



OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

Educational Leaflet

No. 12

SURPRISE MINOR: CAMBRIDGE TO LONDON

Part 2 BUILDING ON CAMBRIDGE MINOR

Part 3 LONDON SURPRISE MINOR 1992

1. Primrose Surprise Minor

The final 'chapter' of the leaflet on Cambridge Surprise Minor gave the place notation for the method:

x 36 x 14 x 12 x 36 x 14 x 56 le 12

The place notation for Primrose Surprise Minor is identical except that the lead end is 16. You should now be able to ring Primrose without any reference to a diagram.

The '12' lead end in Cambridge causes one bell to make seconds over the treble while the other bells cross, similarly '16' means that the treble and the bell at the back lie still while the two remaining pairs of bells cross.

This makes all bells plain hunt for two blows, instead of dodging, at the lead end.

Therefore at the end of seconds place bell, after the double 5-6 up dodge, the bell lies behind and then plain hunts down to become fourths place bell at the next backstroke.

Fourths place bell, instead of doing a 5-6 up dodge at the end, simply lies behind and becomes sixths place bell. (This is the '6' of the '16'.)

Sixths place bell omits the 3-4 up dodge at the end of the places and hunts up to become fifths place bell, while fifths place bell dodges with the treble at the end of the reverse frontwork and hunts up to become thirds place bell.

Thirds place bell hunts straight through from the back, down to dodge 1-2 down with the treble and become seconds place bell.

You will note that the lead end order is 2,4,6,5,3.

In other words, instead of changing direction with a dodge at the treble's backstroke lead, keep hunting in the same direction and your position at the backstroke will tell you which place bell you have become.

Bobs in Primrose

As this is a 'sixths place' method the Bobs affect the bells in fourths, fifths and sixths place.

Seconds place bell has done two dodges and a lie at the back and at a plain lead would hunt down to become fourths place bell.

At a bob it dodges 5-6 down and becomes sixths place bell.

Sixths place bell is finishing the 3-4 up places and at a plain lead would hunt up to become fifths place bell. The bob causes it to make two blows in fourths and become fourths place bell, beginning the 3-4 down places.

Fourths place bell is hunting out to the back to lie and become sixths place bell. The bob causes it to dodge at the lead end (in 5-6 up) and to become fifths place bell.

An easier way to ring this is to remember that Primrose is basically Cambridge but with two blows of plain hunt at the lead end instead of a dodge.

At a bob the two bells in 5-6 revert to the Cambridge instruction and dodge at the lead end, while the bell making the 3-4 places up makes the bob exactly as in Cambridge.

If you write out a Bob Course of Cambridge and a Bob Course of Primrose you will see that they are identical!

Singles

Singles in Primrose, like the bobs, are made by the three bells at the back.

Sixths place bell, which is finishing the 3-4 up places, makes fourths as at a bob and becomes fourths place bell.

Fourths place bell is unaffected by the single, becoming sixths place bell at the lead end.

Seconds place bell, having just done two 5-6 up dodges and a lie behind, makes fifths at the lead end and becomes fifths place bell.

2. Ipswich and Norfolk

Ipswich: x 36 x 14 x 12 x 36 x 14 x 16 le 12
 Norfolk: x 36 x 14 x 12 x 36 x 14 x 16 le 16

As you can see these two methods differ from each other only in the work at the lead end. They are also identical to Cambridge and Primrose except for the 16 at the half lead where Cambridge and Primrose both have a 56 (denoting the bell making fifths under the treble at the half lead).

So you can correctly deduce that while the treble naturally lies still in sixths place the two bells below it are crossing.

The ‘pivot’ bell (fifths place bell) leads at the half lead; while the other bells plain hunt. The basis of Ipswich is Cambridge but with a plain hunt instead of a dodge at the half lead, so for example seconds place bell will ring Cambridge until it reaches the half lead dodge (the one at the end of the front-work) when it will omit the dodge and hunt up two blows to do the work of the second half of sixths place bell (3-4 places). A dodge at the lead end makes it thirds place bell until the half lead when, instead of lying in fifths under the treble it will hunt down and take up the second half of the fourths place bell’s work.

