



Bristol Rural News

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers

The Newsletter of Bristol Rural Branch Bellringers

No 282

Website: www.bristolrural.co.uk email: bristolrural@bristolrural.co.uk

Headlines

**1 Annual General Meeting—Saturday 27th November— by Zoom
-details later**

October November 2021

Editor's Note

In the last newsletter I said we would be carrying out a survey to find out what our towers are doing post-Covid. Our secretary Linda circulated the results, which proved to be quite interesting. I expect the situation is changing all the time, but it seems that, of the towers that replied, somewhat more than half were ringing for services but virtually none were having normal 'open' practices. That suggested to me that our ringers weren't yet wishing to meet in large numbers. This is the reason the Committee have not made moves to get the Branch programme underway again.

We will be holding our Branch AGM at the end of November, by Zoom, and the most important decision we have to make is when to start Branch activities. Details of the meeting will be circulated later but in the meantime it would be good if each tower could form a view about the resumption of Branch ringing.

Chris Greef

Taking the 'plain' out of Plain Bob Doubles

This article and Tony Smith's note were originally published in The Ringing World of 8th September 1995.

Quarter peals and Peals of Plain Bob Doubles do have the reputation for being boring for those more experienced ringers taking part. This is mostly due to the limited possibilities for calling extents of the method. I hope that the following will expand those callings thus adding some spice to the proceedings, especially for the conductor.

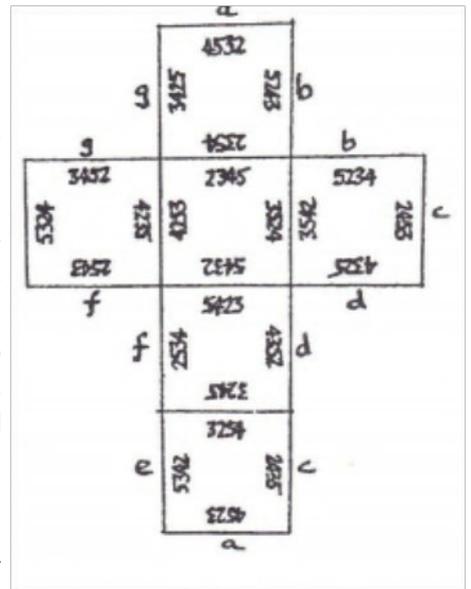
A couple of years ago the Revd John Morgan, then vicar of Mangotsfield, produced an article for this august journal on the subject of Bob Doubles. I believe that the article was never published, but a copy recently came into the hands of the present Tower Captain at Mangotsfield, Ryan Price who is also Branch Ringing Master, and he showed it to other members of the Branch. John's ideas seemed to us quite novel. His approach was to produce a 'Bob Doubles Cube' with lead ends of Bob Doubles written against each edge thus:

There are two rules for movement:

1. One place clockwise around a face represents a plain

lead, e.g. from rounds 2345, a plain lead takes you to 3524, the next lead takes you to 5432 etc.

2. Stepping over the edge onto the next face represents a Bob e.g. from rounds 2345 a bob lead takes you to 2354. Every conceivable touch of Bob Doubles (true or false) can be seen as an excursion

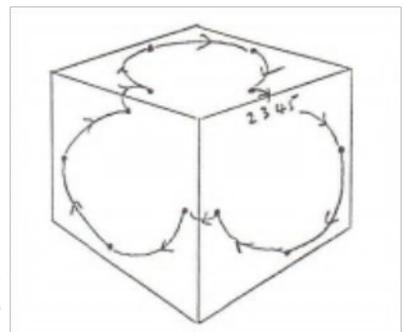


The Bob Doubles Cube

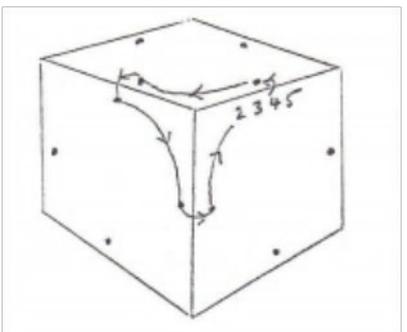
over the face of the cube so that, for example, an extent of 120 with 5th's observation can be shown as follows: (pppbpppbpppb).

