

1) Ringing the treble to plain hunt doubles

Much of the ringing you will have done thus far (Call changes, leading, covering) does not involve too much changing of speed.

To develop your ringing further you need to be able to ring at the **three** speeds associated with change ringing: slower, quicker or the same speed.

One way to do this, is to learn to ring the treble to plain hunt doubles, where the treble changes with the other bells to get from lead to 5ths place and then changes with them again to get back to the lead.

This is shown graphically in Figures 1a and 1b:

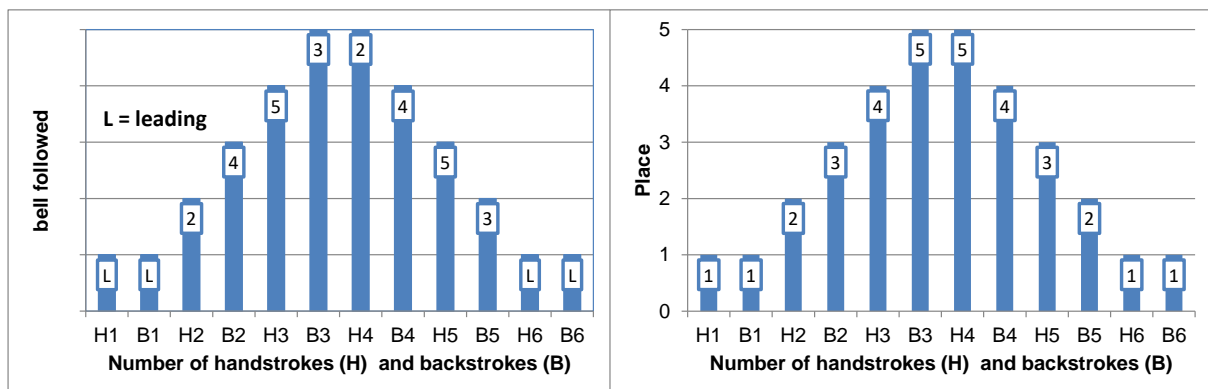


Figure 1a Bells followed by treble during one course of plain hunt

Figure 1b Places occupied by treble during one course of plain hunt

The slow part: 'Figure 1a' shows the bells that the treble follows (swaps with) to get from the lead (L) to 5ths.

In order to be able to follow the bells on the way from lead to fifths ("on the way up") the treble must be rung slower.

This is done by i) pulling slightly harder on both strokes and ii) stretching to allow sally and backstroke to go up an additional inch or two.

So, to get from lead (L) to 5ths place a simple mantra for the treble ringer would be 2 slow, 4 slow, 5 slow, 3 slow.

In terms of place, which will become far more important later, the mantra would be 2nds slow, 3rds slow, 4ths slow, 5ths slow.

One way of remembering that the path from lead to 5ths involves slow ringing is to think of it as climbing a set of 4 stairs! In general one goes up stairs slowly.

The normal speed part: Carrying on the staircase analogy, 5ths place is the landing!

To stay in 5ths place involves the treble being rung at normal speed: not quicker or slower but normal speed.

If sufficient care is taken, then this will involve following the 2 to stay in 5ths place (see Figures 1a and 1b).

