



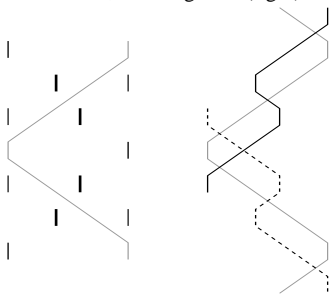
## Double Norwich

Double Norwich Court Bob Major (DNCBM to its friends) used to be rung more than it is now. It is musical and easy to learn, but some people only half learn it, which is a pity.

### The structure

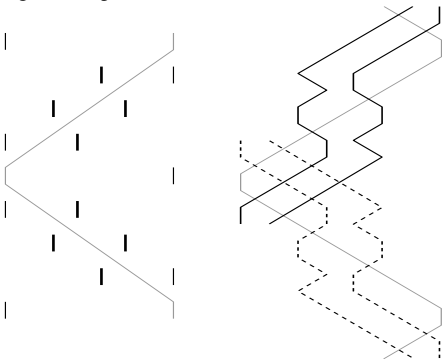
Before we look at the blue line, let's look at the structure, which shows how everything fits together. We will start with Double Court Bob Minor, which is Double Norwich's little brother. Figure 1 (left) shows that places are made in 3rd and 4th, either side of the Treble's path. These are called court places (hence the method name).

The place in 3rd stops the bell hunting down before the Treble, and it then has to cross the Treble's path (since it mustn't stop the Treble hunting) and immediately makes the place in 4th. So between them, the pair of places move the bell coursing ahead of the Treble, to make it course behind the Treble, as in Figure 1 (right).



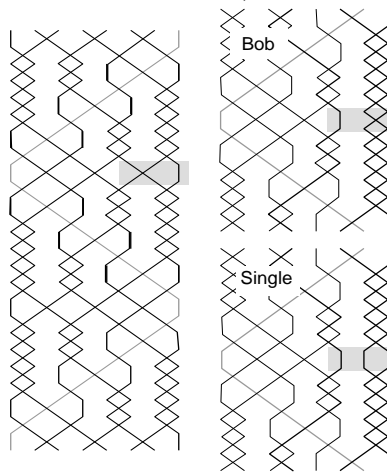
Internal places Bells affected by places  
Figure 1: Double Court Bob Minor

Now let's look at Double Norwich Court Bob Major. Figure 2 (left) shows court places in 5th and 6th, as well as 3rd and 4th. Figure 2 (right) shows how they affect the paths of the bells that make them. Between them the two pairs of places move two coursing bells across the Treble's path. The reason for the dodges next to the places might not be obvious at first sight, but look carefully, and you will see that without it, the bell would be on the same path as the other one. In October 2005 *The Learning Curve* (Volume 3, Chapter 5) used this as an example of how bells work together in pairs.



Location of places Pairs making places  
Figure 2: Double Norwich Court Bob Major

In general, making a place forces other bells to take a step backwards and dodge, so not surprisingly, the rest of the structure is almost all dodging, as as shown in Figure 3 (left). One bell runs through the two bells that make places, and dodges with them both. The space in 7-8 is filled with dodging, but 8th place at the lead end breaks it into two double dodges. The work under the Treble is a mirror image of the work over it, because it is a double method.



Complete structure Effect of calls  
Figure 3: Double Norwich Court Bob Major

### The blue line

Figure 4 shows the blue line. 8th place bell starts at a pivot point (arrow), and 4th place bell is pivot point in the middle (arrow). The whole line is symmetrical front to back (because it is a double method) as well as top to bottom, giving further symmetry points where it passes the Treble in 4-5 (in the middle of 2nd place bell, and near the start of 6th place bell). Thus the whole line can be considered as four segments, with the first 1 3/4 lead segment then reflected vertically and laterally to give the remaining three segments.

The line shows several memorable patterns. Omitted double dodges are immediately adjacent to the Treble's path (because you can't dodge with Treble). So too are the non-dodge ends of internal places (as Figure 2 showed).

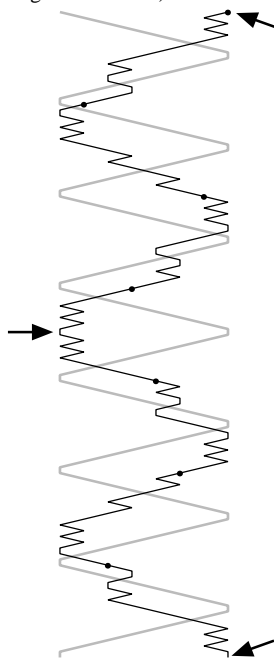


Figure 4: The blue line

## Coursing orders

A nice feature of Double Norwich is that it preserves the coursing order seen by the working bells. They meet each other (apart from the Treble) in the same order as in Plain Bob throughout. That helps to make things feel familiar, and certainly helps if you or someone near you makes a trip. This works because the pairs of bells moved by the places always remain the same way round with respect to each other. The Treble doesn't meet the bells in coursing order (because bells cross its path where they wouldn't if they were hunting).

## Rules and incantations

A notable feature of Double Norwich is the way that people use cryptic mnemonics to remember the work and zealously pass them on to other people. Several versions appeared recently during an e-mail discussion:

- 'First, Treble bob, Last, Near, Full, Far'
- 'First, Bob, Last, Near, Full, Far'
- 'Near, Full, Far, Treble bob'

They are variants. The second just shortens 'Treble bob' to 'Bob', and the third is a cyclic variation starting at a different point, and omitting 'first' and 'last'. Let's decipher them.

'Treble bob' should be self explanatory. It forms the latter part of 2nd place bell and the first part of 6th place bell.

'Near' and 'far' relate to where you make places, relative to where you are now. So when leaving the back, 'near' means 5-6 and 'far' means 3-4, whereas when leaving the front, 'near' means 3-4 and 'far' means 5-6.

'Full' means doing two double dodges together, at the back or the front.

'First' and 'last' relate to meeting the Treble (on the back or the front) before or after doing a double dodge, respectively. The third version omits 'first' and 'last', and relies on you seeing when you meet the Treble, which is what prevents the double dodge, as explained above.

Even more cryptic, *Tail End* remembers from his youth – 'far places near, near places far' – but no one ever explained what it meant!

## Ring by the Treble

With a method whose structure revolves around the Treble, it is always possible to ring by knowing where the Treble is in relation to you. This is particularly attractive in Double Norwich because most of the work is linked directly to the Treble's path. This leads to:

- If Treble turns you from back or front, make near places.
- If you meet it next, make far places.
- Otherwise, Treble bob
- On the back or the front, always double dodge unless you meet the Treble.

## Calls

At a bob 6th place is made instead of the normal 8th place lead end (see grey areas in Figure 3). It turns round the treble bob bell, and makes the back bells do an extra dodge, thus joining two double dodges into a 5-pull dodge (2+1+2=5). Bells on the front are not affected.

At a single, 6th, 7th and 8th places are made. This keeps the pair at the back together like a bob, but splits the dodging into two doubles. The bell making 8th is unaffected by the single.

*Tail End*

*The Learning Curve*, Volume 3: 2004-2005, is available from CC Publications.