

Double Court and Hereward Bob Minor

Double Court Bob Minor is an essential in the Social Ringer's repertoire, but surprisingly Hereward Bob, although very closely related, is not often rung.

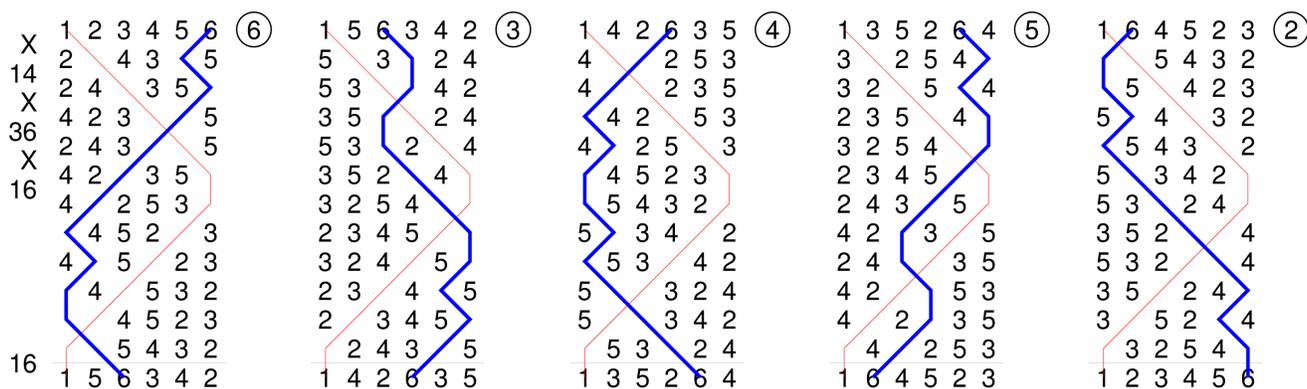
I'll argue that very few people ring Double Court by visualising the Line: most find it easier to watch carefully where the treble is whilst ringing. For that reason alone, it (along with Kent Treble Bob) is a very useful method to learn and practice.

Ringling Double Court

So, how to ring it? There are 3 simple Rules:

- 1) The Treble plain hunts to 6ths place and back, and gives way to no-one!
- 2) The inside bells dodge at the front and the back UNLESS the treble takes them off
- 3) If the treble does take you off, run away and make places to allow the treble through

Double Court Bob Minor



Note that 6ths place bell comes first in the Blue Line: we'll come back to that. We'll start with the last column which shows 2nds place bell.

2nds place	Lead and dodge; plain hunt to the back; dodge and lie
6ths place	Dodge; plain hunt to the front; dodge and lead. Treble takes you off, so don't dodge but run out to 3rds place ...
3rds place	... continue running to 4ths place and make places, then make 3rds (allowing the treble to come through), then plain hunt to the back, take the treble off the back (no dodge), lie and dodge, running in through 4ths place
4ths place	Continue running in to the front; dodge, lead, dodge; plain hunt out through 5ths place ...
5ths place	... continue to the back; dodge and lie. The treble takes you off, so don't dodge but run in to 3rds place and make places, then make 4ths allowing the treble to come through, and finally plain hunt to 2nds place

Signposts

Thankfully, there are some treble passing cues. Looking at 6ths place bell, having dodged at the back and on the way in, you are in 5ths place over the treble; this is advance warning that at the lead, the treble will take you off. Likewise as 4ths place bell, having led and dodged, on the way out you pass the treble in 3rds place; this is advance warning that at the back, the treble will take you off.

Bobs and Singles

Remember that the Blue Line showed 6ths place bell first? This is a clue that Double Court is a 6ths place method. Recall that in Minor, pairs of bells cross or make places. When the treble leads, one other bell *has* to make places (and depending on the method another *pair* may make places too). In Double Court, it is the bell in 6ths place that makes places when the treble leads.

How does this affect the Bobs and Singles? When the treble leads, the bells in 2 and 3 run out and in normally: they are unaffected by the bob. The bell that was running out to 5ths place 'makes the bob', ie makes places in 4ths. Now look at the diagram for 2nds place bell; had a bob NOT been called, the bell would have dodged and lain. However at a bob, instead of lying, the bell dodges back into 5ths place, and note that the 5ths place bell starts with a dodge. The effect is to dodge 3 times. Likewise 3rds place bell will have lain and dodged, but instead of running in, the bob forces the bell to dodge back into 6ths place, and note that the 6ths place bell starts with a dodge. The effect is to dodge 3 times.

At a single, 2nds place bell is unaffected, dodging, lying and dodging at the back. The 3rds place bell on the other hand has to dovetail with this bell; the effect is to lie, dodge, then make places in 5ths (sandwiched between the bell making the bob in 4ths and the unaffected bell lying in 6ths), dodge, lie, and be taken of the back by the treble.

