

Conducting Plain Bob Minor

In course and out of course

In order to get true touches of Plain Bob Minor containing more than 360 changes, it is necessary to call singles. Singles swap just two bells over and the order of the bells is said to be out of course.

At the end of each course when the bells are in course (no singles or pairs of singles called) the course ends are 4235, 3425 and 2345. Out of course course ends, which arise when one or an odd number of singles is called, are 2435, 4325 and 3245.

It is worth remembering these course ends.

Transposition of coursing orders

For Plain Bob Minor and plain bob on any number on 6 and above, coursing order transpositions follow the rules: BOB - ABC -> BCA; SINGLE – ABC -> CBA. The bells affected at the wrong are those in 5 3 and 2 positions.

Thus, for example, for a bob at W the transposition is 532 -> 325 and for a single at W the transposition is 532 -> 235.

For bobs and singles at H, the relevant transpositions involve bells in the 3 2 and 4 positions and are e.g. bob at H 324 -> 243 and for a single 324 -> 432.

A simple touch to start with

The example touch we will use to look at conducting Plain Bob Minor is given in Table I together with coursing orders and course ends.

Calls are made either at W (5/6 dodge) or H (6/5 dodge). Remember the call is made just before the treble brings down its backstroke.

Table I shows how a 1260 made up of a 720 (called W, sW, W, sWH repeated 3 times) and a 540 (called W, sW, W, sWH repeated twice and then followed by a bob at H).

This quarter peal allows the Conductor to become familiar with “in and out” of course courses due to its construction.

The out of course coursing orders and course ends are marked in red while the in course courses are in black font.

Part ends (i.e. the course end after the calls W, sW, W, sWH) are in bold font.

Table I Calls, coursing orders and course ends for a quarter peal of Plain Bob Minor

720 changes					720 changes					540 changes					540 changes				
Coursing orders					Course ends					Coursing orders					Course ends				
	5	3	2	4	2	3	4	5		5	3	2	4	2	3	4	5		
W	3	2	5	4	5	2	4	3	W	3	2	5	4	5	2	4	3		
sW	5	2	3	4	3	2	4	5	sW	5	2	3	4	3	2	4	5		
W	2	3	5	4	5	3	4	2	W	2	3	5	4	5	3	4	2		
sW	5	3	2	4					sW	5	3	2	4						
H	5	2	4	3	4	2	3	5	H	5	2	4	3	4	2	3	5		
W	2	4	5	3	5	4	3	2	W	2	4	5	3	5	4	3	2		
sW	5	4	2	3	2	4	3	5	sW	5	4	2	3	2	4	3	5		
W	4	2	5	3	5	2	3	4	W	4	2	5	3	5	2	3	4		
sW	5	2	4	3					sW	5	2	4	3						
H	5	4	3	2	3	4	2	5	H	5	4	3	2	3	4	2	5		
W	4	3	5	2	5	3	2	4	H	5	3	2	4	2	3	4	5		
sW	5	3	4	2	4	3	2	5											
W	3	4	5	2	5	4	2	3											
sW	5	4	3	2															
H	5	3	2	4	2	3	4	5											

Preparing to conduct this quarter peal

The assumption is that you have gone through the composition and the coursing orders and for comfort learnt them and been able to carry out at least some of the transpositions mentally rather than having to write them out.

In effect, you should be able to say to yourself W: 3254, sW: 5234, W: 2354, sW: 5324, H: 5243 as you go through part 1 and the corresponding coursing orders as you go through the other parts.

You should of course also note which calls induce “out of course” so you can work out if you have called one or two singles in the part!!

Conducting this quarter peal

Conducting this quarter peal is now a matter of your knowledge of where you are, where the treble is and the coursing order.

To be on top of everything all the time requires that you know when you are leading and where you will pass the treble after you lead and to know what the coursing order is.

So, for the first lead of the 1260 changes, you go down to lead and then expect to pass the treble in 4ths (or 3/4 or 2 bells and the treble), having passed the first two bells in the coursing order, 5 and 3. After the treble you pass 2 and dodge 5/6 with 4 having called a bob just before the dodge.

This bob changes the coursing order from 5324 to 3254 and so this is how you expect to follow the working bells down to lead, making allowance for where the treble comes in the sequence.

Once you have led, you will pass 3 and then the treble in 3rds (or 2/3 or 1 bell and the treble) and dodge with the next bell (2) before passing 5 and 4 to get to 6ths place hitting the treble and heading down to lead.

And so, on it goes. Effectively, you are ringing by numbers and if there is a major problem with more than one bell out of sequence, the best plan is to wait till you lead and then call the bells to follow you in the coursing order.

So if there is a major mistake after the first bob, for example, you would call the bells 3 (lead), treble (three and lead), dodge with me 2, then get 5 to go through you and then 4.

At this point 3 should be back to you and order restored.

Treble positions

It is worth learning the treble positions when you are ringing the 6 to a plain course.

These are given below for hunting up and for hunting down.

These can be listed as you are passing the treble in 4/3 3/4: 5/4 2/3: 6/5 1/2: 2/1 5/6: 3/2 4/5 (black font is on the way down and red font is on the way up).

Summary

I hope the above will enable you to get prepared for calling a quarter peal of Plain Bob Minor and to be able to watch the order of the bells and correct if necessary.

Knowing the various items which help you (in course / out of course, transposing coursing orders (or to start with knowing them), where you pass the treble etc.) are things you can learn from ringing touches of Plain Bob Minor from the tenor.

Once you get experience with Minor you can move on to Triples, Major and more. Quarters on higher numbers can be made to only involve W and H calls and the other bells are in a fixed and therefore known framework.

Other compositions

There are a huge number of other compositions out there with calls at W and H. All have the same transpositions (ABC -> BCA at a bob or ABC -> CBA at a single).

Other compositions have singles at the B (before position, when the tenor is making 2nds). A single at this calling position induces a broader transposition on the bells involving the positions of 5 3 2 and 4. Thus, 5 3 2 4 becomes 4 3 2 5 after a single at the before.

Conventional compositions do not generally have a single before when 5 is in 5ths position in the coursing order.