

# Hull Handbells Project

## *Promoting Double Handed Change Ringing throughout East Yorkshire*

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### Ringling Plain Bob Major on Handbells

This paper is written without graphics in order to be accessible as best possible by partially sighted or blind people who wish to learn Plain Bob Major. It may also be of value to people who have a strong verbal memory.

We have assumed that the reader has a basic knowledge of ringing which includes all concepts up to and including plain hunting, making places, and dodging.

#### Introduction

Plain Bob Major is a pure extension of the concepts of Plain Bob Minor to 8 bells. Plain Hunting on 8 bells requires 16 change rows, and with 7 working bells the plain course of Plain Bob has  $7 \times 16 = 112$  changes.

However, the extent on 8 bells is 40,320 changes, a length which has been rung and is well embedded in the record books. In normal circumstances a selection of changes is made and various criteria, musicality, composition complexity, interest, separation of handbell pairs can be used in selecting what touch is to be rung.

Ringling Plain Bob Major on handbells is in some ways easier than Plain Bob Minor, and in some ways harder.

Harder, because there are more bells to "see" and work amongst, often with a tighter rhythm than on 6.

Easier in that there is more time between dodges, the patterns stay in place longer and course bells are more valuable. Easier also in that touches can be geared to satisfy the needs of individual ringers, and also that a mistake affects only 25% of the bells rather than 33%.

Hence Plain Bob Major on handbells is more stable and more musical than Plain Bob Minor.

#### The structure

Plain Bob Major has 7 leads of plain hunting in the plain course, each lead being 16 changes long. It is important to ensure that the band has the skill to ring the hunting patterns before tackling the dodges. The patterns are defined by the crossing points, viz: 1-2, 2-3, 3-4, and 4-5.

An alternative definition of the patterns is by their maximum separation inside the pattern.

Cross in places:	Pattern name	Max. apart
1-2 / 7-8	Coursing	1
2-3 / 6-7	2-3 Pattern	3
3-4 / 5-6	3-4 Pattern	5
4-5 / 4-5	Opposites	6

NB. Many writers use the phrase "2-3 position" where we use "2-3 pattern".

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### Approach to Plain Bob Major on Handbells

*There is no substitute for knowing the hunting patterns by the positions of the bells inside the changes.*

However, in Plain Bob Major, great use can be made of the before and after coursing bells as an aid to fitting in with the rhythm and speed of the ringing, and as an extra help should any trips occur.

1-2 is a specialist pair being characterised by constantly changing hunting patterns.

3-4, 5-6 and 7-8 are in some ways similar in structure in that the hunting pattern for each pair changes twice in the plain course, and this occurs when one of the bells makes seconds place. The positions in the coursing order and the relationship with the treble determine the hunting pattern.

We have used the phrase “halfway change”. This is on the central half lead of the course where 1-2 is in opposites. The change rows are:

**23456781**

**24365871**

The first row is rounds with treble shifted to 8ths place, and then as 1-2 complete the lead and lie, the other three pairs of bells cross over. This is also the lead when 7-8 are coursing with the treble in between them.

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### Description of the pairs

Because the treble is a hunt bell the work of 1-2 is unique whereas the other three pairs have similarities.

### Ringling 1-2

1-2 is very similar on all numbers of bells from 4, minimus, upwards. There is 1 fixed bell and 1 working bell. In the plain course, the hunting pattern changes every time the treble leads other than when the working bell makes seconds.

The use of coursing order by the ringer of 1-2 requires a slightly different approach to the other pairs. The working bell, No 2, has a course bell and after bell which stay fixed unless altered by a call. In the Plain Course, these bells are 3 (course bell) and 4 (after bell). So the working bell is fixed in the coursing order whilst the treble jumps one position left at each lead end. That jump increases the distance between the pair until opposites is reached, and then decreases the separation until they come back together coursing 1 apart.

So the hunting patterns in order, for 1-2, are

Coursing, 2-3 pattern, 3-4 pattern, Opposites, 3-4 pattern, 2-3 pattern, coursing.

