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# Conduct Grandsire Doubles - 1

Grandsire Doubles is a widely rung method that offers more variety of touches than, say, Plain Bob. The variety comes at the cost of a little more complexity, so there is a bit more to learn. This month's article is based on notes that Heather Peachey has very successfully used to help people learn to conduct Grandsire Doubles. It assumes that you are already familiar with Plain Bob Doubles, and with coursing orders (see *The Learning Curve: Volume 3* Chapter 1, January 2004).

### Plain courses

If you think of Grandsire as Plain Bob with an extra hunt bell, then you can mentally attach the hunt bell (2nd in the plain course) to the Treble and refer to the pair as the 'Trebles' (thick lines in Figure 1, Treble solid & hunt bell dotted).

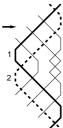


Figure 1: Plain lead

That leaves three working bells with an easily identified coursing order. Throughout the plain course they lead in the order 3-4-5, with the Trebles making their way progressively through them. To see how this works in detail, look at Figure 2. The top row of figures shows the continuous cyclic order, and the bottom row shows the bells that come on the front. Every time a bell makes thirds, the Trebles jump one place in the coursing order sequence.

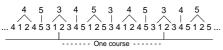


Figure 2: Coursing order in the plain course Calls

The plain course is only 30 rows long (three leads) so you need calls for longer touches, including an extent (all 120 rows). Calls change the coursing order, and they also change the hunt bell. The calls happen a blow earlier than in Plain Bob – so you call at handstroke when the Treble is in 3rd's place (shown by arrows in Figures 1 and 3).

It helps to think of the calls as a game of two pairs (as shown in Figure 3).

- There's a pair in 4-5: The bell leaving the hunt partners the one that follows it up to the back, ie the one that made 3rds at the previous lead. They double dodge together in 4-5. The former hunt bell dodges 'down', and will lead the pair down from the back to the front.
- There's a pair in 2-3: At the lead end, one of them will be in 2nds place, take the Treble from

lead and go into the hunt, and the other will be in 3rds place. Which is which depends on whether it is a bob or a single. The new coursing order of the three working bells will be: the front bell that **doesn't** go into the hunt, then the former hunt bell, then its dodging partner. (In a standard 6-call 120 this last one is the observation bell.)

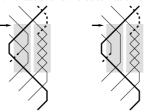


Figure 3: (L) Bob, (R)

## Ringing your own bell on 'auto-pilot'

When you are conducting, you still need to ring your own bell as well as thinking about where to put the calls, and what other people are doing. The best way to cope is to develop the ability to ring your own bell 'on autopilot', so that it doesn't take too much concentration and frees up your conscious attention for the conducting. This is easier if you think about how the method works, and use the natural cues – being aware of where the Treble is, and particularly when it leads.

So, at a plain lead, if you find yourself immediately over the 'Trebles' make thirds. Otherwise, dodge with the first bell that you meet after passing the 'Trebles'. Look at Figure 1, and you will see that this is true for either of the two dodging bells. One is already at the back, so the first it meets is the one that follows it up. And the other bell meets the one that is already at the back. Of course you should listen and watch for when the Treble leads too.

A very common mistake at a plain lead (especially after a run of several calls) is for the hunt bell to try to dodge, instead of following the Treble down. This causes a hiatus, and if the other ringers are inexperienced, they might be tempted to hold up and make things worse, so you need to spot and correct it quickly. If you have it mentally bonded to the Treble, and you are thinking of them as a pair, then you should quickly spot what has happened, and be able to help. Of course you might be in the hunt yourself, so take care that your concentration doesn't lapse. If you can stay conscious of where the Treble is, the risk should be much less, because having followed it up and met it on the back, you should know that you are in the hunt and have to follow the Treble down.

## Conducting from the observation bell

This is how most of us begin, before moving on to calling from a fully working bell. Even after you can call from any bell, there are benefits in then coming back to ring the observation bell if you have inexperienced ringers in the band, because it gives you a useful semi-static viewpoint for the ringing, and makes it a bit easier to see the pattern of what the others should be doing.

To be observation, you must ring either 3rd or 5th – the others can't be the observation bell. The reason is simple – the observation bell only rings two leads (over and over) namely the work of 3rd's place and 5th's place bells.

When calling the most straightforward type of 120 from the observation bell, you alternate between making thirds at a plain lead, and double dodging 4-5 up at a call.

You need to call when the Treble is in 3rds place, which very conveniently is just after you pass it, so you are in 4ths place – see the dots in Figure 4. Make the sound of the call fit in the handstroke gap, and it will be at exactly the right time (and a bit easier to hear if you don't have a loud voice).

As you call, you also meet your dodging partner, which was the hunt bell. Do the double dodge with it, and as it goes down (no longer in the hunt) leaving you in 5ths place, the Treble will come reassuringly up to turn you from the back, as shown in Figure 4.



Figure 4: Observation bell at a call

#### Variants

1.

If you call yourself as observation with a bob every other lead, it only produces 60 rows. To produce a whole extent (120 rows) you have to use singles. There are three possibilities, six calls in any of the following sequences:

- BBS, BBS or
- 2. B S B, B S B or
- 3. SBB, SBB

Remember that there is a plain lead between each call, but they are not shown here for clarity. You make 3rds at each plain lead, so if ringing the 3rd, start with a call and end with a plain lead, and vice-versa if ringing the 5th.

There are two ways to remember these touches. Each touch has the same three calls repeated. It works for any combination of two bobs and a single.

Alternatively, think of the calls as a continuous cycle, as in Figure 5. The two singles are opposite each other, and you read once round clockwise. Staring at 9 o'clock gives touch 1 above, starting at 11 o'clock gives touch 2 and starting at 1 o'clock gives touch 3. The three touches are just variants of this cycle.



Figure 5: Cycle of calls

A common worry is forgetting where to put the second single. Look at a 120 written out, and you will see that at both singles you dodge with the same bell, and you don't dodge with it at any other time. So you can call a touch without needing to remember the sequence. Just decide with whom to dodge at the singles. Then each time you meet that bell on the back (as in Figure 4) call a single, and call bobs at the other calling positions until it comes round!

When you are confident calling these basic touches from the observation bell, you will want to go on to call other touches, from other bells, which is what we will look at next month.

Tail End

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