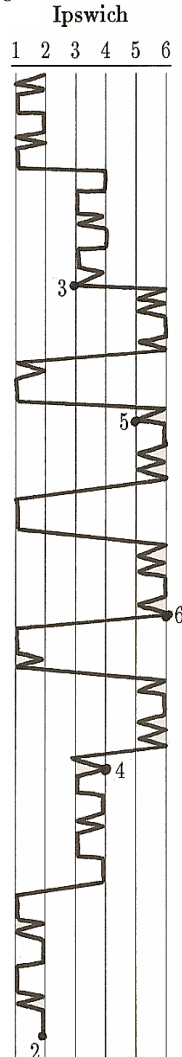
Unless you really know where all the half leads are in the course you will probably have to write this out and learn it as a new method.

Norfolk combines both the lead end plain hunt of Primrose with the half lead plain hunt of Ipswich. If you have practised Ipswich so that you know it well you should be able to ring this without recourse to a diagram.

Bobs and Singles

Ipswich has the same ‘12’ lead end as Cambridge and therefore the work at the bobs and singles is exactly the same as in Cambridge.

Norfolk has the same ‘16’ lead end as Primrose and so the work at the calls is exactly the same as in Primrose.



3. Norwich

This is a somewhat different method:

x 36 x 14 x 12 x 36 x 34 x 16 le 16

It is however easy to learn.

Seconds place bell starts by doing a long but symmetrical front-work dodge, lead, seconds, double dodge, lead. A double dodge, seconds, lead, dodge. (The first and last dodges are with the treble.)

It then goes up to make fourths and hunts back down to lead. Now v discover why the start of the frontwork was identical to Cambridge except for the double dodge; in effect what you are now going to rir is the second half of sixth's place Cambridge, but with the dodges taken off the beginning and end of the places and moved respectively to the front and the back.

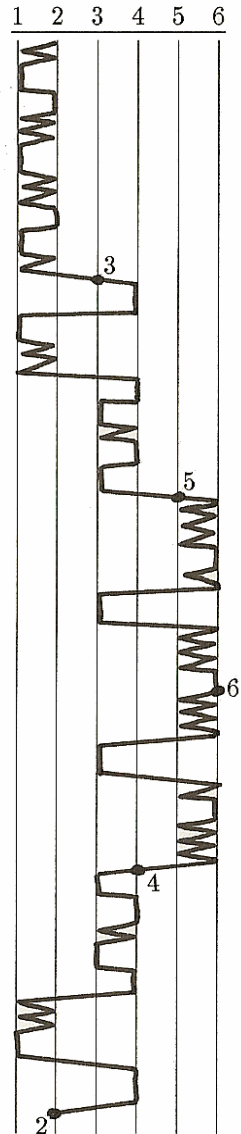
After the full lead double dodge 1-2 up and then go up to 3-4 to mal 'blank' places, that is, fourths, thirds, dodge with the treble, fourths, thirds.

Then go up to the back for three dodges in 5-6 up. Lie behind and t treble will come up to you for a single 5-6 dodge. Hunt down to ma thirds and go up to the back again for a 'three and three'. Another h down to thirds and back will bring you to the treble in 5-6 for a sing dodge. Lie behind, do three 5-6 down dodges and go down to do th 'blank' places in 3-4.

After the places run in to a double dodge and lead on the front, hunt make fourths and back to become seconds place bell.

When you are dodging at the back if the dodge is with the treble it v be a single dodge, if with any other bell there will be three dodges.

When you get into thirds when hunting down from the back and cannot remember which set of thirds place it is, look for the treble. I is above you then hunt back up for some more back work, if it is below you then the thirds is the first place of the 3-4 down places. When you get into fourths place from the front and the treble is beneath you, you make fourths and hunt back to lead. If it is above you, you are starting your places.



Bobs and Singles

This method has Kent type bobs, in that the back bells are affected rather than the front ones. The bell which makes the bob does so at the end of the 3-4 up places, making fourths and going straight into the 3-4 down places.

The bells at the back have already done three dodges and do another one for the bob, followed by a further three. (Look at the diagram to see where the lead ends are.)

This is where it comes in handy to see if the treble is beneath you when you get to thirds. A short explanation of method types is relevant here:

The Bob lead end of Plain Bob, Cambridge, Ipswich, (and many other methods) is '14'. This means that the treble and the fourths place bell lie still, while the remaining pairs cross. The Plain lead of these methods is '12' and so the calls affect the front three working bells as shown in the following example of Cambridge lead ends:

Plain Lead End	(at the end of the plain course)	123456
Bob Lead End	(")	142356
Single Lead End	(")	124356

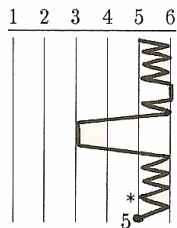
The Bob lead end of Primrose and Norfolk Surprise is also 14 and similarly the remaining pairs of bells cross. However, these methods have a '16' lead end, and this means that the bobs affect the back three bells rather than the front three.

