

Conducting Call Changes - Correcting Striking Errors

A source of amusement to seasoned ringers when watching many conductors (some very experienced) correcting striking errors during a ring, is that they look for the “weakest link” and automatically assume the error arises there!!!

The second source of amusement is the classic “Come on listen to it!!” which suggests every ringer is ringing in the wrong place.

The good conductor must therefore be much more objective.

Correcting striking errors should be based on correcting deviations from the rhythm of the ring.

It is very important to note that “There are no dotted notes in ringing!”

Therefore, every bell should be equally spaced and if necessary, the equal spaces should also include the beat for the open handstroke lead.

The best way to learn how to correct striking is to tap out the rhythm somehow (e.g. i] tap your tongue against your front teeth, silently, ii] nod your head to the rhythm).

What you are looking for is when your expectation of where a bell should be, is not realised.

You then need to identify if the variation you hear is due to a bell leaving a slight gap or a bell clipping.

You then need to correct the gapping bell by asking it to ring closer or by asking the clipping bell to hold up a little.

If the correction is not accurately made, correct it again. When the correction is to your satisfaction, say so!!

Any corrections you suggest should be made to the number of the bell, so that corrections are not personal, as it were.

Incidentally, there are recordings available on the web from “high level sources” which give examples of gappy or clippy ringing.

You are much better off “Tuning” your conducting skills by listening to computer generated call change ringing and thus “ringing” which should have a constant, perfect rhythm.

Why listen to poor ringing when what you want to hear in your mind is the perfect rhythm; deviations from which you can correct!!!