



Yorkshire on higher numbers

Many people learn Cambridge as their first Surprise method, starting with Minor, and then Major. Yorkshire often comes second.

Cambridge and Yorkshire both extend tidily to higher numbers, but many people still learn Cambridge first. They are often surprised to hear experienced twelve bell ringers tell them that Yorkshire Maximus is an easier method to ring than Cambridge. In many cases, having looked at both, they tend to disagree. So why do the experts say that Yorkshire is easier, if lesser mortals think it is harder? More practically, what can we learn from the experts, to make it easier for us all?

Structure

As we often do in *The Learning Curve*, let us begin by looking at the structure of the method. In fact the structure is more apparent on ten or twelve than on eight. Figure 1 shows half a lead of each method, with key places highlighted. Both have a string of places made immediately above the Treble's path, and another string of places below it. The critical difference is that in Cambridge, the second string of places is immediately below the Treble, and in Yorkshire it is further away. That might not seem a very big difference, but it has three important effects on the blue lines, and the internal coursing.

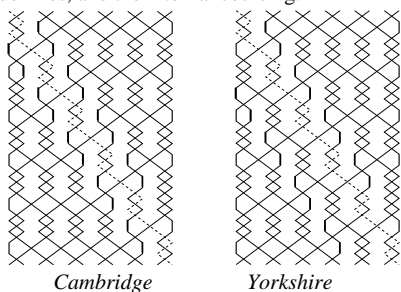


Figure 1: Structures compared (Maximus)

The blue line

Figure 2 shows the blue lines (only half the course, to save space). The pattern of the work in Cambridge is very clear, with Cambridge places 'up' (highlighted grey) being made progressively nearer to the front starting with the highest place (9-10 in Maximus) in 6th place bell, and ending with 3-4 just before the start of 3rd place bell. Mirroring this is a similar pattern of pairs of places where dodges are omitted on the way down (also highlighted) which progress the other way, starting with the lowest pair (1-2 & 3-4) in 6th place bell, and ending with the highest pair (9-10 & 7-8 in Maximus) in the lead preceding 3rd place bell. The Treble goes through the middle dodge of all places, and between the omitted pairs of dodging places.

To many people, Yorkshire seems more fragmented than Cambridge, but there are still two interleaved sequences, but they have similar work (short places preceded by an omitted dodge) and the path down mirrors the path up.

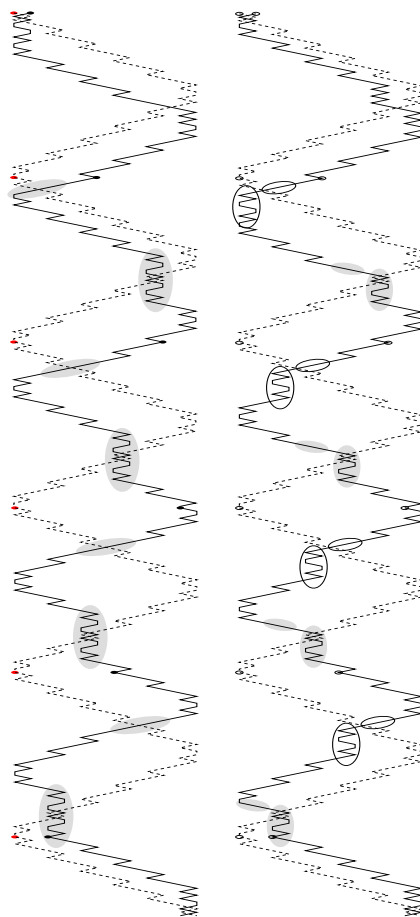


Figure 2: Blue lines compared (Maximus)

Look where places 'up' would be in Cambridge (highlighted grey in Figure 2). Yorkshire still has places (but they are shorter) and each starts by dodging with the Treble. Let's call them 'T places'

The other sequence of places in Figure 2 are all 'down' and occur well below the Treble's path (so no dodges with the Treble). Let's call them 'non-T places'. They are highlighted with black edges. Like Cambridge, the second sequence progresses in the opposite direction to the first – in 6th place bell the places are near the front, and they move towards the back as you progress towards 3rd place bell. Note that what looks like Cambridge front work is places down in 1-2, followed by a dodge in 1-2 up.

