

Calling and Conducting

Conducting

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These notes are the second of a pair; the first section gave a bit of an introduction to Calling and Conducting and goes through what "Calling" is all about; this section goes on to look at the first steps on "Conducting"

They both concentrate on "Doubles", with mention of the how the tricks here adapt to "higher numbers".

There are a number of good books that explain the conducting side in a lot more detail, so if you want some more advice then try these:

Steve Coleman books

"The Bob Caller's Companion", a good introduction to calling Doubles, Minor & higher. A lot of helpful tricks and tips organised in bite sized chunks.

Central Council books:

"Will you call a touch please, Bob", good introduction but with a lot less detail than the Steve Coleman book.

"On Conducting", starts with Major and quickly goes on to "Surprise".

John Longridge books:

"Conducting and coursing order", similar material to the "On Conducting"

Conducting ... beyond “bob calling”

- You need to do all the calls as before

... plus ...

- Tell if bells have gone wrong
- Work out what they SHOULD be doing
- Shout something useful to help them



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A “Conductor” is usually seen as a bit more than someone who “just” calls the bobs.

As well as putting the calls in, many people seem able to quite easily tell when people have gone wrong (often before they even seem to realise it themselves!) and get them back into the right place.

These notes look at some of the tricks that can help you to do this.

How do you tell if bells have gone wrong?

- You could learn a few “checkpoint” changes
 - For Doubles, you have rounds every 120 changes
 - A lot of learning when you get above Doubles!
 - Not much idea between checkpoints
- A better way ... use “coursing order”
 - You’ll remember being told “Don’t learn the numbers” when you learnt to plain hunt
 - The order was always “up the evens & down the odds”
- **Now, for conducting ... “Learn the numbers” !!!**



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One way that you could tell if people have gone wrong is to sit down with the composition and learn a few “checkpoint” changes. For doubles, you have the obvious checkpoint that it should come back into rounds at regular intervals, but on higher numbers this is much less useful as rounds are less frequent.

A better way, described here, is to use “coursing order”. When we first learnt plain hunt we were probably told “not to learn the numbers” as we hunted up and down; the use of coursing order takes the opposite approach, that you should always know the order that the bells are following each other about in.

A good warning sign that you should check things is to listen ... if you hear a “crunch” in the change then check that the bells come out of it in the correct order.

Coursing order

12345
21435
24153
42513
45231
54321
53412
35142
31524
13254
12345
21435
24153
42513
45231
54321
53412
35142
31524
13254
12345



Start with plain hunt doubles

Write out the order that the treble passes the other bells.

Write out the order that the 2nd passes the other bells ... starting from where it leads.

And the 3rd ... starting from where it leads

And the 4th and 5th

Compare the 5 sets of numbers

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From the treble it is the usual order: 2 4 5 3, up the evens and down the odds.

From the 2 : 4 5 3 1

From the 3 : 1 2 4 5

From the 4 : 5 3 1 2

From the 5 : 3 1 2 4

If we compare the numbers then there is an underlying pattern ...

Coursing order

1 : 2 4 5 3 (repeated)
 2 : 4 5 3 1
 3 : 1 2 4 5
 4 : 5 3 1 2
 5 : 3 1 2 4

Re-order slightly ...

1: 2 4 5 3
 2: 4 5 3 1
 4: 5 3 1 2
 5: 3 1 2 4
 3: 1 2 4 5

Each row is a rotation of the row above

The bells are ALWAYS following each other in a fixed order ... down to lead and up to the back ... in the order:

2 4 5 3 1 ... 2 4 5 3 1

... the COURSING ORDER



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... the order off ANY bell is just our usual “up the evens and down the odds”, starting from the bell that you are on.

This order ... 2 4 5 3 1 ... is called the Coursing Order.

The Coursing order is present everywhere in plain hunt

... you pass the bells in this order

... they follow each other down to lead in this order

... they follow each other up to the back in this order

Conducting plain hunt

- E.g. if you are ringing the 5th
- Remember the coursing order ... 3 1 2 4
- Make sure you hunt past the bells in this order
- ... if not ...
- ... you now KNOW which bells are wrong
- ... get them coursing up & down in that order



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So, with the Coursing Order, and a bit of practice, you can CONDUCT plain hunt.

Before you start to ring, think about the order that you'll meet the bells ... make sure you do meet them in that order ... if not, you now KNOW which bells are in the wrong order ... and can try and get them back into the right order.

What is it helpful to shout?

- Most common fault is two bells swapping over ... e.g. you met the bells 3 1 4 2 instead of 3 1 2 4
- Some appropriate advice ...
 - “2 down after the 1”
 - “4 down after the 2”
 - “2 lead next time”
 - “4 is too low”



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So, if you know which bells are in the wrong order, what can you do to help get them back into the right order?

There are suggestions above, and getting the bells down to lead in the right order is usually VERY useful.

