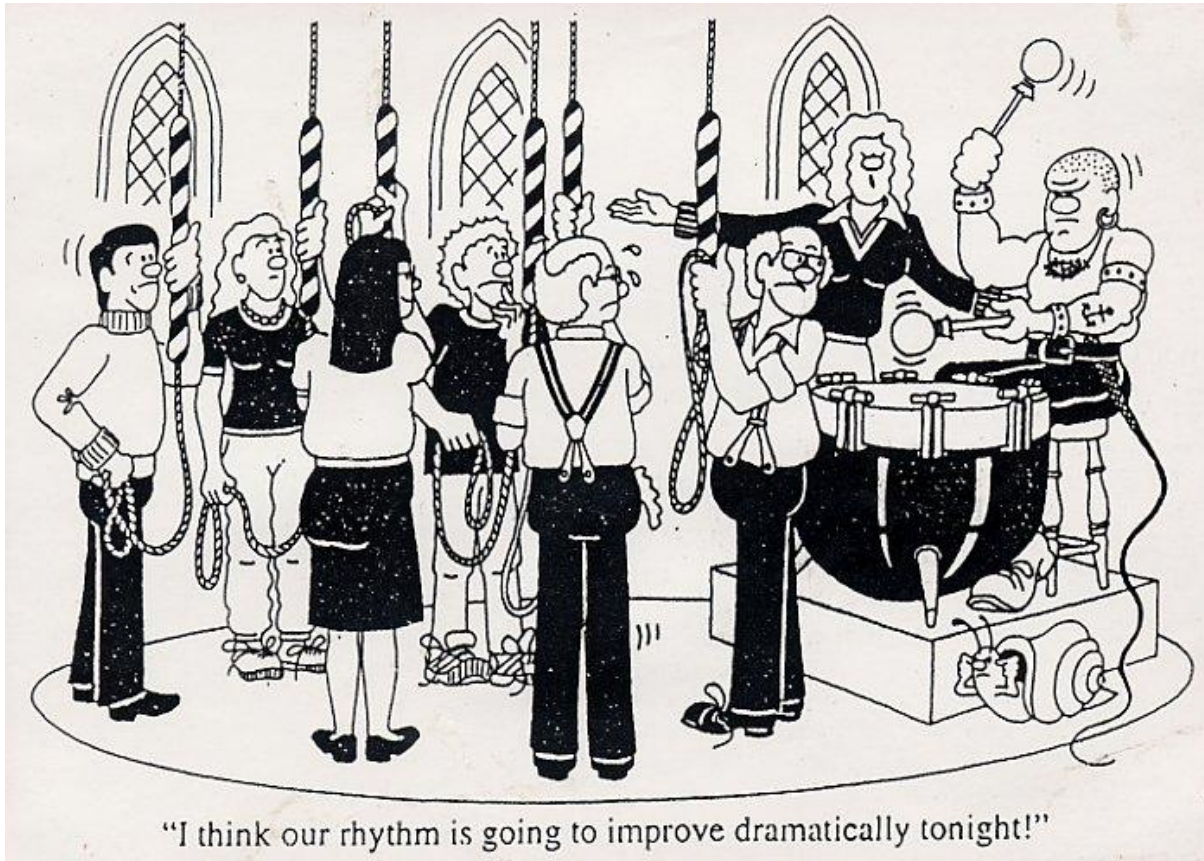


CALLING CALL CHANGES

Calling a change is one of the ways in which the order in which bells strike can be changed. A change is called on one handstroke and the bells should effect that change on the next handstroke. The essence of a change is that it simply switches the order of two adjacent bells, without any change in rhythm.



Named Call Changes

Although it is not the call change *per se* that is named but the sequence of bells that result. There are a large number of named changes, a few of which are given below for six and eight bells; some of which are more commonly used than others.

