbing on 10; very creditable given the little experience the group has at ringing on 10 handbells.*

*Treble Bob Major was given a good push along, with various people on various pairs, and those sitting out making the most of watching what was happening. And we “expanded the envelope” (aircraft industry jargon) by rotating round the pairs.*

*There’s a very positive attitude in the group which I find really enjoyable, on top of generating some good rhythmic ringing.”*

Wednesday **West of Weighton**. The foursome met (26<sup>th</sup>) for a successful Quarter Peal attempt, on “**Jim’s** new bells”.

On the following evening (27<sup>th</sup>), the Barrow-upon-Humber handbells were put to good use when **Heather** called a 1260 of Plain Bob Minor, dusting down her memories of 16 years ago when she called her last quarter peal in hand. Well done Heather.

## ***The Learning Curve***

For me, one of the delights of handbell change ringing is that the learning never ceases. I am a self-confessed novelty addict, and definitely not a “completer-finisher”.

So, what’s on “The Learning Curve” this month? - Good old Plain Bob.

I can hear “I thought you were trying to ring Yorkshire Major, not Plain Bob. True, but a good familiarity with Plain Bob is the bedrock for Yorkshire.

We could write a whole chapter on Plain Bob and Yorkshire, but let’s just remark on the half lead of Yorkshire. At the half lead, the bells exhibit natural coursing order, 5324687.

So the spacing that the pairs have when the treble’s leading, they also have (upside down) at the half lead.

Indeed, the half leads of Yorkshire are nothing more than the reversed Lead Ends of Plain Bob Major!

That’s just one small example of Plain Bob at work in another method, there are hundreds if not thousands more of similar examples.

So Plain Bob is a very powerful influence on our method ringing. But (you just knew there would be a “but”), as in playing chess, a strength over-used becomes a weakness.

And so it is with Plain Bob, hundreds of methods are different from Plain Bob, and the lessons don’t extrapolate without a lot of work.

Grandsire and Stedman are just the most obvious examples.

Just for fun, have a look at Kirkheaton Treble Bob Minor. It is only Kent TB with the 34x34 in the first section becoming 36x34, and a 14 lead-end.

It should be dead easy to ring!

***Peter Church***

1<sup>st</sup> March, 2020.