

The Transition from Change Ringer to Conductor

A Change Ringer (learning)

Definition – someone who thinks they can change ring.

Key Skills Required

Good bell handling

Be able to ring the treble to change ringing (not always acquired)

Blue Line (usually acquired)

Place bells (sometimes acquired)

Listening (rarely acquired)

Ropesight (usually acquired but often with very little “peripheral” vision)

Other Requirements

To be able to call Called Changes (rarely acquired)

Be able to listen to the conductor (usually acquired)

Be able to respond to the conductor (sometimes acquired)

When learning to change ring, people are often pushed ahead too soon before enough experience is gained in ringing the treble and other rope sight exercises such as calling Call Changes.

A Change Ringer (proficient)

Definition – someone who can ring a variety of methods competently, being able to correct any own mistakes immediately, who strikes the bell well and is in tune with the ringing. Uses minimal effort in retaining and applying the blue line.

Key Skills Required

Excellent bell handling

Blue Line

Listening

Application to the task

Other requirements

Reliability in ringing accurately (gives confidence to conductor)

Enthusiasm

A Bob Caller

Definition – Someone who can't conduct but is asked to call a touch at a meeting or on practice nights.

Responsibilities of the Bob Caller

Saying Go and Stop - putting the calls in the right place.

A Conductor

Definition – (Usually) someone who has more detailed knowledge of the structure of the method and conducts quarter peals, peals and general ringing using advanced skills, including coursing order and method structure to monitor ringing and correct ringers if they make mistakes, and encourage the band if the quality of the ringing needs improvement.

Key Skills Required

Method structure

Listening

Composition (knowledge of and remembering it)

Ability to carry out various mental tasks whilst ringing accurately

Coursing order (transposition)

Application of coursing orders to the ringing

Other Requirements

Experience

Good inter-personal skills (assertiveness, calmness)

Enthusiasm

Patience

Quick thinking

Respect of the ringers

Practice

Luck

There is a dichotomy in conducting. In order to gain experience in conducting the conductor needs ringers to make mistakes. Theory is not enough. A ringer cannot be a good conductor if the ringing is always error free. Many ringers (but I am sure not all ringers) strive for error free ringing but few achieve this standard and so there will always be a need for conductors. It is a continuous improvement exercise

All conductors have different capabilities, which are honed by continuous practice. No one is perfect but some conductors are pretty good.

Pressure on the Conductor

The change ringer will often have a perception of the ability of a conductor. They may assess the likelihood of success depending on who is in charge. The conductor might feel a great responsibility to the ringers.

Responsibilities include:

Placing the band

Making the correct calls

Transposing coursing orders

Ensuring that calls are executed properly

Correcting errors made by ringers

Instructing the ringers on the quality of ringing when applicable (subjective)

Failure can be a significant disappointment to the conductor; the ringers on the other hand do not hold it against him. Success is magnificent!

Which bell to ring?

Easier to ring the tenor (n) or n-1 because the coursing order can be seen more easily from these bells and it is easier to spot the calling positions from these.

Usually uses the tenor as the observation bell.

Coursing Orders and other Stuff

Regular Methods

A regular method is one with the same lead end rows as Plain Bob, but not necessarily in the same order:

Figure 1

Example of lead ends in plain course for regular methods

Plain Bob Minor Method group G	Calling position	Cambridge S. Major Method group H	Calling position
2 3 4 5 6		2 3 4 5 6 7 8	
3 5 2 6 4	W	5 7 3 8 2 6 4	B
5 6 3 4 2		8 6 7 4 5 2 3	
6 4 5 2 3	B	4 2 6 3 8 5 7	M
4 2 6 3 5		3 5 2 7 4 8 6	W
2 3 4 5 6	H	7 8 5 6 3 4 2	
		6 4 8 2 7 3 5	
		2 3 4 5 6 7 8	H

Figure 2. Examples of how different bells are affected by calls at lead ends and the affect on coursing order. Example uses calls made in a plain course