Coursing order ... Bob Doubles

12345	15432
21435	51342
24153	53124
42513	35214
45231	32541
54321	23451
53412	24315
35142	42135
31524	41253
13254	14523
13524	14253
31254	41523
32145	45132
23415	54312
24351	53421
42531	35241
45213	32514
54123	23154
51432	21345
15342	12435
15432	12345



Consider the 5th, for example ...

Write out the bells that it hunts past (L = Lead)

3 1 2 4 L 3 1 2 2 4 1 3 2 4 L 1 L 3 2 4 1 3 2 2 1 4 L 3 2 1 4

Duplicates are where you dodge with the 2nd

Treble pops up in odd places because it is just plain hunting, not ringing the method.

Ignore these ... underlying order is then:

3 2 4 L 3 2 4 3 2 4 L 3 2 4 3 2 4 L 3 2 4

... 5 : 3 2 4

... we are back to the "Plain Hunt" coursing order again

... but with the treble removed

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Conducting Plain Hunt is all very well, but what about a "proper" method?

Well, there is an underlying Coursing Order to most methods.

The above lists all of the bells that the 5th passes in Plain Bob Doubles. The treble is then ignored because it is only plain hunting and not ringing the full method, and the duplicates removed from where you pass and re-pass bells during dodges.

What you are left with is the same as the Plain Hunt coursing order but without the treble.

The same trick works off other bells too:

5 : 3 2 4

3 : 2 4 5

4 : 5 3 2

2 : 4 5 3

These are all rotations of each other, just like on the Plain Hunt. There is really only one underlying order.

Conducting Bob Doubles

- ... from the 5th ... coursing order is 5 : 3 2 4
- Make sure you hunt past the bells in this order
 - Watch out for the treble
 - For a complete job, learn where you will pass the treble so you can put that right too
- If you pass the bells in the wrong order ...
- ... you will KNOW which bells are wrong
- ... get them coursing up & down in that order



Just as for Plain Hunt, you can tell if bells have gone wrong because you'll pass them in the wrong order.

What is it helpful to shout?

- This list is remarkably similar to the “conducting plain hunt” ...
- Most common fault is two bells swapping over ... e.g. you met the bells 3 4 2 and not 3 2 4
- Some appropriate advice ...
 - “2 down after the 3”
 - “4 down after the 2”
 - “2 lead next time, then the 4”
 - “4 is too low”
- Also ... use the method structure, if you are dodging 3-4 up ...
- You’ll be passing the 2nd when you want to dodge, so
 - “2 dodge with me”
 - “4 at the back” (since you shouldn’t have passed it yet)
- Similarly “4 make 2nds” if you are dodging down



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... and just as for Plain Hunt, you can get the bells back into the right order. Don't forget the treble ... it often seems to get in the way, but if you LEARN where you pass it then that is one bell sorted!

As well as telling people what to do in the hunting, Plain Bob has dodges and places at the lead end, and the structure of the dodges is another very useful aid to getting people back right.

If you know you are about to dodge, then note who you SHOULD be passing at the point you want to dodge ... make SURE that bell dodges with you!

Common mistakes and how to spot them:

- Missed 2nds ... bell appears up in 3-4 instead, you suddenly have a choice of bells to dodge, coursing order tells you which
- Missed a dodge up ... extra bell appears in 5ths, a hole in 3-4
- Missed a dodge down ... bell appears in 2nds, a hole in 3-4
- Added a dodge up ... bell fails to get to 5ths

Listen for a clash ... usually an indicator that something is up!

When you first start conducting don't try to do too much. It is all too easy to try talking people into the right place only to find that you've started to do the work you're telling them. As a first stage, only try to tell people what to do as you pass them, and the rest can wait...

More use of the method structure

- E.g. If you are dodging in 3-4 you can control ALL of the bells:
 - Make sure the right bell is dodging WITH you
 - Don't let the bell making 2nds leave the front
 - Don't let the bell at the back crash down too early



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... but the structure of the method, with a bit of thought & preparation & practice, can tell you an awful lot about what most or all of the other bells are doing.

Preventing bells swapping over

Coursing order:

- identifies swapped bells ... too late to prevent it
- identifies the bell to pass if they're floundering

Ringers can often correct themselves if a quick enough hint is given

- A clash is often the first sign of trouble
- Usually caused by forgetting next piece of work
- E.g. If you are making 2nds shouting "dodge now" quickly is often enough to fix it



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If you use the coursing order then you can tell when bells have swapped over.

If it is an adjacent pair in the coursing order then it is often not too easy to swap them back; a non-adjacent pair is more difficult, and if more than a single pair is wrong it is more difficult again.

However, it would be nice if the bells hadn't swapped in the first place!

For experienced ringers the usual cause is forgetting which piece of work is next; perhaps they've left a piece of work out or added an extra piece in. With less experienced ringers they might have missed a bell or picked the wrong bell as they hunted through and will probably need a more help to get back right.