Touches

Length	Calling	
24	BB	
48	SSSS	Warning - 65s at backstroke
72	B-B-B-	Out Make In
72	S-S-B-	Out Make In
96	[SSS-]x2	Good singles practice for 2,3&6! Some 65s at backstroke
120	[-B--B]x2	Out and In, twice
144	[S-B-B-]x2	
144	[S-S-S-]x2	Out Make In, twice
360	[-B- -B - B - - -]x3	Out In Out, thrice
720	[-B- -B - B - - -]x6	As 360, but Single In at the end of the 3 rd and 6 th part

Going Further

If Double Court is the Minor method, then extending it to Major gives Double Norwich Court Bob Major, a true classic, but that is beyond our scope. If you get the chance to ring it, give it a go.

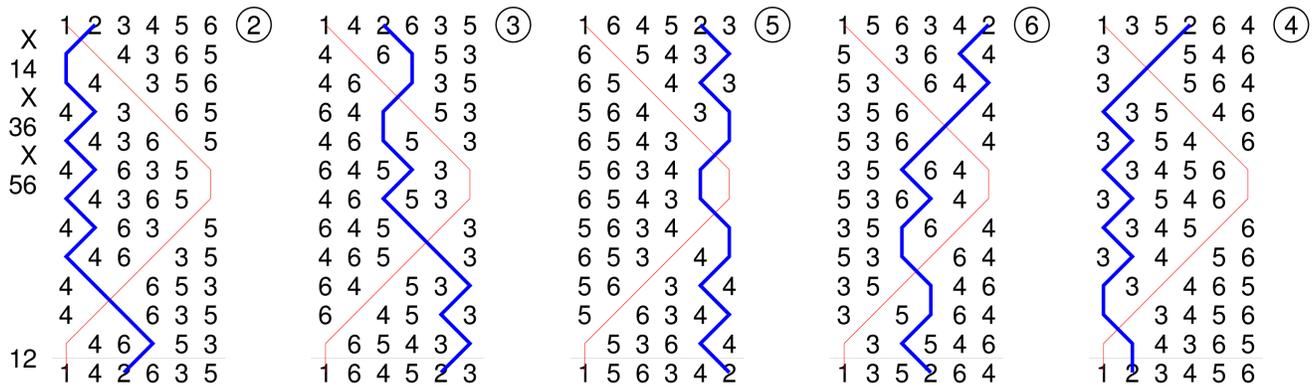
Hereward Bob

So, where does Hereward Bob come into this? Well, if you are not familiar with Double Oxford Bob Minor, I suggest you look away now. You *could* learn Hereward Bob as a completely new method, *or* you could think of Hereward Bob as Double Court below the treble, but Double Oxford above the treble.

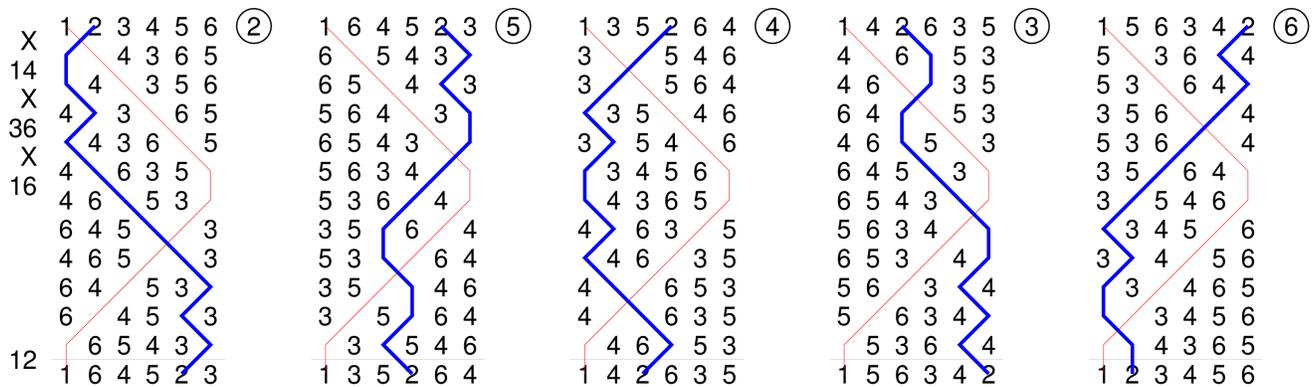
[2 minutes' pause while this sinks in]

Have a look at Double Oxford and Double Court while you look at Hereward Bob.

Double Oxford Bob Minor



Hereward Bob Minor



Ringing one method below the treble and a different one above the treble is a technique you will use often. Initially it is quite demanding, until the brain learns to remember *when* it passes the treble and whether you are *below* or *above* it. Believe me, it gets easier with practice.

Other 'common' methods like this? Woodbine Delight (Norwich over Kent), Oswald Delight (Kent over Cambridge) – actually, I'd argue *any* Delight, as they are a combination of a Surprise and a Treble Bob method. Single Oxford (Double Oxford Bob Minor over Plain Bob Minimus), 'BoatRace' (Oxford over Cambridge), London Bob (Double Court over Double Oxford). In fact, if your band knows two

methods well, it is worth exploring if they can be merged in this way, if only for something different on a practice night

Further Reading

Steve Coleman: "Method Ringer's Companion" p94

Steve Coleman: "Bob Caller's Companion" p187

Wilfred Wilson: "Change Ringing" p 85