

THE HULL HANDBELLS PROJECT

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

Newsletter Number 57, July 1st, 2021.

For the record:

Beverley & District Society

Hull Handbells Project

Ringling Room

Friday 4th June, 2021

540 Plain Bob Minor

1-2 Damien C Garwood (Elland)

3-4 Rebecca M Legowski (East Hull)

5-6 Peter Church (West Hull)(C)

First recorded length on handbells: 1-2.

Registered blind: 1-2, 3-4.

Market Weighton

26 Sancton Road

Friday 4th June, 2021 (15 in B)

1360 Plain Bob Major

1-2 Jenny Hastings

3-4 Karen A Lane

5-6 Neil Turner (C)

7-8 James R Startin

Birthday compliment to Karen Lane.

Ringling Room

Friday 4th June, 2021

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1-2 Neil Turner (Wilberfoss)

3-4 Peter Church (W Hull)

5-6 William Lennox (N Cave) (C)

Kingston-upon-Hull

33 Westbourne Avenue

Sunday 6th June, 2021 (13 in E)

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1-2 Barry F Peachey

3-4 Heather L E Peachey

5-6 Peter Church (C)

Ringling Room

Tuesday 8th June, 2021

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1-2 Damien C Garwood (Elland)

3-4 Rebecca M Legowski (East Hull)

5-6 Peter Church (West Hull)(C)

First quarter on handbells: 1-2.

Registered blind: 1-2, 3-4.

A birthday compliment to Louise Appleyard.

Ringling Room

Tuesday 15th June, 2021

1272 Plain Bob Minor

1-2 Damien C Garwood (Elland)

3-4 Rebecca M Legowski (East Hull)

5-6 Peter Church (West Hull)(C)

Registered blind: 1-2, 3-4.

Market Weighton

26 Sancton Road

Friday 18th June, 2021 (15 in B)

1260 Plain Bob Minor

1-2 Jenny Hastings

3-4 Karen A Lane

5-6 Neil Turner (C)

Out and about

The first Friday in June was marked by a “real” quarter in Market Weighton, and a virtual quarter in Ringling Room, but the star performance was by **Damien Garwood** in which he rang 1-2 to a 540 of Plain Bob Minor after minimal coaching.

The rhythm of that 540 was so good that we attempted and scored Damien’s first handbell quarter 4 days later.

Congratulations Damien, you are a welcome addition to the small number of people that can ring double handed.

Damien finished the month by ringing his first course of Bob Minor on 5-6, this was also his first length on his E-bells.

Elsewhere there is progress being made on understanding and acquiring the skills to go beyond Treble Bob. Persistence and patience will produce the results and led to Surprise Major ringing, on handbells, in East Yorkshire before very long. (East Yorkshire might have to declare an interest in a boundary change to include North Lincolnshire and also Sheffield, but that would be just another excuse to ring some more).

Right place Minor methods are fairly accessible to tower bell ringers simply by rote learning the blue lines. Handbell ringing calls for a whole new mindset; St Clement’s College Bob is a “done deal”, Double Oxford is still a challenge.

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The “West of Weighton” people have been meeting under Neil’s gazebo in Karen’s garden and doing good things with real handbells.

Jim has had a torrid time with technology on Tuesdays at 09:30, but the Wilberfoss / North Cave / West Hull axis has moved on from St Clements to do battle with Double Oxford.

The Surprise Major practise has been hit by interleaved holidays, action set to restart very soon.

--oo0oo--

Goals. No not football, personal goals.

The most common cause of failure to reach goals is not setting any in the first place.

So, if there’s a handbells ambition that you have we can do something about it. If you need my help, chirp up, let me know what you’re trying to achieve.

The Learning Curve

The method structure purists of the Central Council call the backstroke of the treble lead the Lead Head; this being the first row of a lead of the method. The Council is, of course, correct; and James Blackburn pointed this out to me when I first met him at Roddy’s place back in 2015. However, people who actually get to ring the methods normally call the pair of changes when Treble is leading “the Lead End”.

The (backstroke) lead ends of the Plain Course of Bob Minor are well known:

135264 (Calling position: Wrong)
156342
164523
142635
123456 (Calling position Home)

These are called “Group a” Lead Ends and methods with 2nds place Lead Ends in this order are known as Group a methods. Little Fransham Little Bob Minor is another example of a Group a method.

Now, when you ring Double Bob the half lead structure can be thought of as an upside down lead end and so the first actual lead end of Double Bob is different from that for Plain Bob.

Double Bob Lead Ends (in order):

156342
142635
135264 (Calling Position: Wrong)
164523
123456 (Calling Position: Home)

These are known as Group b methods. Single Oxford Bob is part of the same group.

If you are interested in learning more about the theory of methods have a look at the “Framework for Method Ringing” as published by the Central Council.

Because of the palindromic nature of much of our ringing, the lead end sequence is tied to the pivot bell, the bell which make the place at the Half Lead. In the Double Bob example the pivot bell is No 3, which is the same as in Cambridge Surprise. And so Cambridge Surprise has the same Lead End sequence as Double Bob.

What difference does it make?

Handbell ringers are intimately involved with the methods they ring and the Lead End sequence which is another reflection of the Double Place Bell sequence is an important continuity aspect of method ringing.

From the conductor’s viewpoint, standard callings work fine across the groups of methods, but non-standard callings create different length touches or even false touches unless the composer is on top form.

Peter Church

1st July 2021.