

## Covering to Plain Bob Doubles

**The job in question:** Covering to Plain Bob Doubles is, to all intent and purpose, the same as covering to Plain Hunt except (?)..... Except that the bells do not maintain their regular 5 3 1 2 4 order because of changes to that order caused by the structure of Plain Bob Doubles.

The rule "follow the bell that bell "X" is looking at, at hand stroke / sally stroke" is still valid.

However, every time the treble leads in Plain Bob Doubles, one of the other bells is in 5th place (i.e. the one 6 is following) for four blows, rather than two, i.e. it has to be followed backstroke, handstroke, backstroke, handstroke.

To make things even worse, the treble changes its "location in the order".

**The code for a plain course:** Table 1 (below) shows the order of the bells which the cover bell has to follow for a plain course of Plain Bob Doubles.

A plain course by the way is the simplest form of the method and starts and finishes with rounds.

Looking at the bells that 6 follows shows that the "starting order is the same as for plain hunt "5 3 1 2 4". However, bell 4 is followed for four blows rather than two. Then, the order goes back to two blows over 5 as we might expect but the next bell **is** the treble, **NOT** 3.

That should not be a problem if we "use the code developed for plain hunt about the bell "X" is following at handstroke, 6 follows next backstroke".

The bell after the treble is now the 3 at the next handstroke and then 3 "looks at 2" at the next handstroke. So the order is now 4 5 1 3 2 compared to 5 3 1 2 4 to begin with. In effect the treble has moved "one place up the order".

**Looking for the bell making 4 blows:** There is no way you could learn all of this and so you need to a) ring at a constant speed and listen to your bell striking in 6ths place, b) make sure you use your "who is X looking at hand stroke" and c) look for a simple "additional" code for when to follow a bell for four blows rather than the standard two.

Well two ways of accomplishing c) are to i) listen for the treble leading (good luck with that at the "learner stage") or ii) to look at the number of blows over each bell after the two blows over the treble.

The emboldened figures in Table 1 show what happens from the treble being at the back until it gets to the back again.

Simply put, the 6 follows the treble for two blows, 2 for two blows, 4 for FOUR blows, 5 for two blows and then the treble again.

So a "code would be two blows on treble, two blows on bell A, four blows on bell B, two blows on bell C, now repeat with A, B and C being different bells!!"

See if you can see any more pointers "which make covering easy without learning numbers".

**You will never learn the numbers but you will learn the pointers:** Covering without learning numbers is very important, as when a touch is called (to make the 40 change plain course into 120 true changes by calling Bobs) then the natural 5 3 2 4 order, with the treble somewhere in amongst that, will not happen.

For example a bob at the end of the plain course will change that natural order to 5 2 4 3; another bob will change it to 5 4 3 2 and a third bob will change it back to the plain course order 5 3 2 4.

Basically there are too many numbers to learn and so the finding and adopting the "suggested codes" is essential. Noting these codes are a further step forward in developing your ropesight.

Do not forget, rope sight means "You see what bell to follow automatically i.e. with ease!"

**Table 1 Rules and indicators for covering to Plain Bob Doubles**

	stroke							Bell 6 is following ("X")	Number of blows over bell being followed	Bell that "X" is following at handstroke
	<b>B</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>			
	H	2	1	4	3	5	6	<b>5</b>	(4)	3
	<b>B</b>	2	4	1	5	3	6	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	
treble	H	4	2	5	1	3	6	<b>3</b>		1
at back	<b>B</b>	4	5	2	3	1	6	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	
	H	5	4	3	2	<b>1</b>	6	<b>1</b>		2
	<b>B</b>	5	3	4	1	<b>2</b>	6	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	
	H	3	5	1	4	<b>2</b>	6	<b>2</b>		4
treble	<b>B</b>	3	1	5	2	<b>4</b>	6	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	
leading	H	1	3	2	5	<b>4</b>	6	<b>4</b>		
	<b>B</b>	1	3	5	2	<b>4</b>	6	<b>4</b>		
	H	3	1	2	5	<b>4</b>	6	<b>4</b>		5
	<b>B</b>	3	2	1	4	<b>5</b>	6	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	
treble	H	2	3	4	1	<b>5</b>	6	<b>5</b>		1
at back	<b>B</b>	2	4	3	5	<b>1</b>	6	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	
	H	4	2	5	3	1	6	<b>1</b>		3
	<b>B</b>	4	5	2	1	3	6	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	
	H	5	4	1	2	3	6	<b>3</b>		2
treble	<b>B</b>	5	1	4	3	2	6	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	
leading	H	1	5	3	4	2	6	<b>2</b>		
	<b>B</b>	1	5	4	3	2	6	<b>2</b>		
	H	5	1	3	4	2	6	<b>2</b>		4
	<b>B</b>	5	3	1	2	4	6	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	
treble	H	3	5	2	1	4	6	<b>4</b>		1
at back	<b>B</b>	3	2	5	4	1	6	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	
	H	2	3	4	5	1	6	<b>1</b>		5
	<b>B</b>	2	4	3	1	5	6	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	
	H	4	2	1	3	5	6	<b>5</b>		3
treble	<b>B</b>	4	1	2	5	3	6	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	
leading	H	1	4	5	2	3	6	<b>3</b>		
	<b>B</b>	1	4	2	5	3	6	<b>3</b>		
	H	4	1	5	2	3	6	<b>3</b>		2
	<b>B</b>	4	5	1	3	2	6	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	
treble	H	5	4	3	1	2	6	<b>2</b>		1
at back	<b>B</b>	5	3	4	2	1	6	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	
	H	3	5	2	4	1	6	<b>1</b>		4
	<b>B</b>	3	2	5	1	4	6	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	
	H	2	3	1	5	4	6	<b>4</b>		5
treble	<b>B</b>	2	1	3	4	5	6	<b>5</b>	(4)	
leading	H	1	2	4	3	5	6	<b>5</b>		
	<b>B</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	<b>5</b>		