2 3 1 5 4 6	2 3 1 5 4 6	6 4 1 2 5 3
2 1 3 4 5 6	2 1 3 4 5 6	6 1 4 5 2 3
1 2 4 3 6 5 P	1 2 4 3 6 5 -	1 6 5 4 3 2 -
1 2 3 4 5 6	1 4 2 3 5 6 H	1 5 6 4 2 3 B
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
2 1 4 3 6 5	4 1 3 2 6 5	5 1 4 6 3 2
2 4 1 6 3 5	4 3 1 6 2 5	5 4 1 3 6 2
4 2 6 1 5 3	3 4 6 1 5 2	4 5 3 1 2 6
4 6 2 5 3 1	3 6 4 5 1 2	4 3 5 2 1 6
6 4 5 2 3 1	6 3 5 4 2 1	3 4 2 5 6 1
6 5 4 3 2 1	6 5 3 2 4 1	3 2 4 6 5 1
5 6 3 4 1 2	5 6 2 3 1 4	2 3 6 4 1 5
5 3 6 1 4 2	5 2 6 1 3 4	2 6 3 1 4 5
3 5 1 6 2 4	2 5 1 6 4 3	6 2 1 3 5 4
3 1 5 2 6 4	2 1 5 4 6 3	6 1 2 5 3 4
1 3 2 5 4 6	1 2 4 5 3 6	1 6 5 2 4 3
1 3 5 2 6 4	1 2 5 4 6 3	1 6 2 5 3 4
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Plain course c/o 53246	Bob Home c/o becomes 52436	Bob Before c/o becomes 54326

Transposing Coursing Orders

Natural coursing order (co) for regular methods is 53246.

This means that in Plain Bob Minor the bells lead in this order. **See Figure 2.**

Convention is that the tenor is always placed at the back of the co. This makes mental transposition easier.

First lead of Plain Bob Minor the bells lead in the order of 2,4,6,5,3. If 6 is always at the back, this rotates to 5,3,2,4,6. Knock off the 6 and we are left with 5324

Every lead end represents a different calling position. Some have familiar names e.g. Wrong or Home. When a bob or single is called bells in the same positions in the row are affected irrespective of which lead the call is made, BUT different bells will be affected depending on which lead end the call is made.

For example, if a call is made at the last lead of Plain Bob Minor, the 4, 2 and 3 are affected (run in – run out, and make it). But if a call is made when the tenor should make seconds, the 5, 6 and 4 are affected. Therefore the transposition will affect different bells, and this will change the coursing order in a different way at each calling position. **See Figure 2 & 3.**

Figure 3

Transposition of coursing order at each calling position in Minor

Bob Wrong (W)	Bob 4ths (F)	Bob Before (B)	Bob In (I)	Bob Home (H)
5 3 2 4 6	5 3 2 4 6	5 3 2 4 6	5 3 2 4 6	5 3 2 4 6
3 2 5 4 6	2 4 5 3 6	5 4 3 2 6	2 5 3 4 6	5 2 4 3 6
A B C	A B C D	A B C	A B C	A B C
B C A	C D A B	C A B	C A B	B C A

Single Wrong (W)	Single 4ths (F)	Single Before (B)	Single 3rds (3rds)	Single Home (H)
5 3 2 4 6	5 3 2 4 6	5 3 2 4 6	5 3 2 4 6	5 3 2 4 6
2 3 5 4 6	2 4 3 5 6	4 3 2 5 6	4 2 5 3 6	5 4 2 3 6
A B C	A B C D	A B C D	A B C D	A B C
C B A	C D B A	D B C A	D C A B	C B A

Transposition of coursing order at MOST COMMON calling position in Major

Bob Wrong (W)	Bob Before (B)	Bob Middle (M)	Bob Home (H)
5 3 2 4 6	5 3 2 4 6	5 3 2 4 6	5 3 2 4 6
3 2 5 4 6	6 5 3 2 4	5 3 4 6 2	5 2 4 3 6
A B C	A B C D E	A B C	A B C
B C A	E A B C D	B C A	B C A