One bell will make fourths at the bob, while the other two do a dodge in 5-6. The example below uses Primrose lead ends:

Plain Lead End	(at the end of the plain course)	123456
Bob Lead End	(")	123564
Single Lead End	(")	123546

A third type of bob is the one relevant to Norwich, the 'repeating lead' bob which you may have already encountered in Kent and Oxford TB. All these methods have a sixths place lead end and the bells in 5-6 start with at least one dodge. (The place notation of Kent starts '34 x' and that of Oxford and Norwich starts 'x 34'. This should immediately indicate to you that the bells at the back must dodge at the start of the method as there is no room for them to hunt down.) The bob lead end of these methods is '14', and the three back bells are the ones affected. Therefore at a bob in Norwich the bell which is just finishing fifths place work will do an extra dodge at the lead end and then repeat fifths place bell. (Having done the extra dodge in 5-6 up it was in fifths place at the treble's backstroke lead.) Similarly, the bell finishing sixths place work does an extra 5-6 down dodge at the lead end and repeats sixths place bell work.

In Norwich this results in seven dodges at the back, the three dodges before the bob is called, the dodge at the lead end for the bob and the three dodges at the start of fifth and sixth place bells.



The example below uses Norwich lead ends:

Plain Lead End (at the end of the plain course) 123456
 Bob Lead End (" ") 123564

4. Beverley and Surfleet

Beverley: x 36 x 14 x 12 x 36.14 x 34.56 le 12
 Surfleet: x 36 x 14 x 12 x 36.14 x 12.56 le 12

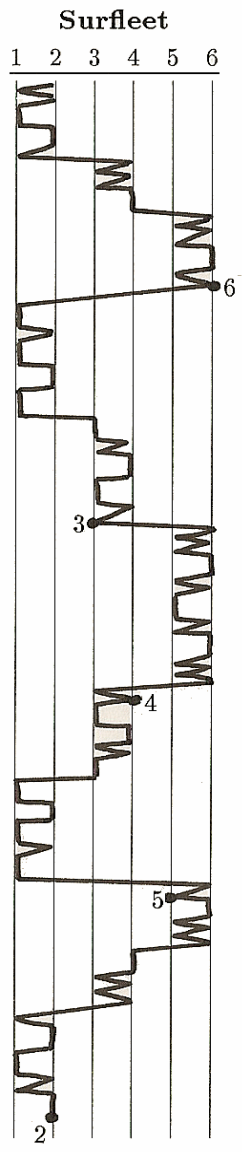
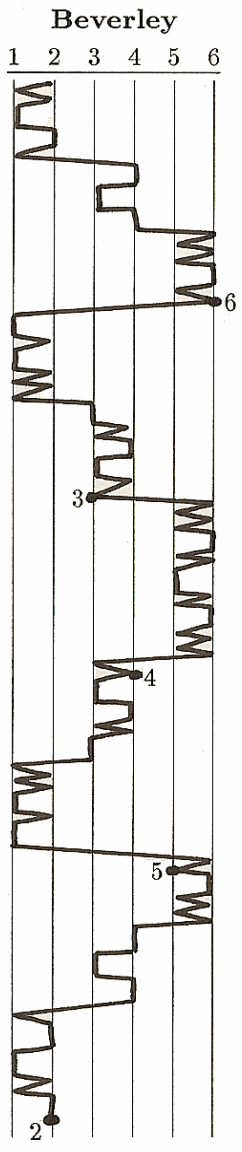
These methods are identical except for the change before and after the half-lead.

In Beverley the 34 indicates that the bells in 3-4 make places, and therefore the pair on the front dodge, and in Surfleet the 12 means that the two bells on the front make places while the remaining pairs dodge. (The '36.14' indicates that '36' lie still in one row and '14' in the next. 1256 without a '.' would denote all these bells lying still in the same row.)

As you can see both methods are Cambridge above the treble, so suddenly there is not so much to learn. Both bells have identical (London) front work, and both have a thirds place immediately before the 3-4 places in the first half of the course and after the places in the second half.

These methods are both useful in introducing 'wrong way' hunting and place making and also give you the opportunity of practising London front work before progressing to the whole method.