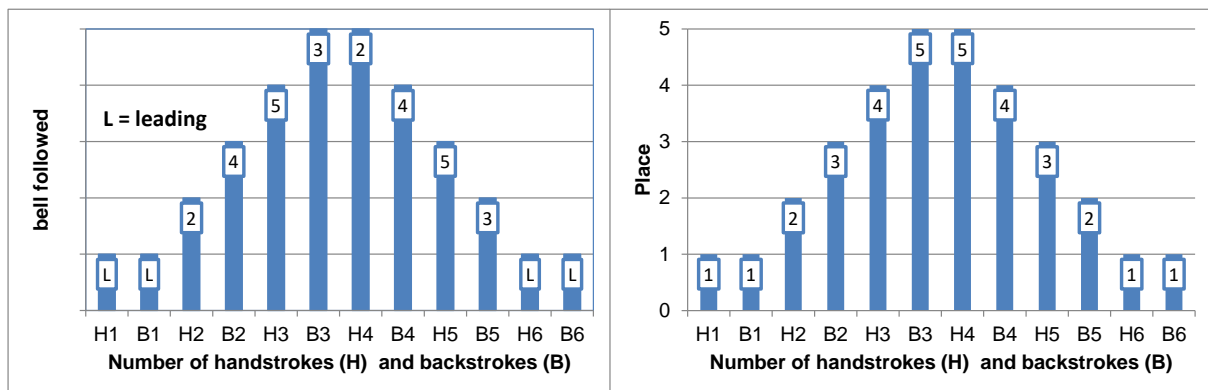


Figure 1a Bells followed by treble during one course of plain hunt

Figure 1b Places occupied by treble during one course of plain hunt

The quick part: In order to get from 5ths back to lead, the treble sequentially swaps places with 4, 5 and 3 according to a mantra “4 quick, 5 quick, 3 quick, lead”.

Note that the blow over 4 is the first quick blow, NOT the one over 2 which is the “normal speed blow”.

In terms of place, following the normal speed blow in 5ths, the treble goes down to 4ths quickly, 3rds quickly, 2nds quickly and then leading.

An associated mantra is “4ths quick, 3rds quick, 2nds quick, lead”.

In order to ring more quickly on the way down to lead, you can reduce the amount of pull and not let your arms stretch as far up on the sally / tail rope.

So, once you have followed 2 in 5ths place, you would cut in quickly to follow 4 etc. and “cruise down to lead”.

The whole round of plain hunt (by numbers): In order to develop your ropesight by starting to ring plain hunt doubles, you should learn “which bell to follow mantra to begin with”. (Figure 1a)

The complete mantra involving hunting from lead to 5ths and back to lead is “2 slow, 4 slow, 5 slow, 3 slow, 2 even, 4 quick, 5quick, 3 quick, lead”.

Forget turning up for practice and asking “What is that plain hunt again??”

The only way you can progress in bell ringing is to do the learning outside the tower and put the learning into practice in the tower!!!

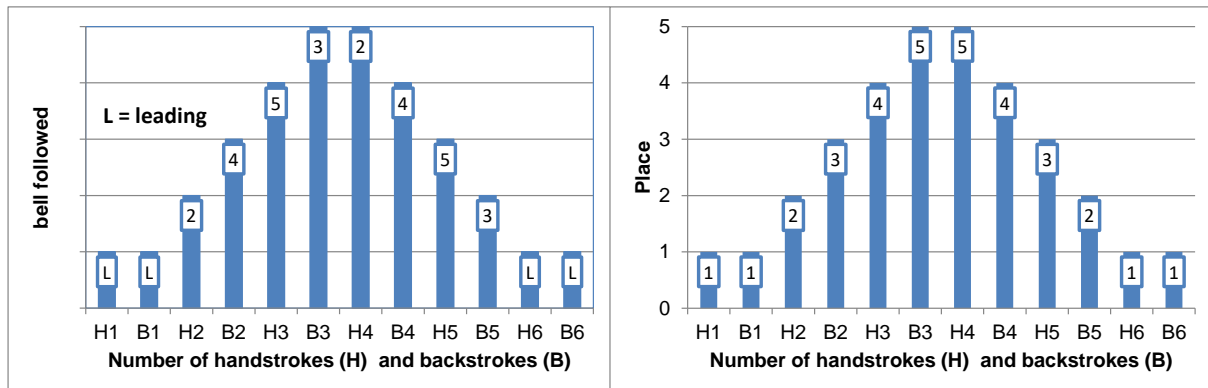


Figure 1a Bells followed by treble during one course of plain hunt

Figure 1b Places occupied by treble during one course of plain hunt

The whole round of plain hunt (by place): Once you feel that you are able to ring slowly to 5ths place and quickly back to lead using the “which bells to follow” mantra, it’s time to sit somewhere quiet and visualise the bells you are following from memories of the last practice. (Figure 1b)

Now you should recite the place mantra “2nds slow, 3rds slow, 4ths slow, 5ths slow, 5ths even, 4ths quick, 3rds quick, 2nds quick, lead” as you imagine following 2, 4, 5 etc.

