

# THE HULL HANDBELLS PROJECT

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

Newsletter Number 68, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

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## ***Performances for the record:***

A full list of Project performances for 2022 is on Bellboard at:

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/event.php?id=14769>

### **Kingston upon Hull**

**33 Westbourne Avenue**

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2022

#### **1994 Plain Minor, 3 methods**

554 Spliced 288 Plain, 216 Little and 50 Quintus Little Bob (Complib 95171) plus 2 x 720 Plain Bob  
1-2 James R Startin  
3-4 Neil Turner  
5-6 Peter Church (C)

Rung for the Hull Solar Gate event marking the posthumous release of **Mick Ronson's** final album, "Heaven and Hull". Mick Ronson (1946 - 1993) was born in East Hull and became a member of "Spiders from Mars", David Bowie's backing group.

### **Ringing Room (Elland, Hull)**

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022

#### **1240 Plain & Little Bob Minor**

1-2 Damien C Garwood  
3-4 Rebecca M Legowski  
5-6 Peter Church (C)

### **Wilberfoss, E. Yorkshire**

**61 Moorfield Way**

Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022

#### **1930 Plain Minor, 3 methods**

490: Spliced 50 Quintus Little, 80 Little, 360 Plain, 6 c.o.m., and 2 x 720 Plain Bob.  
1-2 Rebecca M Legowski  
3-4 Neil Turner  
5-6 Peter Church (C)

Rung on the anniversary of **Amy Johnson** landing in Australia 24th May, 1930.

Amy was the first woman to fly solo from London to Australia; she was born in Kingston-upon-Hull, and educated at the Boulevard Municipal Secondary School. She was awarded the Harmon Trophy and the C.B.E. in recognition of her achievement.

100th on handbells: 3-4.

### **Market Weighton**

**26 Sancton Road**

Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022

#### **1360 Plain Bob Major**

1-2 James R Startin  
3-4 Neil Turner  
5-6 Karen A Lane  
7-8 Peter Church (C)

### **Kingston upon Hull**

**33 Westbourne Avenue**

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2022

#### **1272 Kent TB Minor**

552 & 720  
1-2 Karen A Lane  
3-4 Neil Turner  
5-6 Peter Church (C)

### **Kingston upon Hull**

**33 Westbourne Avenue**

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022

#### **1260 Plain Bob Royal**

1-2 Peter Church  
3-4 Rebecca M Legowski  
5-6 Christopher L D Munday (C)  
7-8 Heather L E Peachey  
9-0 Barry F Peachey  
Rung for World Parrot Day.

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## ***Out and about***

Congratulations to Neil Turner on reaching 100 quarter peals on handbells.

I haven't kept up with my notes this month, but from memory:

We persevere with ringing Kent TB Major; the quality of ringing is good but length ringing can be a challenge for people with dodgy joints. Practise methods included Cambridge S Major and Double Norwich CB Major. The elegant simplicity of the DNCBM structure was noted and enjoyed.

St Clement's CB Major also had an airing this month.

Damien Garwood made a step forward this month by ringing touches of Original Minor and indeed calling a simple touch for his first as conductor. The Original was a relaxation after a slug of Reverse Bob Minor with singles.

Talking of people with dodgy joints, Rhona McEune has started to learn the arts of double handed (in her case so far, double fingered) ringing. We wish her a speedy recovery from another ankle operation, and similar good wishes (hip) also go to Gwynneth Moffat.

Do copper bracelets repel arthritis? I don't know but the pain went away from my own dodgy joints shortly after I put them on.

With the prospect of the Jubilee celebrations and ringing on 10, we had a Royal practise towards the end of the month. Plain Bob, Bastow Little Bob, and Little Bob Royal were all rung for better or worse, it takes time to get into the narrower groove of ringing on higher numbers. A quarter peal two days later also helped with preparation for the Royal Peal attempt even if it was recorded for "World Parrot Day".

## ***Paradoxically***

There are many contradicting features of this life from which there is much to be learned, one being that a ***strength overplayed becomes a weakness***. Examples:

- Using only your queen on the chessboard, she becomes exposed and then trapped and more easily taken.
- The blue lines and nothing but the blue lines; if you slip off your lines with no safety net, you're stuffed.
- Ringing only by the Bill Jackson counting and rhythm technique makes adapting to a new methods very hard
- only using a keyboard to drive ringing room loses the kinaesthetic value of motion controllers, e-bells and real handbells.

Another paradox: ***Discipline is the route to freedom***. Once you have the dedication to disciplined practise, and the quality of ringing that comes with it, then exploration of alternatives becomes a meaningful possibility.

