

# TEACHING BY NUMBERS

## - SHORT TERM FIX OR SOUND FOUNDATIONS ?

### **Normal Approach:**

1. Pupil shown how to write out plain hunt having been told the rules and shown it in a Beginners guide.
2. Principle of counting places introduced.
3. Speed of ringing stated.
4. Teacher stands behind learner to show them the path through the bells whilst counting the places aloud.

### **Result:**

- Disaster
- Learner disillusionment
- Never going to have a go at that again

### **Reason:**

There is a big leap to be made from Call Changes to plain hunt because of changing every stroke.

### **Practical Approach**

1. The first consideration is to learn how to put the bell in the right place.
2. Try and do this with one learner at a time. Make sure the rest of the band can keep in the right place.
3. If your band are all learners then go to a tower where they are all experienced change ringers.
4. Tell them the number of the bells to follow from the beginning. (*This starts them looking around more to find the bells*).
5. Ring like this until they are physically managing to put the bell in the right place.
6. When this happens there are plenty of ways to stop them relying on knowing the numbers e.g.. Start on different bell. Change the order of the bells in rounds.

This approach has been likened to havening stabilisers on a bike when you are learning to ride. It is a means to an end. If you don't take the stabilisers off soon enough you won't ever be able to ride a bike without them!

*Tim Griffiths*