

Calling Your First Touch

It is likely that your first touch as conductor will be of Doubles, and two common methods are Plain Bob and Grandsire. Therefore, two examples are given below for you to choose from to call 120 Doubles. Make sure you have thought through what you are going to call before taking a rope, as *preparation is the key to success*. Ask for help from someone knowledgeable if you are unsure.

General Points

Before setting off

It is worth letting the rounds settle into an even pace before saying 'go'. Uneven rounds will not provide a good starting point, and will make it harder for ringers starting out in changes. It also sets a poor standard for the quality of the rest of the ringing. Different bands and people take different amounts of time to settle, so listen for a few even rows before starting. Let ringers use this period to accustom themselves to the bell they are ringing, and to fit in with the rest of the band.

When things go wrong

Do not be afraid to say '*rounds*' or '*stand*'. If the ringing starts out a little ragged, perhaps someone goes the wrong way to start with, then it is better to restart after a short while than to let the touch drag on. The time taken for the ringing to recover in may be rather long and more benefit will be derived from a fresh, clean start.

Do I have to keep the touch right?

No. The minimum requirement for conducting is to stay right, put the calls in the correct place, and for longer touches e.g. a quarter peal, have some way to check the calling and bell order is correct part way through. This saves you ringing for 40 minutes without the ringing coming round.

When to call

Say 'go' at hand stroke from rounds, and it is usual to remind the ringers what is about to be rung by saying '*go Plain Bob Doubles*' or '*go Grandsire Doubles*' or whatever the method is. '*That's all*' is also called at hand stroke just before the touch comes round (at the next backstroke), as is '*stand*' when you have finished with a few rounds. The stroke at which the calls, '*bob*' or '*single*' are called depends on the method being rung. Do make sure you know when the touch is expected to come round, and worry about saying '*that's all*' in the right place too!