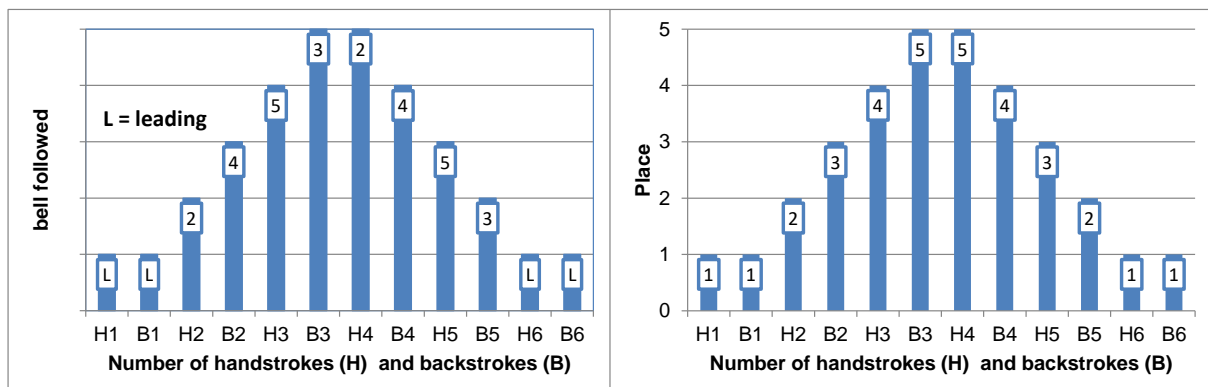


Figure 1a Bells followed by treble during one course of plain hunt

Figure 1b Places occupied by treble during one course of plain hunt

The whole round of plain hunt (by rhythm): Once you are very comfortable with the numbers and the place mantras, the ultimate progress for you is to ring plain hunt doubles by the rhythm.

The mantra for this is “slow, slow, slow, slow, normal, quick, quick, quick, lead lead”.

The reason being able to ring plain hunt doubles according to this mantra is important in that this is applicable to any order of the bells ringing with you.

Perhaps the bells are made to “come at you” 4 3 2 5 instead of 2 4 5 3.

If you ring at the correct rhythm and keep all bells in view then the revised order of the bells (on the way up) will become evident.

Leading during plain hunt: There is no difference in how leading is carried out during plain hunt compared to ringing rounds with the open lead (section 02 “Leading”).

Therefore, the hand stroke lead, after coming down from 5ths, should be pulled just as the Tenor ringer goes to catch his/her sally and the backstroke brought straight down according to the rhythm of the treble’s leading established before the plain hunt was rung.

The most annoying ERRORS by Plain Hunters:

Ideally, each of your blows in plain hunt will be on the beat set by the 6 bells as a whole.

The most annoying errors made by persons learning plain hunt are:

Holding up too long on the first step (following 2 slowly) and

Holding up on the backstroke lead and looking round to see who the first bell is (even though they should know for plain hunt doubles!!!).

If you learn the “by the numbers” and then “by the places” mantras, you should not make these errors.

At the end of learning, plain hunt doubles on the treble by the numbers and places:

You should be able to ring plain hunt doubles on the treble without errors in terms of who you follow and where you strike your bell in relation to them.

Your confidence should increase every time you ring plain hunt doubles and after a certain number of goes at it, you will begin to realise that you are ringing almost by automation “{four slow, one even, 3 quick, lead lead}, {four slow, one even, 3 quick, lead lead}”, ad infinitum.

Two questions regarding - have you developed your ropesight!!

- 1) When you are ringing the treble to plain hunt doubles have you observed that to get from lead to 5ths you follow the bell which is following you??
- 2) Can you work out who you are meant to be following on the way down to lead by ringing to the rhythm, alone?

