

Background notes on Conducting

Preparation

Before we go any further, it is advisable to do at least 15 to 30 minutes of **HOMEWORK** before you go the tower to call a quarter even if you have called over 100 Quarters of various methods.

This is so that every call and what it does to the order of the bells, is in the subconscious and so when errors occur, we don't have to worry what the order of the bells should be, we just have to work out who should be where!

Remember, once you decide to conduct, you have the other members of the band to take in to account. You cannot turn up to conduct without correct and timely preparation.

No one can be blamed for doing one's best as long you have done your homework.

Useful definitions to help with conducting

Coursing order

The coursing order of the bells is how your bell passes the others. For example the order in which the 5th bell passes the other bells in plain hunt is 3 2 1 4 lead 3 2 1 4.

Two bells in this sequence are very important. These are the course bell and the after bell.

The course bell is the bell that goes down to lead before the 5th i.e. the 4th. The after bell is the bell which goes down to lead after the 5th bell (i.e. the 3rd).

Knowing your course and after bell means that in plain hunt and plain bob doubles, plain bob minor, plain bob triples etc. you can have a very good idea of which bell to lead after and which bell takes you from lead.

If no bobs or singles are called, these bells will always lead before you and after you. If bobs and singles are called, the coursing and after bells for the 5th and indeed the other bells, may change.

How the coursing order of the bells changes when bobs or singles are called can be determined by transposition.

Transposition (of coursing order)

Transposition is the method by which the coursing order before and after a bob or single are related.

For example, if the coursing order before a bob is 3 2 4 and after a bob 2 4 3, the general transposition changes the order A B C → B C A.

Observation bell

An observation bell is one which during the touch, extent, quarter peal or peal is unaffected by any of the calls.

For doubles, any bell can be the observation bell for an extent of 120 changes.

Extents would be called then using the notation 2 observation, 3 observation, 4 observation or 5 observation.

For example, it would be common to call grandsire doubles using the 3 or 5 as the observation bell.

For minor, it is usual to make the 6th (tenor) the observation bell for an extent of 720 changes or touches of shorter length.

For triples, 7 would typically be the observation bell for all lengths of touch up to 5040 changes (a peal).