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## **The Learning Curve**

“How do you learn a method like that (Cambridge Surprise Major)?” - Karen Lane.

“And what exactly do you mean by “Track the treble” and what use is it anyway?” – Jim Startin

### **Good questions.**

The following notes are provided by yours truly, who only has very limited experience of ringing Surprise Major. A proper answer would require a small book; and remember, the learning process in all bellringing is a progression, never just a single step, - learn enough to get going, ring some, then go back and learn some more.

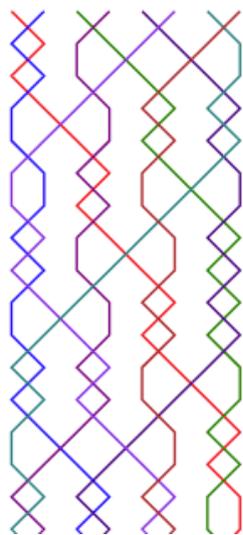
### **A few pointers:**

The treble is the anchor, it can be used as the guide to the structure of the method. (Structure: places, hunting, dodging).

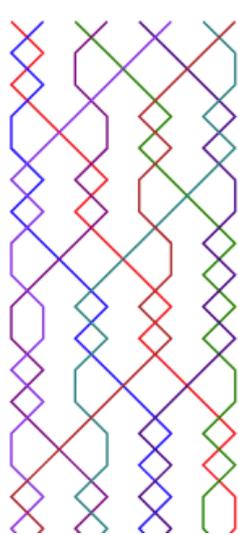
NB. We're in right place methods, everything happens at the backstroke.

The philosophy of the method is important, e.g. Cambridge has maximum right way hunting within the rules for surprise. So:

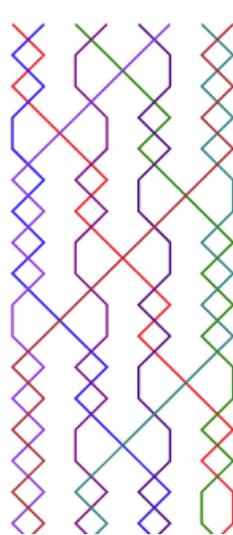
- All cross sections: 4 bell box (14, 36, 58, HL, then 58, 36, 14, LE)
- 1-2 section: maximum amount of hunting above X3XX8
- 3-4 section: maximum amount of hunting and a 1-2 below 125X8
- 5-6 section: maximum amount of hunting below 1X4XX
- 7-8 Section: maximum amount of hunting below 1XX6X



Cambridge



Yorkshire



Superlative

Yorkshire is Cambridge Major above the treble, Cambridge Minor below but with a thick treble consisting of the treble itself plus 2nds and 5ths place bells. Cambridge is the purer concept, Yorkshire preserves the coursing order better. Once you can ring a course, you have started. But just 999 to go before you know the method!

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**How do you even start on this stuff?** – Drop back to minor, ring Oxford Treble Bob, College Exercise, and Morning Star, go on to Norwich and Cambridge, and the approach will be abundantly obvious.

Forget the lines for Oxford TB., ring it by the treble

- 1-2 section      3-4 places
- Hunting
- 3-4 Section      1-2 Places, (Plain Bob LE Structure)
- Hunting
- 5-6 Section      1-2 Places, (Plain Bob LE Structure)
- Half Lead Hunting
- 5-6 Section      1-2 Places, (Plain Bob LE Structure)
- Hunting
- 3-4 Section      1-2 Places, (Plain Bob LE Structure)
- Hunting
- 1-2 section      3-4 places
- Lead End Hunting

## ***Still not with me?***

Go back and look at Plain Bob Minor, how the bells work together at the Lead end, parallel dodges, scissors dodges, places. Bedrock!

--oo0oo--

Then Karen said: “If you’re learning a structure, wouldn’t you be better starting with Superlative?”.

And indeed the “Double” nature of Superlative, coupled with the preservation of coursing order at the half lead Cambridge Lead-end order makes Superlative a very sound choice of method. The down-side is that more people learn Cambridge and Yorkshire, more people are more familiar with them.

***The truth is that what’s needed is the skill of learning and ringing right place structures, and having that skill enables its application to the method of choice.*** A bellboard search gives interesting insight:

## **Peals on Handbells on Bellboard:**

### **Surprise Major:**

Cambridge	581
Yorkshire	1,041
Superlative	233
Pudsey	120
Lincolnshire	295
Rutland	151
London	237
Bristol	518
Cornwall	23
Lessness	57

### **Treble Bob:**

Kent	1,029
Oxford	327

### **Plain Methods:**

Double Bob	20
St Clement’s CB	35
Double Norwich	141
Plain Bob	2,073

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**Peter Church**

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