

Call Changes

Call Change ringing is a very important part of our heritage in the south west. Through the years I have tried to promote the ringing of longer 'peals' following reading A D Elliotts & J A Purdey's book from 1979. For ringers who do not wish to do any method ringing these performances allow ringers to get satisfaction for ringing for longer lengths and being able to mark special occasions. While it is fair to say that Call Change ringing generally runs on very similar lines on both sides of the Tamar this text does not claim to represent the views of the Devon Ringers in any way.

Some excerpts from our book are detailed below. If you wish to purchase a copy please follow this link: <https://www.whitingsociety.org.uk/publications/ringing-down-ere.html>

Owen Borlase – March, 2022

Calling and Conducting Changes

Though it may seem surprising these are not always the same thing in Call Change towers.

Calling: Changes are often called from a script or from memory by people with little appreciation of peal structure and poor rope sight. Call Change learners are rarely instructed in the mysteries of peal composition and it is not unusual to find a tower devoid of anyone with a working theoretical knowledge. In either case the caller is likely to be too preoccupied to be able to conduct effectively. Whoever has the loudest opinion at the moment will conduct each time there is a trip and the ringing can soon suffer.

Conducting: For the best results the peal should be conducted and called by the same person. This requires good rope sight and a thorough understanding of the peal structure. The changes can then be called without a script, under competent control, and the inevitable muddles of calling by committee are avoided. The technical challenge is nothing like as daunting as conducting in method ringing and the art can soon be developed with application and hard work.

When conducting a six-bell 120 the conductor must ensure that each row is rung correctly. This basically entails ensuring that the two bells called have changed places and that nobody else has changed place inadvertently. This can often be avoided by watching the ringers carefully after the call is made, as problems are often signalled by facial expressions as in method ringing.

Miscalls: If the conductor makes an incorrect call certain bands will have a shout of "miscall" made by committee. The ringers then hold their places so that the rhythm is not upset.

Call Change peals can be conducted without a script by:-

"Blue line" technique, that is calling by remembering the paths of bells. For instance in eight-bell Queens the caller will know that the bells are put into an odds-evens position at the start, 13572468, so from rounds the even bells are called back 6 first, then 4 then 2. These few changes are easy to remember. Each bell is then called back through the peal which can easily be done by rope sight. To finish reverse the original Queens changes to get back to rounds. Hunting peals may be called by remembering the "blue line" of each bell and calling by rope sight, this requires lots of memory as the "blue lines" of several bells need to be known.

Place Structure. Much more straightforward is a combination of rope sight to call the hunting bell and by place structure to make the inside changes. This removes the burden of having to use feats of memory where the place structure is straightforward, method conductors will find this elementary. For

instance, Reverse Peal No. 1 Doubles, Diagram 2 is a 120 Call Change Plain Hunt with Treble the principal hunting bell and the 5th the staggered hunting bell.

To call the peal by place structure one uses the following rules. The first job is to hunt the Treble up to the back. So from 123456 when the Treble hunts up to the back you get 234516. When the principal hunt bell is in 5th's place and the staggered hunt bell is in 4th's place the lead must be changed, this is the first rule, which gives 324516 in this example. Then the Treble is hunted back down to lead (132456). The staggered hunt bell is now moved one place down, or up, (132546) depending on its direction of travel, and the Treble hunts up again (325416). This is repeated until the 5th is leading and the Treble is at the back (532416), when 3rd and 4th's place bells must be changed (534216) – this is the second rule.

Diagram 1 shows the changes called and the places in which they are called for the first 45 changes, this shows the complete 40 change cycle which is repeated three times to make the 120 change extent. The inside changes occur every five rows in the following sequence: 1/2 4/5 2/3 2/3 3/4 2/3 2/3 4/5 , repeat three times.

Diagram 1 Place structure Reverse Peal No. 1 Doubles
(Arr. by O.J.Borlase)

									1/2	2/3	3/4	4/5
0	1	2	3	4	5	6						
1	2	1	3	4	5	6	1 - 2L	x				
2	2	3	1	4	5	6	1 - 3		x			
3	2	3	4	1	5	6	1 - 4			x		
4	2	3	4	5	1	6	1 - 5					x
5	3	2	4	5	1	6	2 - 3L	X				
6	3	2	4	1	5	6	5 - 1					x
7	3	2	1	4	5	6	4 - 1			x		
8	3	1	2	4	5	6	2 - 1		x			
9	1	3	2	4	5	6	3 - 1L	x				
10	1	3	2	5	4	6	4 - 5					X
11	3	1	2	5	4	6	1 - 3L	x				
12	3	2	1	5	4	6	1 - 2		x			
13	3	2	5	1	4	6	1 - 5			x		
14	3	2	5	4	1	6	1 - 4					x
15	3	5	2	4	1	6	2 - 5		X			
16	3	5	2	1	4	6	4 - 1					x
17	3	5	1	2	4	6	2 - 1			x		
18	3	1	5	2	4	6	5 - 1		x			
19	1	3	5	2	4	6	3 - 1L	x				
20	1	5	3	2	4	6	3 - 5		X			
21	5	1	3	2	4	6	1 - 5L	x				
22	5	3	1	2	4	6	1 - 3		x			
23	5	3	2	1	4	6	1 - 2			x		
24	5	3	2	4	1	6	1 - 4					x
25	5	3	4	2	1	6	2 - 4			X		
26	5	3	4	1	2	6	2 - 1					x
27	5	3	1	4	2	6	4 - 1			x		
28	5	1	3	4	2	6	3 - 1		x			
29	1	5	3	4	2	6	5 - 1L	x				
30	1	3	5	4	2	6	5 - 3		X			
31	3	1	5	4	2	6	1 - 3L	x				
32	3	5	1	4	2	6	1 - 5		x			
33	3	5	4	1	2	6	1 - 4			x		

35	5	-	4		345216	75	5	-	2		425316	115	5	-	3		235416
36	2	-	1		345126	76	3	-	1		425136	116	4	-	1		235146
37	5	-	1		341526	77	5	-	1		421536	117	5	-	1		231546
38	4	-	1		314526	78	2	-	1		412536	118	3	-	1		213546
39	3	-	1	L	134526	79	4	-	1	L	142536	119	2	-	1	L	123546
40	5	-	2		134256	80	5	-	3		142356	120	5	-	4		123456