Some musical changes that you can choose to go to and from:

- Queens – 135246 (on 6), 13572468 (on 8) - odd bells, then even bells
- Tittums – 142536 (on 6), 15263748 (on 8)
- Kings - 531246

- Whittingtons – 12753468 - 1, 2, up the odds, down the evens
- Burdette – 213546 (on 6), 31247568 (on 8)
- Hagdyke – 341256 (on 6), 12563478 (on 8)
- Jacks – 145236 (on 6), 16745238 (on 8)
- Jokers – 154326 (on 6), 17654328 (on 8)
- Keg Meg – 125463 (on 6)
- Kennet – 153426 (on 6)
- Princes – 532146 (on 6), 75321468 (on 8)
- Back Rounds – 543216 (on 6), 76543218 (on 8)
- See-Saw – 321456 (on 6), 43215678 (on 8)
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The most commonly used named change is called "**Queens**" which applies to an even number of bells, on any number (6, 8, 10 or 12).

As discussed last time, there is no defined set of called changes that will result in **Queens**, or any of the other changes shown above. To start with you might find that writing them out 'longhand' is useful. You can call the changes whichever way suits you and your tower the best.

A Set of Call Changes

At some point you may be asked, or even request yourself, to call "call changes", and not just follow those called by another ringer. Someday you'll be able to just make them up as you go along, but for now you need to plan them out in advance.

You will have to think about when exactly to make the call, as the tendency is to become accustomed to hearing a call and then moving at the right time automatically.

When to make the call?

Calls should be made as the leading bell is pulling off at **handstroke**. This is most important. If the call is made later, then some bells may already have pulled their backstroke in readiness for their next handstroke and will not be able to make the change required without clashing.

One thing that you should try and do as a novice conductor of call changes, is to try and memorise the calls and the resultant change, before you get hold of your rope. Also it might be worth noting that it can be easier to "see" the changes and the order of the bells from either the Treble or Tenor, as all the bells are then on one side of you.

Look at the table shown and take note of the change being rung, the call to be made, and then the resultant change. Ideally allow the change to settle down before calling the next one!

Bell position at call	Change	Bell position after call	Name
1 2 3 4 5 6		1 2 3 4 5 6	
1 2 3 4 5 6			Rounds
1 2 3 4 5 6	3 to treble; 2 to 3; 4 to 2	1 3 2 4 5 6	
1 3 2 4 5 6	5 to 2; 4 to 5; 6 to 4	1 3 2 5 4 6	
1 3 2 5 4 6	5 to 3; 4 to 5; 6 to 4	1 3 5 2 4 6	Queens
1 3 5 2 4 6	5 to treble; 3 to 5; 2 to 3	1 5 3 2 4 6	
1 5 3 2 4 6	5 to lead; treble to 5; 3 to treble	5 1 3 2 4 6	
5 1 3 2 4 6	3 to 5; treble to 3; 2 to treble	5 3 1 2 4 6	Kings
5 3 1 2 4 6	treble to 5; 3 to treble; 2 to 3	5 1 3 2 4 6	
5 1 3 2 4 6	treble to lead; 5 to treble; 3 to 5	1 5 3 2 4 6	
1 5 3 2 4 6	3 to treble; 5 to 3; 2 to 5	1 3 5 2 4 6	Queens
1 3 5 2 4 6	2 to 3; 5 to 2; 4 to 5	1 3 2 5 4 6	
1 3 2 5 4 6	4 to 2; 5 to 4; 6 to 5	1 3 2 4 5 6	
1 3 2 4 5 6	2 to treble; 3 to 2; 4 to 3	1 2 3 4 5 6	Rounds
1 2 3 4 5 6			Rounds

It is not however compulsory to call the bells into named positions such as those above. You can mix them up as you like and then get them back to rounds if you prefer. You can also try and find your own musical changes. If it helps write your changes out first, maybe at home, and then do a quick revision before you get hold of your rope to ring.

Make sure that your calls are loud enough, clear and polite.

Remember you are in 'charge' of the ringing taking place, so if the ringing becomes too choppy, with too many people lost and if there is no-one to help put them right, then it is your responsibility to call "Rounds please" or something similar and then either "Stand" or call some more call changes depending on what the person running the ringing indicates to you.

If at all possible you should try and have rounds before you stand the bells. Not to do this is bad practice and also it does not sound good to anybody who might be listening outside.

There is no shame at all, particularly when you are learning, in calling something very easy, even if it seems too easy to the other ringers. Nobody will mind, and it is much better to have a successful, short and simple burst of call changes than one where you get yourself muddled up in the middle. The band will have more confidence in you and you will have more confidence in yourself next time you are asked to call something!

If at first you don't succeed, try again, & again, & again, & again.
It **will** become easier!