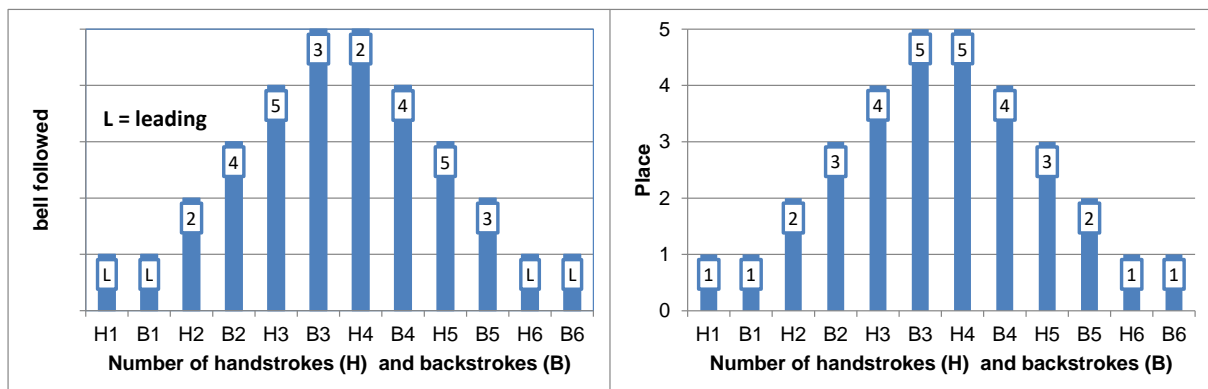


Figure 1a Bells followed by treble during one course of plain hunt

Figure 1b Places occupied by treble during one course of plain hunt

2) Ringing other bells to plain hunt doubles

The basic idea: Ringing bells other than the treble to plain hunt doubles involves exactly the same work as the treble, but involves starting at different places.

A simple rule of thumb is that even bells (2 and 4) begin by plain hunting down to lead while odd bells (5 and 3) begin by staying in 5ths or plain hunting up to 5ths.

This is shown in Figures 1a to 1d respectively where the place assumed by bell 2, 4, 5 or 3 during one lead of plain hunt (10 changes) is shown.

In Figures 1a and 1b it is seen that bells 2 and 4 start by going quickly into lead, leading and then plain hunt slowly up to 5ths.

Figures 1c and 1d show how bells 5 and 3 begin plain hunt. 5 begins with a normal speed blow and then goes quickly down to lead.

Bell 3 starts by slowly hunting up to 5ths and then back to lead, before hunting slowly back to 3rds.