Seconds place bell does a dodge with the treble, leads, makes seconds and then does a point blow at lead. This is **not** a dodge, which would bring you back to lead. You now hunt away from the front to fourths and thirds if ringing Beverley or two dodges in 3-4 if ringing Surfleet.



Please note that you left the front the wrong way because of the point blow and both the places and the dodges are ‘**wrong**’. That is to say the places are made back and hand and the dodges would appear to be down dodges when they are in fact up.

(You are holding the backstroke up which is a characteristic of a right way down dodge.) When you get to 4-5 you are going to have to pass the treble which is the right way up, so you must now make fourths to get yourself right as well. Having passed the treble you are now above it, so you can ring Cambridge until you pass the treble again. You are about to do the ‘two and one’ in 5-6 that brings you to the lead end.

Sixths place bell starts off ringing Cambridge until it passes the treble in 2-3. Now there is a Stedman whole turn on the front (that is, lead full, one blow in seconds place, lead full again), followed by two dodges in Beverley and places in seconds and lead in Surfleet. Note that the first lead of the whole turn is ‘right’ but the point blow in seconds puts you ‘wrong’ so that the second full lead of the whole turn is back and hand. Therefore the dodges, although actually ‘up’ seem to be ‘down’, and the places are made back and hand. When you leave the front the next piece of work will be a dodge with the treble in 3-4, which has to be a right way dodge, so you must make thirds before the dodge. After the dodge with the treble finish the 3-4 places and continue to ring thirds place Cambridge.

Fourths place bell rings Cambridge, that is, it makes thirds, fourths and dodges with the treble, until the treble is above it. Now you must immediately make thirds to put yourself ‘wrong’ for the front work. Again, Beverley has two ‘wrong’ dodges on the front followed by a Stedman whole turn, in Surfleet you lead wrong and make seconds prior to the whole turn. The whole turn puts you right so you can pass the treble in 2-3 on the way out with no extra work. The 5-6 up dodge is the end of fourths place Cambridge.

Fifths place bell lies and does two dodges but after passing the treble in 4-5 you make fourths to get ‘wrong’ again. Beverley now has wrong places in thirds and fourths, and Surfleet has two ‘wrong’ dodges in 3-4. Hunt down to the front for the reverse London front work, a point at lead, seconds, lead, and dodge with the treble. Make seconds over the treble and be ready to start again.

The Bobs are Plain Bob bobs and should present no difficulty to anyone able to ring touches of Cambridge. The bell which makes the bob must remember to make thirds place (to get ‘wrong’ for the front-work) after the 3-4 down dodge with the treble.

SURPRISE MINOR: CAMBRIDGE TO LONDON
Part 3
LONDON SURPRISE MINOR

Learning London Surprise Minor should be easier if you have mastered Cambridge and have also rung some Beverley and/or Surfleet, both of which have London front work and give useful practice at wrong way working.

Place Notation: 36 x 36.14 x 12 x 36.14 x 14.36 le 12

If you have studied the place notation of other right place Surprise Minor methods you will see immediately that this differs in having places made in the first change rather than starting with 'x'.

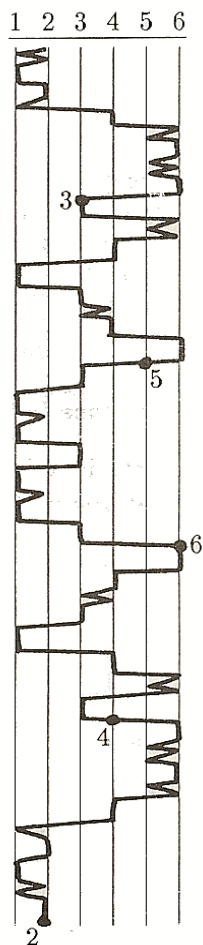
The basis of London is that it is wrong place working wherever it can be. The exceptions are when a bell is either working with the 'right place' treble, or with a bell which has itself just done some work with the treble.

London Minor contains all the ingredients of the method on higher numbers, but some slightly different things happen. For example, the dodge at the start of 'long London' is with the treble, which it is not when the method is extended. The two Stedman whole turns come together in a block comprising most of the work of fifths place bell, whereas on higher numbers there is only one in each of fifths and eighths place bells.

However, the front work, the back work (Long London) and the London places (thirds, dodge with the treble, fourths for the bell going up, the reverse for the bell going down) are all there.

It is also useful to note that in London Minor, apart from fifths place bell where all the places are made in thirds, places are made alternately in thirds and fourths.