Again, below is a 60: (bpbpbp).

If the cube is examined, it will be apparent that all changes occur twice, once at hand and once at back. The pairs occur on opposite faces of the cube, so tracing a path that involves opposite faces is probably - but not necessarily - false. John had tried to see if a 240 similar to Morris's 240 of Grandsire could be produced, i.e. all changes to occur twice, once at handstroke and



A standard 120 of Bob Doubles



A standard 60 of Bob Doubles

once at backstroke. In order to do this it is necessary to visit each edge (and thus each possible lead end) once, and once only. John had been able to show that this is not possible using Bobs, and thus a Morris's type 240 was unattainable.

At the time that he wrote the article it appears that John did not consider the use of the Single in Bob Doubles. On his cube a Single takes one across to the far side of the cube, and so it opens up the possibility of many more paths and therefore many more touches, and even the 240. Examination of the cube (combined with much head scratching) eventually came up with a calling to achieve this. It was: pbbpspspbps repeated. Investigation of this sequence shows that it works wherever in the sequence you start, thus giving 12 different callings, (e.g. spbpspbpsp repeated). It also works if called in reverse order (e.g. spbpspspbpbp), so there are a further 12 callings there. This means that there are 24 different 240's available. Pick any 21 of them and you have a peal composition which is far from 'Plain', and should keep the average conductor wide awake! For a quarter pick five of them and try a different 60 e.g. bppspp. Morgan's Cube has shown itself to be a useful tool for visualising what happens during a touch of Bob Doubles, and it almost certainly can be used with many other doubles methods. The only criterion would appear to be that bob calls are reversible, i.e. from whichever face you call the bob you arrive at the adjacent face. (This is not true of Reverse Canterbury for example). ref. Circling the Plain Bob Doubles Cube an unpublished article by Revd John W. M. Morgan

Alan Freke (Frenchay)

Alan Freke's 240s of Plain Bob Doubles are round blocks in which each of the different rows occurs the same number of times and, in accordance with Central Council rules may be used in a peal. To the best of my knowledge, his 240s have not been published previously and they certainly have not appeared in The Ringing World. I confirm that it is not possible to produce a 240 of Plain Bob Doubles having each row once at hand stroke and once at back stroke using only standard Bobs or only standard Singles. Although an extent of Plain Bob Doubles using standard Singles appeared (under another name) in Duckworth's Tintinnologia in 1668, it was only in 1977 at Derby that the Council recognised the Single as a standard call for the method. The standard calls for the 171 Doubles methods were given in Plain Doubles Methods and Variations published in 1980 and Singles for Doubles methods have only been shown in The Ringing World Diary since 1992. This may explain why the Revd. John Morgan did not consider using singles. Excluding rotations, there are 16 different 240s of Plain Bob Doubles having each row once at hand stroke and once at back stroke. When rotations are taken into account, there are 328 such 240s, compared with only 32 for Grandsire Doubles (Morris's, Price's and their rotations).

Anthony P Smith, Chairman, Methods Committee

Ringing Books Available

Tony York has some books and badges available at cost as below. Please contact him if you are interested:

The One per Learner Book (the little yellow book, ideal for learners for logging progress in early stages) - £1 each.

Ringing Circles (gives the blue line and details of what happens at calls for some standard methods) - some left at £3.50 each—new price £4.

Tony York

Branch Ringing Achievements

For the first time since Covid hit us, there are a couple of tower bell quarter peals to record. Another sign of a slow return to normality?

Thornbury—1260 Plain Bob Minor (rung on 7 bells) - rung in celebration of the life of John R Ridley

Thornbury—1260 Plain Bob Triples