The omitted dodges are all single rather than in pairs (so twice as many as in Cambridge), but they are easy to remember, because each comes just 'before' a set of places, ie below the up places and above the down places (so there are no non-T places in the highest position). These omitted dodges are also marked in Figure 2. In the other half course, everything is mirrored, so before becomes after, up becomes down, and T-places end by dodging with the Treble.

Once you know what to look for, there is just as much pattern in Yorkshire as in Cambridge.

Coursing orders and course bells

To understand how Yorkshire can be easier, you need to think about how bells work together. In both methods, the bells come on the back in normal coursing order, but all the places stir things up in the middle. In Cambridge, the places (tightly around the Treble's path, see Figure 1) combine to form elongated 'Cambridge places'. These long places take the bell a long way from

its course and after bells, both of which have done long runs-through. In Yorkshire (with more separation, see Figure 1) places don't combine so much, giving shorter 'Yorkshire places' that stir the coursing less.

Better still, successive places often 'cancel out'. Figure 3 shows the first half lead with 12th place bell in black, and 10th & 11th place bells (its course and after bells) in grey. They all start together, but the Cambridge places take 12th place bell so far from its natural position that by the half lead it is heading in the opposite direction to its course and after bells. Compare this with Yorkshire, where places made by 12th place bell in 7-8 cause less disruption, and it is almost immediately reversed by 11th place bell making places in 5-6. Since 10th place bell makes places in 3-4, they all approach the front together again.

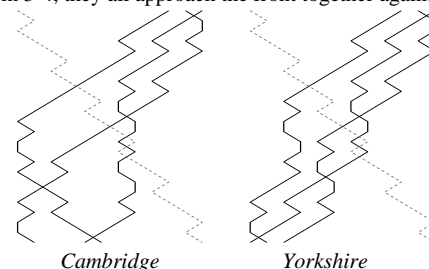


Figure 3: Stirring compared (Maximus)

Using course bells to give cues

Between 6th place bell and 3rd place bell (and between 4th and 5th place bells) Yorkshire is all treble dodging apart from when you make places (and omit an adjacent dodge). Seeing when you meet your course bell gives you visual cues for most of them. (If you forget your course bell, it is the one you turn from the back or front when treble dodging.)

Figure 4 shows the possible ways to make places in Yorkshire. Coming down (left) the bell shown grey meets the Treble, which is the signal for it to make T places. The bell shown black comes down and meets its course bell (grey). It **mustn't dodge with it**, so it runs through, and then makes non-T places. Going up (Figure 4, right) black again meets its course bell (grey) which tells it to run through and then make T places. The cue for non-T places up (grey in Figure 4, right) is a bit harder. As you dodge in each place, the next bell you are to meet in the coursing order will be dodging above you. When a different bell makes a place above you (grey dashed) then make your places.

So what?

Even if you don't follow the coursing order, it makes a big difference when you ring. In Cambridge, bells seem to come at you from all over the circle. Ropesight is harder, and you can be uncertain with whom to dodge! In Yorkshire, you pass bells in a more predictable sequence, so finding your bells is much easier.

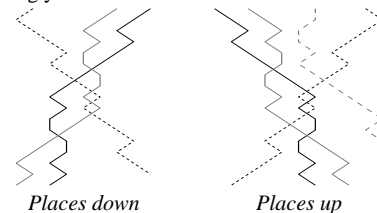


Figure 4: Cues for making places in Yorkshire

In 5th and 2nd place bells, the coursing is slightly stirred as well, but don't be put off by it.

Tail End