The main connection between London Minor and the method on higher numbers is that the 'fish tails' and Stedman whole turns are all made when the treble dodges in 3-4. The pieces of work come in a different order because of the extra number of changes between the 3-4 up and 3-4 down dodges of the treble.

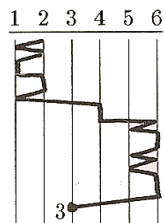


Seconds place bell.

This does London front work, dodge (with the treble) lead full, make seconds, a point blow at lead to put you wrong.

Now backwards hunt up to make two blows in fourths place (which puts you right) and then continue up to the back. Here you do long London, which is dodge, lie, let in a fish-tail, lie. Please beware of learning the 5-6-5 as a double dodge, either call it 'let in a fish-tail', or a '5-6-5'.

This work has put you wrong again so backwards hunt down to thirds.



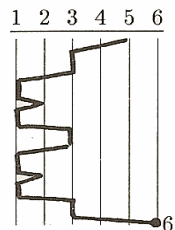
Thirds place bell.

Make one blow in thirds and backwards hunt up to a fish-tail (or 6-5-6) at the back, which puts you right. Hunt down to make two blows in fourths, and continue down to a wrong lead. Hunt up to make thirds to put you right and dodge 3-4 up with the treble. Immediately make two blows in fourths to get wrong again and hunt up to lie at the back.



Fifths place bell.

Run straight in to thirds, a Stedman whole turn, thirds, a second Stedman whole turn, thirds and out to the back.



Sixths place bell.

Start with another blow at the back then backwards hunt down to make fourths to put you right to dodge with the treble in 3-4. Make thirds immediately after this to get wrong again. Go down to lead and up to make fourths to get right for when you pass the treble in 4-5. Go up to a fish-tail in 5-6 (6-5-6) and backwards hunt back down to make thirds.



Fourths place bell.

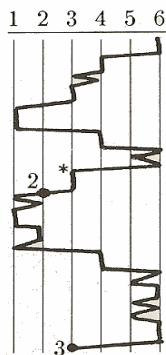
Hunt up to the back for reverse long London, lie, let in a fish-tail, lie, dodge 5~6 down. Hunt down to make fourths and backwards hunt to a point blow at lead. Now make seconds, lead right, dodge with the treble and make seconds place over it.



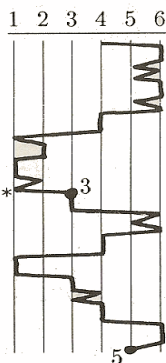
The Bobs

These are Plain Bob bobs, in so far as one bell runs in, one runs out and one makes the bob. It is essential that you should know exactly where each bell starts so that you can pick up the new work immediately.

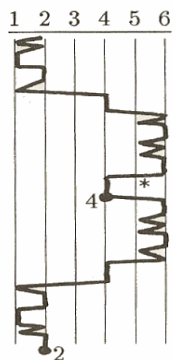
Running in. The bell which is nearing the end of sixths place bell is the one which runs in. It is actually coming down from a fish-tail at the back to make thirds and go out to become fourths place bell. The bob should be called as the bell reaches thirds place, but remember, it has not yet reached the lead end so must make the thirds before running in to dodge with the treble and becoming seconds place bell.



Running out. The bell just finishing the reverse London front work will run out. The bob should be called as it is dodging with the treble before making seconds place. It finishes the dodge and then runs out to two blows in thirds, thus becoming thirds place bell, which then hunts up to a fish-tail at the back.



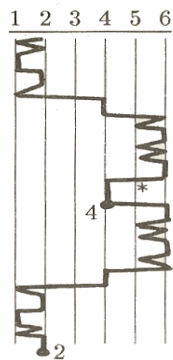
Making the bob. The bell which has just finished the long London is about to hunt down to make thirds, but the bob is called almost as soon as it leaves the back. This bell makes two blows in fourths and goes back to 5~6 to do the reverse long London



Singles

Singles in London are similarly Plain Bob singles, the bells in 3-4 being affected.

The bell which has just finished the long London towards the end of seconds place bell goes down to make fourths and becomes fourths place bell, as at the bob.



The bell which makes the single is the one finishing its sixths place work. Having done the fish-tail at the back it hunts down to make thirds at back and hand. The single is called at the first blow in thirds and so does not affect the hand-stroke blow in thirds place. However, as one bell is now making seconds over the treble and another making fourths (for the call), the bell in thirds must make another two blows in thirds place, becoming thirds place bell at the first one, which then hunts up to do a fish-tail at the back.

