

Notes on Ringing Norwich, written for a blind person

Crucially: Plain Bob is a right-place method: always hunt to the handstroke, dodge or make a place if required at backstroke

Oxford Treble Bob builds on and uses the structures learned in Plain Bob

Norwich Surprise builds on and uses the structures used in Oxford Treble Bob.

But it's a Surprise method, therefore a lot of it is pre-defined. All 41 Regular Surprise Minor methods have:

4ths when treble hunts 2-3

2nds when treble dodges 3-4 up

3rds when treble hunts 4-5

And in the second half of the lead

3rds when treble hunts 5-4

2nds when treble dodges 3-4 down

4ths when treble hunts 3-2

Which leaves:

1-2 Sections: Oxford TB Places

5-6 Sections: Oxford TB Places (but below the treble, not above the treble)

Half Lead Plain Hunting

Lead end Plain Hunting

Given that you can ring Oxford TB, the above 10 statements are a definition of Norwich Surprise.

Q: So is that sufficient to enable you to ring the method?

A: NO. Far from it. The above information is sufficient to enable you to ring the method just so long as you have enough skill and experience to apply the above when you have a pair of bells to ring.

You only get the skill and experience by ringing a lot (Catch 22)

So here's a few ringing tips:

- The method hinges around the Surprise Places:
- The Oxford places made in the 1-2 section are linked to the Oxford places made in the 5-6 section via the Surprise places and the dodge with the treble. Specifically: 4ths place bell starts: 3rds, 4ths, dodge, 3rds, 4ths, and hunt for the half lead. (I have not written out the reverse of this work, just let me know if you need the detail).
- The surprise place made when treble hunts 2-3 creates a dodge in 5-6; that dodge links the dodge in the 1-2 section with the dodge in the 3-4 section making a 3-pull dodge; so watch the treble hunt / dodge / hunt and the bells at the back go dodge-dodge-dodge

And then there's the frontwork.

- Again, the influence of the Surprise Places is key to both the work of the pivot bell (2, just like Oxford), and it's running mates – in the first half lead that mate is 3rds place bell which turns round in 4ths (like Oxford), leads when 2nds Place bell is making 2nds, and then does the two dodges one for the treble hunting, and one for treble dodging.

How to put it all together? Ring lots of Oxford TB until you can follow the treble's work and ring your own bells at speed without trips. Be aware of the places made (not too many in Oxford)

Then use thumbs and Bill Jackson's counting technique, ring it on Abel, (Abel is very patient), ring it with the gang on Ringing Room, ring 1,000 courses, call a peal, the usual sort of thing.

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