### Adding in some more detail for the plain course for 1-2: (Refer to diagrams if possible)

#### M&X = Meet and Cross

Lead	Hunting Pattern		LE Work	Place bells
1	Coursing	M&X 1-2 (2 first) M&X 7-8 (1 first)	3-4 Down	1 & 4
2	2-3	M&X 2-3 (2 first) M&X 6-7 (1 first)	5-6 Down	1 & 6
3	3-4	M&X 3-4 (2 first) M&X 5-6 (1 first)	7-8 Down	1 & 8
4	4-5 Opposites	M&X 4-5 (2 first) Halfway change M&X 4-5 (1 first)	7-8 Up	1 & 7
5	3-4	M&X 5-6 (2 first) M&X 3-4 (1 first)	5-6 Up	1 & 5
6	2-3	M&X 6-7 (2 first) M&X 2-3 (1 first)	3-4 Up	1 & 3
7	Coursing	M&X 7-8 (2 first) M&X 1-2 (1 first)	Make 2 <sup>nds</sup>	1 & 2

A good 1-2 ringer is a major asset to any handbell band.

The ringer of 1-2 needs to be absolutely solid when ringing quarters or peals, as the dodging work of all the pairs is defined by the lead of the treble.

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### The “inside” pairs.

The consistent aspect of all three pairs is that they have two types of hunting pattern in a plain course, and the pattern changes whenever one of the working bells makes second's place.

### Ringling 3-4

3-4 has two leads hunting 5 apart, and 5 leads hunting 3 apart.

The plain course splits the two leads of 5 apart to being the first lead and last lead of the course. The nature of 5 apart is that 2 of the five are fixed, and the other three change from row to row. In the plain course, the two fixed bells are bells 1 and 2.

Once one of the pair has rung the 5 apart lead and made seconds over the treble, the treble is then no longer hunting inside the pair and they come closer together, hunting 3 apart, leaving only bell no 2 fixed between 3 and 4.

### Adding in some more details: (Refer to diagrams if possible)

M&X = Meet and Cross, // = parallel, ✂ = scissors

Lead	Hunting Pattern	Description & tips	LE Work 3 then 4	Place bells
1	3-4	X in 3-4 (4 first), M&X 5-6 (3 first)	<b>2nds</b> & 5-6 Down	2 & 6
2	2-3	M&X in 2-3 (4 first), M&X 6-7 (3 first)	Dodge in parallel 3-4 & 7-8 Down	4 & 8
3	2-3	M&X in 2-3 (4 first), M&X 6-7 (3 first)	Scissors back together 5-6 Down & 7-8 Up Touch in 6-7, go apart	6 & 7
4	2-3	M&X in 2-3 (4 first) Halfway change	Touch in 6-7, scissors apart, 5-6 Up & 7-8 Down	8 & 5
5	2-3	M&X in 6-7 (3 first), M&X 2-3 (4 first)	Dodge in parallel 3-4 & 7-8 Up	7 & 3
6	2-3	M&X in 6-7 (3 first), M&X 2-3 (4 first)	<b>2nds</b> & 5-6 Up	5 & 2
7	3-4	M&X in 5-6 (3 first), M&X 3-4 (4 first)	Cross Back to dodge together	3 & 4

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## *Promoting Double Handed Change Ringing throughout East Yorkshire*

### Ringling 5-6

5-6 pair has 4 leads hunting 5 apart, and 3 leads hunting 6 apart in the opposites or symmetrical pattern.

The 4 leads at 5 apart are split evenly in the plain course 2 at the beginning and 2 at the end. As for 3-4, when a pair is 5 apart, there are two fixed bells in between, and for 5-6 in the plain course, those two bells are always 7 and 8.

After the first 2 leads, 5 makes seconds, and the treble is then also between 5 and 6 and as there are then only three other variable bells (with 1, 7 and 8 fixed) 5-6 pair goes into symmetrical work, starting at 2nds and 7ths places.

