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Leading from the Front

Watch the treble ringer when rounds are rung. The usual call to start ringing is, “Look to - Treble’s going - treble’s gone!” To explain this further:

Look to:

As well as being a call to the other ringers this should remind you to look all round yourself, to see that all ringers have hold of their ropes - and that every rope has a ringer attached to it.

Treble’s going:

On this call each ringer **should** ease the bell off the stay and up to the balance, ready for a smooth pull into rounds. Unfortunately this is often ignored; ringers pull off from the set position, which can cause the first few rounds to be a bit lumpy. Develop good habits now.

Treble’s gone!

On this call the treble is pulled over the balance into rounds.
(Always leave enough time between “Treble’s going” and “Treble’s gone!” for the rest of the band to follow the calls.)

The treble now has to follow the tenor - it is “leading off the tenor”. Watch this before you try to do it and you will see that the treble is ringing “opposite stroke” to the tenor. When the treble pulls at handstroke it is following the tenor’s backstroke, while at backstroke it is following the tenor’s handstroke. **But that’s not all.** Small bells swing quickly, while big bells swing slowly. When you are ringing the treble, the smallest (and quickest) bell, and following the tenor, the largest (and slowest) bell, you must let the tenor get much further into its swing before you pull. In fact as a rough guide you should be pulling at handstroke when the tenor ringer is about to catch the sally from the previous backstroke, and pulling at backstroke as the tenor ringer is releasing the sally after pulling at handstroke. Watch all this carefully and, when you ring treble, listen for your own bell; the tendency at first is to clash with the tenor because you are pulling too soon, so delay your pull until it **sounds** right.

In rounds the treble as leading bell is responsible for setting the “open lead”, the slight pause at every handstroke lead. This pause or gap is usually described as “enough for another bell to fit in”. As treble ringer you have to make this pause, which makes the handstroke pull=seem later still.

All in all, ringing the treble demands really good bell control. As it is the lightest bell you need to “hold up” on the balance more than with any other bell to keep in time with the others. Always remember when ringing a small bell you must control its pace to suit the big bells - it can’t be done the other way round! For now, keep practising to ring smoothly, to ring with minimum effort, and -

KEEP LISTENING!