

THE HULL HANDBELLS PROJECT

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

Newsletter Number 71, September 1st, 2022.

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>

Market Weighton,

26 Sancton Road

Tuesday 27th October, 2022

1260 Plain Minor

540 Double Bob, 720 St Clement's CB

1-2 Karen A Lane

3-4 Neil Turner

5-6 Peter Church (C)

First with Double Bob: 1-2.

A wedding anniversary compliment to Chris and Peter Church

Market Weighton,

26 Sancton Road

Friday 30th October, 2022

1260 Double Bob Minor

720 & 540

1-2 Neil Turner

3-4 Karen A Lane

5-6 Peter Church (C)

Longest length of Double Bob: 3-4.

Out and about

We started the month up in the Great Glen in Invergarry, and travelled back shortly afterwards. What transpired then was that we had acquired the covid 19 virus; and it took 2 full weeks to survive the coughing fits and swabs up the nose until we could be confident in meeting other people.

I used the covid down time to read Stoecklin and Gay on handbells, and the outcome was to put my note on the home page of the website www.handbellringing.org.uk

What Tina and Simon have done is to focus on a small set of methods and techniques and write them up very thoroughly. The essential techniques are grid and lines, but there are many more hints and tips along the way.



Small pieces of work (like 3rds place bell Cambridge) that are easy and familiar, I called staging posts. Tina and Simon call them "handrails" which is a lovely, meaningful name.

The website looks at broad set of component skills and you as a user meld a subset of skills into your personal approach, which you can change over time. Tina and Simon are more prescriptive, and possibly more friendly for the tower-bell ringer who is trying to learn handbells.

We are in violent agreement that handbell ringers need to

- learn their methods thoroughly between handbell sessions

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- Need to and benefit from using online and computer systems for practise
 - That rhythm is everything
 - There is just no substitute for ringing a lot
- What's "a lot", - test me out. Ring 1,000 courses of Plain Bob Minor, see if you know the method. (My personal tally in Quarters and Peals is well over 3,600 and I am still learning).

1,000 courses is not too much.

In preparation for a peal attempt we had a Plain Bob Royal session on 22nd. Barry and Heather Peachey and Neil Turner and Karen Lane converged on 33 Westbourne for an evening. Much Plain Bob was rung with the crunch rate declining as the evening progressed. However, given the collective age of the group, it was not surprising that we didn't score a quarter late on a Saturday night.

The following day we had a six bell session in Market Weighton. (Brushing away more of the accumulated rust). That session included several courses of Childwall Bob Minor.

Indeed, Karen's conservatory is the only location to have recorded lengths (2 quarter peals, see above) this month.

Both sessions included Double Bob, and Karen was a little stretched by the pure Double Bob. Pressure continued on Karen with a Treble Bob Minor workshop which covered the right place treble dodging methods plus Kent. The workshop showed how to build on Plain Bob, Double Bob and St. Clement's College bob to ease the way into Treble Bob Methods, rather than just frying brains with a dozen double blue lines.

A day later we had a Treble Bob Minor practical session in Melton Ross. Barry Peachey was so pleased with his progress through Kent into Oxford TB that he opened a bottle of beer!

He must have seen my website where I encourage people to celebrate their

successes. As Barry said, "first time you ring something you think you've climbed a mountain, but after a while you wonder what all the fuss was about".

So, have a beer whenever you have that "mountain top" experience. Make the most of it.

Taking the metaphor to the mountain, if Change-Ringing on Handbells Volume 1 is "The Lake District", then Volume 2 is "The Black Cuillins of Skye". Endless reasons for opening a beer.

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The Learning Curve

The (Great Glen) Scottish ringers have focused on moving from Kent Treble Bob to Hitcham Delight. Kent to Hitcham is a bit like St Clement's College Bob to Buxton Bob; and I have trouble with the 1236.

For me, a better stepping stone method would be Wath Delight which can be rung as a rule extension of Kent: *"Ring Kent TB Minor except that when the treble hunts through 4-5, lies behind, and hunts 5-4 when 3rds place is made and the bells in 1-2 dodge"*.

Why do I prefer this?

Because I can use the treble more easily as a guide:

When treble's dodging in 3-4 or 5-6 the method is pure Kent, X 12 X

When treble's hunting above 2nds, 3rds place is made and the bells in 1-2 dodge.

For comparison:

Kent TB	34X34.16 x12x 16	x12x 16 x12x 16	x12x 16.34x34. 16
Wath D	34X34.16 x12x 36	x12x 36 x12x 36	x12x 16.34x34. 16
Hitcham D	34X34.16 x12x 1236	x12x 36 x12x 1236	x12x 16.34x34. 16

And the good news: Both Wath and Hitcham preserve the coursing order in the same manner as St Clement's; the bells go onto the front in c.o., and then the following bells each make 3rds in turn in coursing order sequence.

Other Kent related stuff to look at:

Writtle: Kent Places everywhere but watchit, it's false to the standard 720.
Staybenders: Kent places absolutely everywhere but not like those you got in Writtle
Barrow: Kent places with the treble
Pontefract: 2nds place Wath
Alderbourne: 2nds place Hitcham

Irregular

Getafix: Bob course of Hitcham or Alderbourne (same thing)
March: Wath: move the 1-2 places to 3-4 and have fun with the 5-pull dodge in 1-2
King Stephen: 2nds place March

ENOUGH.

There is a reason why Oxford Treble Bob was invented . . .

Peter Church

2nd November 2022.