



## Helpful bits of structure

In several articles, *The Learning Curve* has explained how understanding the structure of a method can help with learning and ringing it more effectively, and with keeping it right. This month we look at some practical examples.

### Lead & dodge (or is it dodge & lead?)

It is quite easy to come down to the front, knowing that you only do one dodge, but not quite sure which way round to do it. Invariably, knowing the method structure will help you out. Suppose you have just met the Treble in 2-3. The bell you are about to join on the front is 2nds place bell, so what you do must fit in with what it does. Figure 1:(L) (Cambridge, Pudsey, ...) shows that you can't dodge when you meet 2nd place bell, but must lead underneath it, and then dodge with it. Figure 1:(R) (Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Rutland, ...) on the other hand shows that you must dodge with 2nd place bell as it leaves the front.

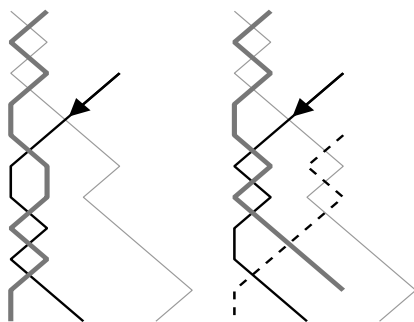


Figure 1: (L) Cambridge, Pudsey; (R) Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Rutland

A mirror structure exists just before the Treble returns to the front, as shown in Figure 2, but here you don't get the immediate prompt of crossing the Treble's path, so you need to be aware that the Treble is about to come down above you, and that the bell you will meet on the front will then become 2nd place bell.

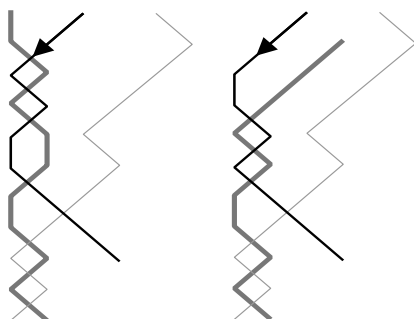


Figure 2: (L) Cambridge, Pudsey; (R) Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Rutland

Notice that in Lincolnshire and Rutland, – see Figure 1:(R) – by doing a dodge and lead, you force the next bell down (shown dotted) which has just dodged with the Treble at the end of 3-4 places, to start with a 'lead' In Lincolnshire that

lead precedes the 5-pull dodge, and in Rutland it precedes a double dodge. These are both places where people sometimes hesitate.

Another common problem occurs in Norwich Surprise Minor. 3rd place bell makes 4ths and goes onto the front to do a lead and double dodge, but people often forget and try to dodge in 1-2 down instead. Knowing that you will meet 2nd place bell as it makes 2nds over you, as shown in Figure 3, removes the uncertainty.

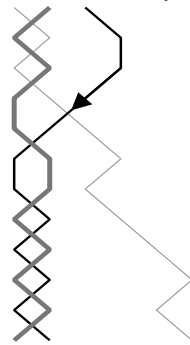


Figure 3: Norwich Surprise Minor

You might ask why it should be easier to remember that 2nd place bell makes 2nds before dodging, than to remember that 3rd place bell leads before doing the double dodge. Understanding the structure helps here too. 2nd place bell is the pivot bell, so it must be in 1st place for the 16 change at the half lead. In order to get there, it must have been dodging down, and to do that, it must first have made 2nds, as shown in Figure 4.

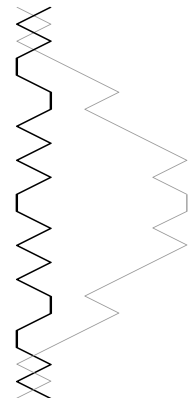


Figure 4: Pivot bell in Norwich Surprise Minor

### Pairs

Understanding how a pair of bells (often a coursing pair) 'work together' can be useful. For example, Figure 5 shows the two bells that make places up in Double Norwich Court Bob Major. As a method that a lot of people 'half know', it is often prone to trips.

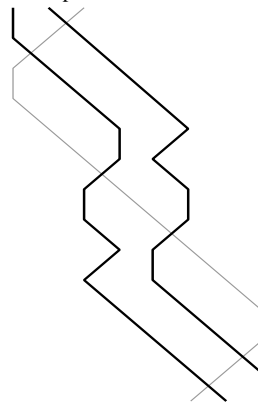


Figure 5: Double Norwich Court Bob Major

Not knowing whether to dodge in 3-4 or 5-6, and not knowing whether the dodge is before or after the places, are common problems. The structure shows that places are made immediately next to the Treble's path, so the first place is made by the bell closest to the Treble (whichever end you look from). The dodges are on the 'other' end of the places, and join them to the line of the bell next farther from the Treble's path, again looking from either end.

### Right or wrong?

In right place methods, all places are made from hand to back (except lying when ringing Doubles, Triples, etc, which are odd places). As a consequence, all hunting is 'forward' (with the leading hand-back). Wrong place methods include some places made back-hand, and this creates portions of 'backward' hunting, in which leads are made back-hand. Leading right is so instinctive, that most of us need a conscious effort to lead wrong, so it helps to know where the wrong hunting is.

London Surprise is a common method with large chunks of backward hunting. In Minor and Major, it occupies most of the space not adjacent to the Treble's path (see shaded areas in Figure 6). Notice all the odd places along the boundary between the wrong hunting and the Treble's path (which is right-hunting).

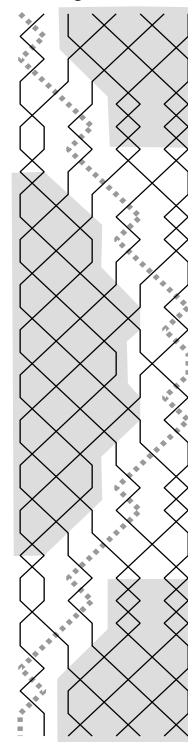


Figure 6: London Surprise Major

Look at the leading. The first and last two leads are hand-back, but all those in between are back-hand, separated by the snaps in 1-2.

### Developing your own 'helpful bits'

These are only examples. There are many small structural insights that can be helpful. Some are quite small, and might take a lot of words to describe, but they can help you 'see' how things fit together.

Tail End

*The Learning Curve*, Volume 1: 1999 - 2001 and Volume 2: 2002 - 2002 are available from CC Publications.