

Junior's Plain Bob Doubles Day 9th Dec 2006

Sometime last year (the exact date escapes me) I recall my father asking me if I wanted to participate in the "Plain Bob Doubles Day". At the time I wasn't exactly new to ringing, having learned to ring in 1998. I was on my "comeback", as I would call it, but when I was ringing before I never got further than ringing the treble to plain courses Plain Bob Doubles & Triples. Since February 2006 I had started to ring inside for Bob Doubles; I wouldn't say I was any good, nor did I know exactly what I was doing! This was entirely what the day was going to be for.

Of course the time between when I was asked and the day itself flew by and, before I knew it, I was in the car on December the ninth on my way up to Purbrook. On my arrival I met my "peers" as it would seem. Overall there were six of us, some hadn't rung bob doubles at all, some had; we were all in different boats.

Doug Boniface was our tutor for the afternoon. The other learners were Max, Joel, Ian, Holly and Josh and each of us were assigned a mentor. The Mentors were Steve Hough (or "Dad" as I call him), Andrew Byford, Richard Case, Roy Grayson, and Marie Boniface. Doug also doubled up as a mentor giving him a very busy afternoon. Also, Ben Carey turned up to help out a bit half way through the day after ringing in a peal at Portsmouth Cathedral.



L-R. Max, Josh, Chris, Steve & Holly

We all sat in the small ringing chamber of Purbrook whilst we were run over the basics, at the time I was very shaky on counting my places and missed a lot of dodges and I used to think the treble appeared "out of nowhere" as I would say. I didn't even want to go near touches! So we rang a few plain courses each with our mentors standing behind us (I had Doug Boniface) to correct me when things went a bit pear shaped.



The Delicious Bob Doubles Cake kindly made by Mel Richardson

Next, again, it was the same as before. We sat down and were taught how to ring touches, running in, running out and making the bob (of course I would imagine most of you knew that) and then made to ring a touch of 120 changes. By the end of this we'd pretty much got into the swing of things!

I seem to remember somewhere during the day, Steve, Doug and Ben rang a plain course of the method double handed which added a lot of comedy to the day! They handled it pretty well!

Of course we can't forget the lovely array of food that was given to us on the day, cake, biscuits, flapjacks, haribo etc. Also, during the time we were eating and just having a break from all the ringing, we were given a short quiz to make things stick in our heads.

We were each presented a certificate to say that we had attended the course and it was signed by Doug as the tutor and also signed by our respective mentor.

Overall I would call the day a complete success; I really enjoyed myself and learnt some valuable things about the method. Since the actual day and the time of writing, I've improved quite a lot, I can now call touches of the method, just starting to get my head around Steadman Triples and I am trying to learn Cambridge Minor inside.

Chris Hough



Ian Hunt presents Holly with her well deserved Certificate