# Beyond The Learning Curve

*Tail End* comes out of retirement to look at learning methods for the Diamond Jubilee

## Diamond Bob Triples

Most ringers will want to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with some special ringing, and what better way than ringing an appropriately named method. Most bands never do that, because they think that learning a complicated method would be too difficult for them. In fact it is a myth to think that all methods other than the commonly rung ones are difficult. Many are, but quite a few aren't, especially 'once you get to know them'.

Learning a completely new method can seem a big step to take if you haven't learnt one for many years, but you can make it a lot easier if you tackle it in the right way. In these articles, I will pick out some of the easiest methods with appropriate names for the Diamond Jubilee, and show how you can help yourself to learn them. Let's start with Diamond Bob Triples.

### Sizing it up

Before starting to learn a new method, it pays to 'walk around it', looking at it from different perspectives to see 'how it ticks', and to spot any features that might be helpful. Don't just look at it in 'Diary format' (all the numbers with the line superimposed). That helps for some purposes, but it can also obscure helpful features.

Look at the whole line uncluttered by the numbers, which makes it much easier to see the 'big picture' – the overall pattern of the line.

Look also at the grid, which shows how everything fits together. Many ringers ignore the grid, but it can often show you useful things that you can miss in the other views.

When looking at the line and the grid, try to see whether there are any similarities with other methods that you already know. That way you can build on top of your existing knowledge, rather than always having to start from scratch.

### The grid

Figure 1 shows the grid of Diamond Bob Triples, with a lead and a half so you can visualise the work over the Treble in one piece.

What strikes you immediately is the pair of bells working together on the front for the whole lead, with no other bells coming below 3rd place. That should make you think of St Clements (or St Simons, St Martins, etc if you are familiar with Doubles methods). It's not quite the same though. Instead of continuous dodging, it is 'dodge, places, dodge'. You could think of it as a mix of St Simons and St Martins front work.

Above this pair, all the work under the Treble is hunting down to 3rd place and back, just like St Clements.

So far, so good, now what about the work over the Treble. At the lead end it is like Plain Bob (2nds, 3-4 and 5-6 dodges, and 4 blows behind) – like St Clement's. But either side of the lead is something new – pairs of places in 4ths and 5ths. You can see that those places swap a pair of bells, so they go the opposite way to what they would in St Clements (but they meet again later and swap back, as we shall see).

### The line

From what we have seen of the structure, we might expect a lot of similarity to St Clements, so let's now look at the line. First check the lead end order, which is the same as St Clements – the place bells go 2, 3, 5, 7, 6, 4 and back to 2.

Now look at the overall pattern. Starting from 2nd place bell the first and last leads are spent on the front, and all the leads in between are spent between 3rd place and the back, just like St Clements. The detailed work on the front (dodge, places, dodge) shows up more clearly in the line than it did in the grid, and you can see that both dodges are in the same direction (up in the case of 2nd place bell and down in 4th place bell).

Now look at the rest of the line. The middle two leads (from 5th place bell, through 7th place bell, to the start of 6th place bell) are exactly the same as St Clements (hunting down to 3rd place between lead ends).

The two remaining leads (3rd place bell and 6th place bell) look quite different from St Clements, but they both start and end in the same place as they would do in St Clements. (In fact they have to for the lead end order to be the same.) Figure 2 shows how that happens. The pair swapped over by the places just after one lead end meet again just before the next lead and swap back by making places again.

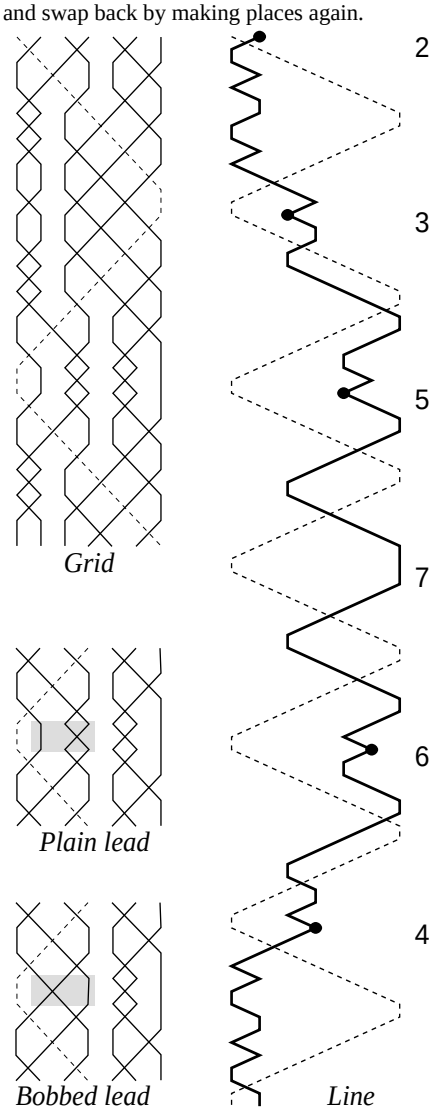


*Figure 1: Diamond Bob Triples*

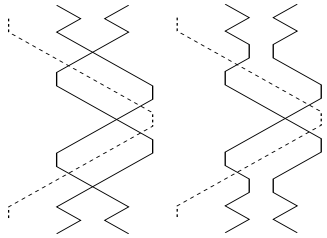


*Figure 2: The pair swapped by places*

### Calls

With Plain Bob lead ends it is conventional to use a 4th place bob, so the effect of the calls is like Plain Bob (In, Out, Make 4ths). Providing you know the starts for all the place bells, there is nothing extra to learn.

There is a small catch to beware of. Because 4ths is made immediately either side of the lead end, as it is for example in Single Oxford Bob Minor, when you run out at a bob to become 3rd place bell, you immediately make 4ths.

### Quarter peal

If you want to ring a quarter peal of Diamond Bob, here is a simple composition.

1260 Diamond Bob Triples

23456 6th 5th H

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54632 - - 3

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5-part

We will look at Major and Minor methods in future articles.

*Tail End*

You can download this, and any other method, in Diary, Line or Grid format from: http://www.boojum.org.uk/cgi-bin/line.pl

The CC Compositions Committee will be publishing other compositions for peals and quarter peals of Diamond Jubilee methods.

For information on Jubilee ringing, see: http://cccbr.org.uk/jubilee/