At the end of 3 leads in opposites, the treble escapes and the pair go back to 5 apart, and the eventually dodge together in 5-6 at the end of the plain course.

### Adding in some more details: (Refer to diagrams if possible)

Lead	Hunting Pattern	Description & tips	LE Work 5 then 6	Place bells
1	3-4	X in 5-6 (6 first), 5 apart, M&X in 3-4 (5 first)	Scissors 2,4 apart, 3-4 Up, 7-8 Down	3 & 8
2	3-4	M&X in 5-6 apart (6 first), 5, M&X in 3-4 (5 first)	<u>2</u> <sup>nds</sup> & 7-8 Up	2 & 7
3	Opposites	M&X in 4-5 (6 first), M&X in 4-5 (5 first), just before	Scissors 2,0 together, touch @ backstroke 3-4 Down, 5-6 Up	4 & 5
4	Opposites	M&X in 4-5 (6 first), At halfway change	Scissors 0,2 apart, touch @ handstroke 3-4 Up, 5-6 Down	6 & 3
5	Opposites	M&X in 4-5 (5 first), straight away M&X in 4-5 (6 first),	<u>2</u> <sup>nds</sup> & 7-8 Down	8 & 2
6	3-4	M&X in 3-4 (5 first), M&X in 5-6 (6 first)	Scissors 4,2 together 3-4 Down 7-8 Up	7 & 4
7	3-4	M&X in 3-4 (5 first), M&X in 5-6 (6 first)	Cross Back to dodge together	5 & 6

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### Ringling 7-8

7-8 is a coursing pair, staying 1 apart for 6 leads, and going 3 apart for 1 lead. In the 3 apart lead, the fixed bell between 7 and 8 is the treble. For 6 leads of the course, 8 courses down after 6 with 1 bell in between. The other lead is when the treble intervenes, and that happens after the 8 has made 2nds at the lead end. For 6 leads out of 7, 7 hunts up 1 bell removed from 5. The other lead is after the 7 has dodged 3-4 up and the treble has jumped past the 5.

7-8 is then the easiest pair to ring to Plain Bob major.

### Adding in some more details: (Refer to diagrams if possible)

Lead	Hunting Pattern	Description & tips	LE Work 5 then 6	Place bells
1	Coursing	X in 7-8 (8 first), M&X in 1-2 (7 first)	Dodge in parallel 5-6 & 7-8 Up	5 & 7
2	Coursing	M&X in 7-8 (8 first), M&X in 1-2 (7 first)	Dodge in parallel 3-4 & 5-6, Up	3 & 5
3	Coursing	M&X in 7-8 (8 first), M&X in 1-2 (7 first), just before	<u>2</u> <sup>nds</sup> & 3-4 Up Touch in 2-3	2 & 3
4	2-3	M&X in 6-7 (8 first), At halfway change	Touch in 2-3 <u>2</u> <sup>nds</sup> & 3-4 Down	4 & 2
5	Coursing	M&X in 1-2 (7 first), straight away M&X in 7-8 (8 first),	Dodge in parallel 3-4 & 5-6, Down	6 & 4
6	Coursing	M&X in 1-2 (7 first), M&X in 7-8 (8 first),	Dodge in parallel 5-6 & 7-8 Down	8 & 6
7	Coursing	M&X in 1-2 (7 first), M&X in 7-8 (8 first),	Cross Back to dodge together	7 & 8

### Learning to ring Plain Bob Major

There is great value in ringling two bells using Handbell Manager and Abel Ringing Simulator. Time spent with the motion controllers will enable the work of the pairs to be deeply assimilated and hence best prepare a ringer for time with physical bells and other ringers.

The learning process for Plain Bob Major is just the same as with all bellringing. Learn enough to get going, ring some and then you will start to add in other pieces of the jigsaw.

**Expect to ring 1,000 courses, but never expect to stop learning.**

[End]