

# THE HULL HANDBELLS PROJECT

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

Newsletter Number 69, July 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>

### **Kirk Ella**

#### **60 Riplingham Road**

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022

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

1-2 Peter Church

3-4 Simon Humphrey

5-6 Christopher L D Munday (C)

7-8 Heather L E Peachey

9-0 Barry F Peachey

Rung to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

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

#### **61 Moorfield Way**

Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022

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

1-2 James R Startin

3-4 Karen A Lane

5-6 Neil Turner (C)

Rung to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

### **Kingston upon Hull**

#### **33 Westbourne Avenue**

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022

#### **5040 Minor – 3 methods**

2 x 720 Kent TB., 2 x 720 St. Clement's CB, 3 x 720 Plain Bob

1-2 Karen A Lane

3-4 Rebecca M Legowski

5-6 Peter Church (C)

A compliment on her significant birthday on 3rd June, and first in more than one method:

1-2.

Most methods to a peal and registered blind:

3-4.

Rung to mark the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

### **Kingston upon Hull**

#### **33 Westbourne Avenue**

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022

#### **112 Double Norwich Court Bob Major**

1-2 Rebecca M Legowski

3-4 Peter Church

5-6 Christopher L D Munday (C)

7-8 Neil Turner

Believed to be the first course of Double Norwich on handbells in East Yorkshire.

### **Ringling Room**

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June

#### **1272 Treble Bob Minor**

720 Kent & 552 Oxford

1-2 Damien C Garwood (Elland)

3-4 Rebecca M Legowski (East Hull)

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

A birthday compliment to Christine Church for 18th June.

### **Kirk Ella**

#### **60 Riplingham Road**

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022

#### **84 Stedman Triples**

1-2 Peter Church

3-4 Alison Lucas

5-6 Christopher L D Munday

7-8 Neil Donovan

Believed to be the first double handed course of Stedman in East Yorkshire.

### **Ringling Room**

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June

#### **120 Sandal Treble Bob Minor**

1-2 Damien C Garwood (Elland)

3-4 Rebecca M Legowski (East Hull)

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

First course of Treble Bob other than Kent or Oxford: 1-2.

### **Elland, West Yorkshire**

#### **24 Boxhall Road**

Friday, 24 June 2022 (15 in C)

#### **120 Sandal Treble Bob Minor**

1-2 Damien C Garwood

3-4 Rebecca M Legowski

5-6 Christopher L D Munday (C)

Rung to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II

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## Kingston upon Hull

### 33 Westbourne Avenue

Tuesday, 28 June 2022 in 2h (13 in E)

### 5040 Plain Minor (2m)

3 x 720 St. Clement's College Bob, and 4 x 720

Plain Bob Minor.

1–2 Rebecca M Legowski

3–4 Neil Donovan

5–6 Peter Church (C)

## Inspiring History

### News from Norfolk:

The first *double-handed* quarter of *Stedman Triples* was rung 200 years ago (Feb 25<sup>th</sup>, 1822) at St Peter's Mancroft in Norwich. Our congratulations go to the band that celebrated this with firsts for 3 of the 4 ringers.

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1522644> for details.

The first full peal followed in December 1853 in London.

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1225446> for details.

## Out and about

With support from Simon Humphrey we tried for a peal of Plain Bob Royal for the Platinum Jubilee. Unfortunately the peal faltered after about 1,000 changes, a quarter peal followed.

The "West of Weighton" band rang a quarter the following day, - Plain Bob Minor as a "banker".

And on the Saturday a very good peal of Minor in 3 methods was rung at Westbourne Avenue; this was also a birthday compliment to **Karen Lane**.

**Rhona McEune** is recuperating from an ankle operation but still managed to make her mark for the Jubilee by ringing double handed (keyboard fingers) to the limit of her ability.

A quarter peal attempt on 14<sup>th</sup> June was turned into a method practise. The method of

choice was *Double Norwich* which proved quite a challenge. We needed to get to grips with the later leads in the course by ringing a lead of Little Bob or Double Bob before going on to the DNCB. A full course was eventually rung; thought to be the first in East Yorkshire.

Further "firsts" ensued.

A course of Stedman Triples on 21<sup>st</sup> June was a serious challenge and the last few changes were a struggle; but overall a real achievement as this was a spur of the moment activity.

The following day had a good course of Sandal Treble Bob Minor (Oxford with 5ths at Half Lead). **Damien Garwood** had been struggling for weeks to understand how to change a known method like Oxford TB into another method without treating it as an entirely new method.

