RINGING and UNDERSTANDING CALL CHANGES

"Called Changes", or 'Call Changes' as they are more commonly known, are *usually* the next steps to progressing from ringing rounds to ringing methods. This can be quite daunting for the novice ringer as, instead of following the same bell over and over again, you are now "called" to follow different bells!

By now the ringer should be aware that the bells in the tower are of different sizes, and therefore swing round in their full circle at different speeds. Small bells revolve quicker than larger bells (logical when you think about it).

So, Call Changes are a very good way for a learner to get used to changing the speed of their ringing, albeit briefly. Well struck call changes are most enjoyable and are an end in themselves for some bands; for other bands they are a means to ringing methods, being an invaluable step towards good striking, good rope-sight and better bell control. They also change the 'tune' from rounds, to other changes that are also nice to listen to.

However, towers and conductors will use a number of different ways to call 'call changes', but all of them should give the same result. Changes can be called "UP" - '2 to 3', as a "PAIR" – '2,3', or "DOWN" – "3 to 1".
Each call swaps over an adjacent pair of bells. The call is made at a handstroke and the bells should change over cleanly at the <u>next</u> handstroke.

WHAT TO DO

It must be noted that when ringing Call Changes (or for that matter Methods) bells must only move one place from their current position in a change, to an adjacent position, either backwards or forwards. That is, from rounds – 1 2 3 4 5 6, bell number 4 (for instance) can only follow bell number 2 or 5; not 1 or 6.

So, from rounds   1 2 3 4 5 6
the conductor could call the bells into QUEENS
and get   1 3 5 2 4 6

Calling the bells "UP"

By calling the bells "UP" (from rounds), the conductor could call…
        '2 to 3' to give 1 3 2 4 5 6
        '4 to 5' to give 1 3 2 5 4 6
        '2 to 5' to give 1 3 5 2 4 6

    In this scenario the first and second called change could be swapped, followed by the third, with the same result ('4 to 5' - 1 2 3 5 4 6, '2 to 3' - '1 3 2 5 4 6, '2 to 5' - 1 3 5 2 4 6).

Calling the bells as a "PAIR"

By calling the bells as a "PAIR" (from rounds), the conductor could call…
'2,3' to give 1 3 2 4 5 6
'4,5' to give 1 3 2 5 4 6
'2,5' to give 1 3 5 2 4 6

Again, the first and second called change could be swapped, followed by the third, with the same result ('4,5' - 1 2 3 5 4 6, '2,3' - '1 3 2 5 4 6, '2,5' - 1 3 5 2 4 6)

Calling the bells "DOWN"

By calling the bells "DOWN" (from rounds), the conductor could call…
'3 to 1' to give 1 3 2 4 5 6
'5 to 2' to give 1 3 2 5 4 6
'5 to 3' to give 1 3 5 2 4 6

However, in this scenario the first and second called change *can't* be swapped, as bell number 5 couldn't follow 2 without jumping more than one place/position in the change!

1 2 3 4 **5** 6, calling 5 to 2 would give 1 2 **5** 3 4 6

Therefore, we would have to have a slightly different set of calls to get the same result ('5 to 3' - 1 2 3 5 4 6, '3 to 1' – '1 3 2 5 4 6, '5 to 3' – 1 3 5 2 4 6).

Bells that have to move and ring nearer the start of the change (towards the lead) must ring slightly quicker for one pull of the handstroke and consequently bells moving further away, towards the end of the change, must ring slightly slower for one pull of the handstroke.
Always three bells have to think about what to do and who to follow!
In all the above three scenarios, for the first change, it is bells 2, 3 & 4; for the second change its bells 4, 5 & 6 and for the third it'll be 5, 2 & 4.

Now to call the bells back to rounds:

Calling the bells "UP" (from 1 3 5 2 4 6, 'QUEENS') the sequence would be –
a) '5 to 2' = 1 3 2 5 4 6,   b)'3 to 2' = 1 2 3 5 4 6,   c)'5 to 4' = 1 2 3 4 5 6

Calling the bells as a "PAIR" (from 1 3 5 2 4 6, 'QUEENS') the sequence would be –
a) '5,2' = 1 3 2 5 4 6,   b)'3,2' = 1 2 3 5 4 6,   c)'5,4' = 1 2 3 4 5 6

Calling the bells "DOWN" (from 1 3 5 2 4 6, 'QUEENS') the sequence would be –
a) '2 to 3' = 1 3 2 5 4 6,   b)'2 to 1' = 1 2 3 5 4 6,   c)'4 to 3' = 1 2 3 4 5 6

As a bit of fun, try writing out the call changes and the sequences (using squared paper makes it easier) to get the bells from ROUNDS to 1 4 2 5 3 6. This change is known as 'TITTUMS' (because the tune sounds 'ti-tum-ti-tum-ti-tum. Try using all three of the above methods, but bear in mind that the most commonly used are "UP" and "DOWN".

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