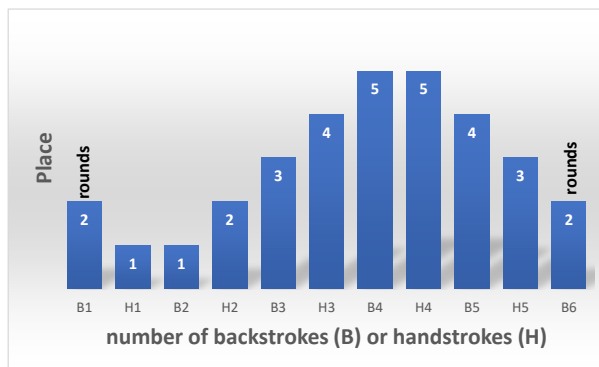


Figure 1a Places assumed by 2nd bell during plain hunt doubles

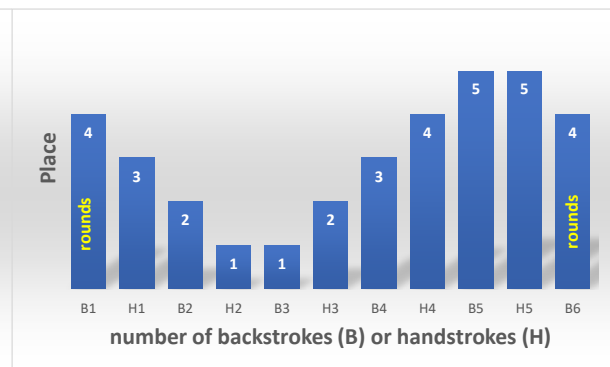


Figure 1b Places assumed by 4th bell during plain hunt doubles

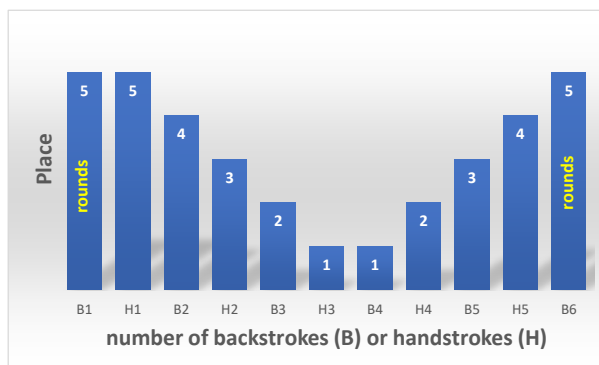


Figure 1c Places assumed by 5th bell during plain hunt doubles

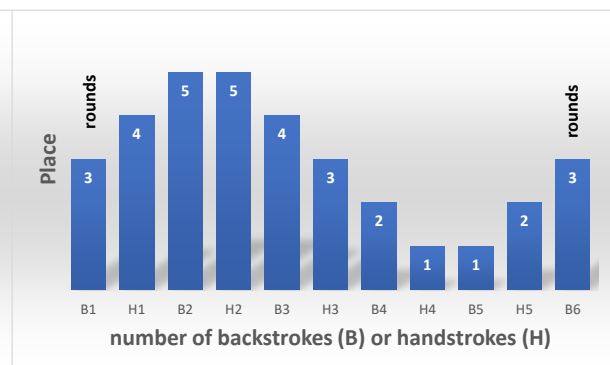


Figure 1d Places assumed by 3rd bell during plain hunt doubles

Every bell does the same - it just starts from a different place

Figure 2a shows the rows for a plain course of plain hunt, defined as the rows occurring between the backstroke leads of the treble.

Because each bell does the same work, hunting from lead to 5ths and back, then when it leads at backstroke it effectively starts exactly where the treble would.

Thus, every two rows a new bell “assumes” the work of the treble.

Similarly every two rows a new bell assumes the work of the 2, 4, 5 or 3.

For example the bold red row indicates that 2 will do the work of the treble, 4 that of the 2nd, 5 that of the 4th, 3 that of the 5th.

Basically then, all bells do the same work except they start in a different place.

Figure 2b depicts this on a “circular track” around which the five bells move (in this case in 2 change steps) and indicates where in the backstroke row each bell starts.

B	1	2	3	4	5	6
H	2	1	4	3	5	6
B	2	4	1	5	3	6
H	4	2	5	1	3	6
B	4	5	2	3	1	6
H	5	4	3	2	1	6
B	5	3	4	1	2	6
H	3	5	1	4	2	6
B	3	1	5	2	4	6
H	1	3	2	5	4	6
B	1	2	3	4	5	6

Figure 2a Rows for a lead of plain hunt. Every two changes another bell leads and so “assumes” the work of the treble.

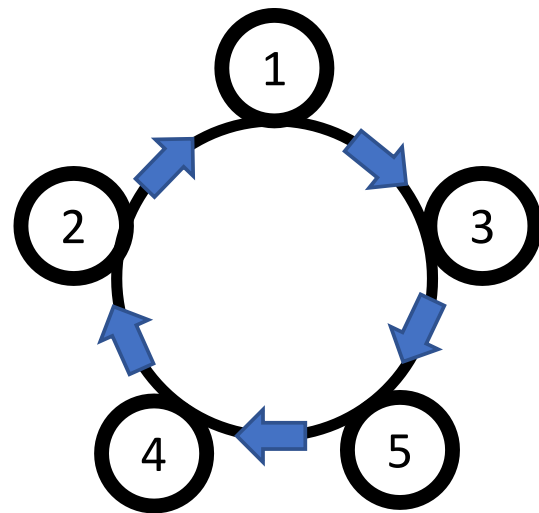


Figure 2b Starting places for each bell represented on a circle. Each “arrowed gap” is 2 changes. Each numbered circle corresponds to a backstroke lead (B) in Figure 2a.

3) Ringing plain hunt on higher numbers of bells

The only difference is relative timing: Plain hunt on 7, 9 or 11 bells involves exactly the same “operations” as for plain hunt doubles; i.e. ringing slowly on the way from lead to last place, ringing quickly from last place to lead and ringing normally for the second blow in last place. The difference is in the timing intervals between the bells.

As the number of bells involved in plain hunt increases, the time intervals between each bell ringing typically decrease. This means that on average, the “height” of the steps to get from lead to last place and back is less, although there are more of them.

Figure 1 compares “step heights” for plain hunt on 5 and 11 bells with Tenor covering, assuming equal tenor weight. These different step heights also reflect the relative effort there is in ringing more slowly or quickly. The higher the step the greater the change to the swing of the bell to go slower or quicker.