Part of Damien's problem was/is using a keyboard to drive Ringing Room, the kinaesthetic benefits of motion controllers, e-bells, or handbells being lost to him. And Damien's conceptual problems are compounded by his lack of eyesight.

On Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> we had a RingingRoom session with Jim Startin and Neil Turner on Oxford Treble Bob Minor. Several courses were rung and some good learning points came out; see The Learning Curve paragraph 3 below.

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## **Research:**

Damien's breakthrough into ringing Sandal inspired me to research the popularity of the commonly rung Minor Methods, here's what I found:

Handbell Quarters on Bellboard:

Plain Methods:

Reverse Bob	16
Double Oxford	38
Single Oxford	94
Double Bob	107
St Clement's	195
Plain B	4,145

Treble Bob:

Morning Star	5
Sandal TB	7
Oxford TB	193
Kent TB	384

Surprise:

Carlisle	12
London	42
Norwich	128
Cambridge	475

## **The Learning Curve**

1) **The course of Double Norwich** noted above was rung by a team as opposed to by an individual using Ringing Room or Abel; it employed a variety of techniques, blue lines, boxes round the treble, place notation, grid, coursing order.

I was inspired to find out what approach the experts (Stoecklin & Gay) would recommend as Double Norwich is right at the end of their book: Volume 1, Basic Techniques. The answer comes on Page 197, essentially: "Use whatever technique(s) work best for you, but learn as much as you can about every method, and try to deploy a bit of your learning every time you ring".

2) **Plain Bob is a beginner's method, right?**

Right, and wrong as well.

Plain Bob is so fundamental to all of the handbell ringing that we do that it is hard to truly appreciate the value of the method.

It's a beginner's method in that it can be rung with a minimal skill set: bell control, leading and lying, hunting patterns and a little bit of method structure, that's all a beginner needs to get going.

Q: So why does it take 1,000 courses to really know the method?

A: Because there is so much more to know.

1. How often, when and why does the hunting pattern change in a plain course?
2. Do all the patterns change at the same time?
3. Is it possible for some bells to scissors dodge when others are parallel dodging?
4. Is Double Bob twice as hard as Plain Bob?
5. Why doesn't the treble do anything but Plain Hunting?
6. Exactly what is coursing order and what use is it?
7. I know how to make Bobs and Singles should I learn any more than that?
8. Where's the treble?
9. How do I avoid mistakes once I have rung 1,000 courses and then some? One part of the answer is "Don't get cocky – it's only Plain Bob will land you in deep trouble".

And that's just Bob Minor, there's Minimus, Doubles, Triples, Major, Caters, Royal, and Maximus as well.

As opposed to tower bell ringing where a good grasp of the blue line techniques gives a skill set that can be the basis of thousands of peals, handbell change ringing offers the prospect of life-long learning (and related enjoyment).

3) **Oxford Treble Bob Minor**: Should I learn the double blue line?

Oxford is a good stepping stone method between Plain methods and Surprise in that it is simultaneously simple and complex.

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Simple in that it can be defined using rules based on Plain Bob, and complex in that it has a treble dodging structure.

The work of the treble then becomes part of the expression of the rules; and eventually you get to the question: "How do I ring my bells and also know where the treble is?"

Answer: Learn the rules and ring the method and you can

either:

Use the rule to tell you whereabouts the treble is ringing

Or

Know where the treble is and use that as a guide to which bit of the rules to follow.

## **Oxford TB Minor: The rules:**

10. The Treble rings Treble Bob Hunting
11. When the treble is dodging in 1-2, Oxford Places are made in 3-4
12. When the treble is dodging above 1-2, Plain Bob Lead End Places are made in 1-2
13. When Treble leads, hunts between sections, or lies behind, all of the bells ring plain hunting.

These rules are sufficient to enable a ringer to ring double-handed Oxford TB Minor, just so long as they have already become very proficient at Plain Bob.

So, back to the original question, "Should I learn the double blue line?";

Answer: Yes, yes, yes.

Learn everything you can about the basic methods, especially about the relationship with the treble, but also how the bells fit together. Learn how the coursing order "plays out", learn the place bell sequences, learn how to call a 720.

And ring 1,000 courses. 😊

--oo0oo--

## ***Change-Ringing on Handbells***

### ***Volume 1: Basic Techniques***

***By Tina Stoecklin and Simon Gay***

Available from Amazon at £20.

(Two copies held in B&D Library.)

**Peter Church**

1<sup>st</sup> July 2022.