The first clue is often hearing a clash; other things to spot are people looking in the wrong direction for the bell they should be following. If you act quickly then a quick nudge can often be enough to get people back doing the correct work, even if it isn't terribly specific, such as "dodge now". It also reinforces the other ringers that were right that they ARE still right, and for them to watch out for bells that might be wrong.

Less experienced ringers might need a bit more help, such as who to dodge with, and if you don't know this then you might be lucky and a more experienced ringer or perhaps the person that they had missed the dodge with, may well be confident enough to chip in and tell them something a bit more specific.

That "mind reading" course may come in useful here too!

What happens at the bobs?

- The Coursing Order changes!
- E.g. 5th observation
 - Coursing Order before bob : 3 2 4
 - ... and after the bob : 2 4 3
 - ... and after the next bob : 4 3 2
 - ... and after the 3rd bob : 3 2 4
- A bob transposes the order: A B C to B C A
- Write out the rows if you want to check



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So, we have looked at Plain Hunt and a plain course of Plain Bob.

But, if you call a bob then it will all change and your magic Coursing Order doesn't work any more.

In fact, you just need to know how the bob changes the order.

The above just looks at the one calling position ... long 5^{ths}.

Other calling positions have different transpositions:

Run In: B A C (swap the 1st two)
Run Out: A C B (swap the last two)
4^{ths}: C A B (opposite of 5^{ths})

Coursing order ... Reverse Canterbury

12345	15432
21345	51432
23154	54123
32514	45213
35241	42531
53421	24351
54312	23415
45132	32145
41523	31254
14523	13254
14253	13524
41253	31524
42135	35142
24315	53412
23451	54321
32541	45231
35214	42513
53124	24153
51342	21435
15342	12435
15432	12345



Plain Bob Coursing Order : 2 4 5 3

Reverse Canterbury : 2 3 5 4

Transposition for bobs:

Plain Bob : B C A

Rev. Cant : C A B

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Not all methods have the same coursing order ... for Reverse Canterbury it is more convenient to use the order 2 3 5 4.

Coursing order ... Grandsire

- Only 3 working bells
- Bells course 3 4 5 in the plain course
- You are probably one of these ... only 2 left
- 2 bells is hardly a coursing order!
- Hunt bell met in different places
 - Always following the treble
 - Remember who it is



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Grandsire Doubles lends itself less easily to the use of a Coursing Order. There are fewer working bells and you'll usually have far more calls to deal with.

As a general rule, try to hang on to which bell is the hunt bell at the plain leads and then remember the order of the other two.

For complete control, just before a bob or single, switch back to a 3 bell coursing order by putting the hunt bell back in at the place you pass it (straight after the treble).

After the call you meet the bells in the same order (or with the pair of bells that were on the front swapped at a Single) and then take out the new hunt bell ... it is the one you meet straight after the treble.

And if you go into the hunt yourself, the C A B transposition is the one for the plain leads.

... or if that all seems a bit too much ...

Conducting techniques for Grandsire

- Remember who is in the hunt
 - Make sure you always pass it after the treble
- Other two bells always passed in same order
- At a call
 - Observation bell dodges with old hunt bell
- If you are on the front at a call
 - Order of dodging bells the same next time
 - Fit the remaining bell in around you for bob/single
- And if you are at the back
 - Order of bells on front is the same after a bob
 - ... and reverses after a single



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... for a reasonable chance of keeping an eye on things...

Try to remember which bell is the hunt bell, and pick up the order of the other two bells as you pass them.

The only time you'll not pass them in that order the next time, is if they were on the front doing a Single together.

Higher Numbers

- Most methods are “regular” methods with Plain Bob coursing orders
 - but the order often gets disturbed in more complicated methods
- Plain bob coursing order (from largest bell)
 - 5 bells : 3 2 4
 - 6 bells : 5 3 2 4
 - 7 bells : 5 3 2 4 6
 - 8 bells : 7 5 3 2 4 6
 - ... down the odds, up the evens



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The Coursing order that we worked out for Doubles can easily be extended for higher numbers of bells ... it is still just “up the evens and down the odds” from the bell you are on.

SUMMARY

- !! TOP PRIORITY !!
 - Put all the calls in, in the right place
 - If you miss a call then that is most likely the end of it
- Putting bells right is lesser priority
 - Its THEIR fault they went wrong!
 - More experienced ringers may even get themselves right
- Coursing order:
 - Will tell you which bell to pass if they've floundering
 - Will tell you if the ringing is wrong
 - Will give you clues to getting the bells back right



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To summarise:

Make sure you get the calls right

Use the Coursing Order to check the bells are correct

... and as an aid to getting them back right

These notes are just a start.

Coursing Order underpins the majority of methods ... although methods with lots of places often have the order somewhat disturbed within the lead, before the order usually sorts itself out by the end of each lead.

For complex methods it is usually best to start by learning where the Coursing Order appears in an unaltered form before going on to learn where bells are swapped or appear in a strange order. Again, a good look at the structure of the method can help to explain why these are happening and be a help in conducting.