Single Wrong (W)	Single Middle (M)	Single Home (H)
5 3 2 4 6	5 3 2 4 6	5 3 2 4 6
2 3 5 4 6	4 2 5 3 6	5 4 2 3 6
A B C	A B C	A B C
C B A	C B A	C B A

Figure 3 shows the transpositions for calls at the various calling positions. Those in **bold type** are the ones most commonly used. The conductor must learn the transpositions for BOBs and SINGLES for each calling position. **Example:** transposition for BOBs at the W, M and H are all the same, but made against different positions within the co. Bells ABC becomes bells BCA. In all cases the bell that is, A makes the bob, the bell that is B runs out and the bell that is C runs in.

Surprise Major

Coursing order is not so easily observed in more advanced methods. Some things to look out for (not a definitive list);

- In most Cambridge group methods the bells dodging at the back are coursing pairs (not the double dodges in Superlative).
- When ringing 3rds place bell the bells are followed in coursing order as you go out to the back. (not Pudsey or Superlative)
- In most Cambridge methods the co can be picked up in 5ths place bell.
- When pairs dodge at the back they always strike at backstroke in the reverse order. i.e if co is 53, the bells will strike 35 at backstroke. (same in any stage 6.8.10 etc)

Hint – study the method grid to identify other observation points

Preparing for a Peal or Quarter Peal

- Learn the composition so well that you can see it in your mind. This enables instant recall when calling it.
- The more preparation the better - use spare time to revise and learn.
- Think ahead all the time, this gives more thinking time and reduces the risk of surprises. Ring the touch in your head several times in the days beforehand, transposing the coursing orders and recalling the composition as written down.
- Look for “easy” coursing orders, which are easier to remember – e.g. 23456, 53246, 65432, to give you a mental breather during the ringing.
- From the coursing order learn which bells are in 5ths and 6ths place at the course ends. e.g. co 53246 – 5 and 6, co 23456 – 2 and 6.
- Watch out for part- ends and know what they are and when they occur in the touch.
- Watch for round blocks and know what row, or coursing order comes up at the last bob. e.g. if a Wrong is called to bring up coursing order 65324 and this is followed by 3 Homes, the last Home with also bring up 65324 with the change 3526478.
- To help count how many calls you have made in a block, revise which bell runs in or makes the bob at the last call of the group.
- Be ready for the calling position before the lead end – If calling the tenor’s observation (usual) to Cambridge type methods, learn which place bell the tenor is the lead end before the call. (The conductor should know this because it is simply the lead end order i.e. Cambridge le order is 2673485)
 - To call Home – tenor is 4ths place bell
 - To call Wrong – tenor is 6th place bell
 - To call Middle – tenor is 2nds place bell

Example touches by coursing order, and by course ends

120 Plain Bob Minor

53246
 32546 – W
 35426 – H
 54326 – W
53246 – H
 W H course end
 - - 45236
 - - 23456

160 Plain Bob Major

53246
 32546 – W
 63254 – B
 46325 – B
 54632 – B
 54326 – M
53246 – H
 W B M H
 - 3 - - 2345678

1282 Cambridge S. Major

53246
 65324 - B
 63254 - H
 62534 - H
 62435 SW
 64325 - H
 63245 - H
 56324 - B
 53264 - H
 52634 - H
52346 - M
 Round at the snap after the
 Wrong (next lead end)

120 Plain Bob Minor

5324
 2453 – F
 4523 – W
 4352 – B
 5432 – I
 5324 – H

B M H course end
 - 2 52364
 S 2 23465
 - 2 62354
 - - (32456)

W F B I H course end
 - 54326
 - - 23456

Quarter Peals of Plain Bob (showing course ends)

1264 Plain Bob Major

23456 W B M H
 52364 - 1 - 3
 32465 - 3
 63254 - 1 - 3
23456 - 3

720 Plain Bob Minor

23456 W H
 45236 - -
34256 -
 X6 with S half way and end

540 Plain Bob Minor

23456 W H
 45236 - -
 32456 - s
34256 s
 X 3

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 Jan 10