

## CONDUCTING

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### General Guidance (not a definitive list)

#### Guide Note 1.

Be confident. The conductor is in charge and always right, even if he/she is wrong!

#### Guide Note 2.

Be able to ring the method well, without looking it up just before you start.

#### Guide Note 3.

Learn the composition thoroughly.

#### Guide Note 4.

Speak clearly and loud enough for everyone to hear you.

#### Guide Note 5.

Check that when a call is made, or another instruction is given, the ringers affected make the appropriate change.

#### Guide Note 6.

Keep the ringing right !! Don't be afraid to stand it up if the ringing is not good enough.

Guide Note 7. Encourage the ringers during the ringing if necessary. Be careful to make any comments when it is less likely to upset the ringing, or your own concentration.

#### Guide Note 8.

Remain calm!! A lot can happen in two or three changes, but that is also a lot of thinking time.

Guide Note 9. Practice and practice and practice.

#### Guide Note 10.

Enjoy conducting – it is empowering and very rewarding.

#### Guide Note 11.

Remember – you are partly responsible for the quality of ringing which is heard outside. **It is our duty to ring well at all times**

#### Guide Note 12.

There must be more rules but I can't think of them!

The conductor's job is a challenging one, but can be very rewarding. It requires a high level of concentration to ensure that the method is rung correctly and that the calls are made in the right place. This applies mostly to change ringing, but some elements are applicable to call changes too. Be confident, and the other ringers will draw on your confidence. They like to know that the conductor knows what he/she is doing.

In all conducting the conductor must know the composition well and keep in mind where he/she is in the composition. It is helpful to look for signposts along the way by learning particular parts of the composition e.g. part ends\*, or coursing orders\*.

Each ringer has a duty to keep right and ring well throughout a piece of ringing. However, a good conductor will be able to pick up any ringing errors and correct the ringers if necessary. The conductor must know the method so well that he/she can observe the work of other bells without being distracted from his/her own work.

During a quarter peal or peal tiredness can creep in upon any of the ringers. This can lead to mistakes. The ringers must not fall into traps set by others. If someone goes wrong they can easily drag other ringers into the melee if others are not keeping alert. It is usually at these times that conductors are challenged most. Never be complacent about how well the ringing is going. The ringing is not successful until "That's all" is called.

### Conducting Goals

Conduct as much as possible. Call changes is good groundwork because it helps you see the bells.

Conduct from different bells – things look different according to where you are in the circle.

Conduct Sunday Service ringing.

Gather a good band around you and call a quarter peal. Then, call more quarter peals.

Gather a good band around you and call a peal. You don't have to ring the tenor!

Ask for help, advice and support from other conductors.

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### Definitions

Part end – the end of a part in the composition, the calls of which will then be repeated. Typically, part ends may be 1342xx, 1423xx

Coursing order – (loose definition) The order in which the bells lead, or dodge together at the back. Coursing orders are numbers, which are transposed by the conductor as the ringing progresses. The plain course of most methods we ring has a coursing order of 53246. The ringing can be checked for correctness by observing the coursing order as the ringing progresses. This is more relevant when ringing minor or above.