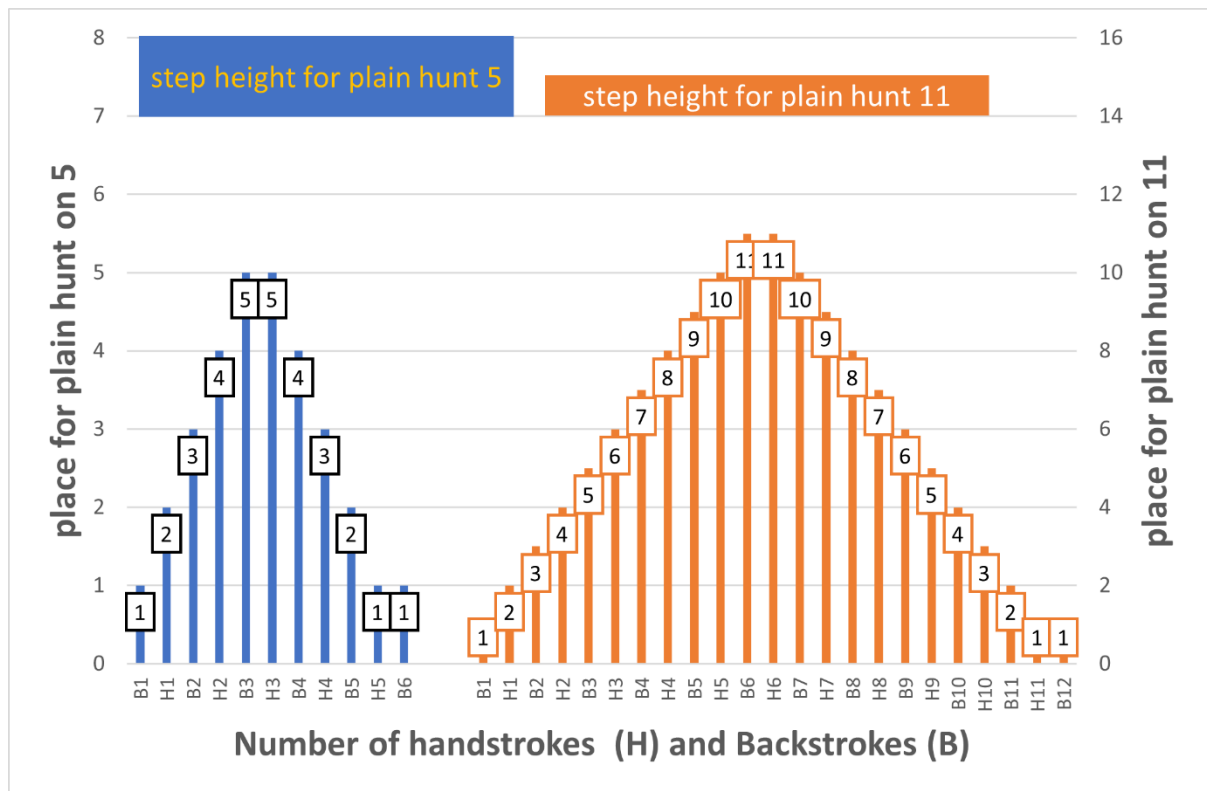


Figure 1 “step heights” for plain hunt on 5 (10 changes) and 11 bells (22 changes) with Tenor covering, assuming equal tenor weight and ringing speed (i.e. same number of changes per minute)

Hint 1: If you are fully competent at ringing plain hunt doubles, you should move on relatively easily to plain hunt on 7. For the treble the rule is simply 6 blows slow, 1 blow normal, 5 blows quick, lead, lead.

Hint 2: By the way, as the number of bells rung to plain hunt increases, you might well find that you have to

4) Ropesight - Will I ever get it???

If you work hard at it **you will get ropesight** and because of it you will become an excellent ringer with a great appreciation of rhythm and what place you are in.

As well as you ringing a bell to call changes, covering or plain hunting, you should stand behind competent ringers and try to move your arm up and down (slightly, rather than fully) in time with their arms handstroke and backstroke.

It is only by this means that you will sense the changes in speed (slow normal and quick). Standing behind good ringers is a great way to learn, as is asking questions of them.

Finally – sorry again! You cannot be taught ropesight – it just suddenly happens after hard work both at home and in the tower!!

SO....Ringing by the numbers and places and most importantly, rhythm as suggested and explained in the preceding sections are just vehicles helping you to achieve the light bulb moment.