Beyond Bob Minor – St Clements … and Friends

Introduction

St Clement's College Bob Minor (which almost everyone calls St Clement's) is one of those methods that is rung across the country. It is well worth knowing and having in your repertoire, apart from being pleasant to ring. With a few tweaks to the front work (which we'll cover in a bit), St Clement's can be changed into 6 close relatives which are also easy to ring, and respond to the same callings.

St Clement's ...

For a detailed description of St Clement's, refer to
Steve Coleman's “The Method Ringer's Companion” page 87
Chris Adams' “Ringing Circles”

In Plain Bob Minor, the order of work is, from the 2,

Dodge 34 down to become	4ths place bell
Dodge 56 down to become	6ths place bell
Dodge 65 up to become	5ths place bell
Dodge 43 up to become	3rds place bell
Make 2nds over the treble to become	2nds place bell

In St Clement's (and Friends as well), the order of work is the REVERSE, ie from the 2,

Dodge 43 up to become	3rds place bell
Dodge 65 up to become	5ths place bell
Dodge 56 down to become	6ths place bell
Dodge 34 down to become	4ths place bell
Make 2nds over the treble to become	2nds place bell

The trick with the 3rds, 5ths and 6ths place bell is never to go below 3rds place: as you come down from the back, instead of running in to the lead, make 3rds and go back out. The treble passing rules for Plain Bob Minor still work, which can help remind you what to do next.

Of course, not going below 3rds place means that two bells are stuck on the front until close to the next lead, and there is a variety of ways the two bells can pass the time. In St Clement's, the bells on the front do three dodges together, in the same way that in St Simon's the two bells do 2 dodges (in fact, some people call St Clement's “St Simon's on 6”). So if we look at this family,
In St Simon's Doubles, you do two dodges on the front, and do 43up, long 5ths, 34down
In St Clement's Minor, you do three dodges on the front, and do 43up, 65up, 56down, 34down
In St Simon's Triples, you do four dodges on the front, and do 43up, 65up, long 7ths, 56down, 34down

Be warned! St Clement's Triples is VERY different from St Simon's Triples.

… And Friends

So, let's look at St Clement's and see what variations we can create

6	5	5	3	3	***1***	***1***	6	6	5	5	3	5
5	6	3	5	***1***	3	6	***1***	5	6	3	5	3
4	3	6	***1***	5	6	3	5	***1***	3	6	2	6
3	4	***1***	6	6	5	5	3	3	***1***	2	6	2
2	***1***	4	2	4	2	4	2	4	2	***1***	4	4
1	2	2	4	2	4	2	4	2	4	4	***1***	***1***

St Clement's

In discovering new “designer” methods, we'll let 3rds place, 5ths place and 6ths place bells do their work unaffected; we are interested in the possibilities for 2nds and 4ths place only

6	5	5	3	3	***1***	***1***	6	6	5	5	3	5
5	6	3	5	***1***	3	6	***1***	5	6	3	5	3
4	3	6	***1***	5	6	3	5	***1***	3	6	2	6
3	4	***1***	6	6	5	5	3	3	***1***	2	6	2
2	***1***	4							2	***1***	4	4
1	2	2							4	4	***1***	***1***

St Clement's and Friends Template

When the treble lies behind, the bells on the front “must” cross. If they don't, and the method is symmetrical, then 2nds place bell remains stuck on the front, and a “Slow Course” method is created. An example using St Clement's as the basis is Lyddington Slow Course Minor:

6	5	5	3	3	***1***	***1***	6	6	5	5	3	5
5	6	3	5	***1***	3	6	***1***	5	6	3	5	3
4	3	6	***1***	5	6	3	5	***1***	3	6	4	6
3	4	***1***	6	6	5	5	3	3	***1***	4	6	4
2	***1***	4	2	4	***2***	***2***	4	2	4	***1***	2	2
1	2	2	4	2	***4***	***4***	2	4	2	2	***1***	***1***

Lyddington Slow Course Minor

The only way a bell can come away from the front is when a bob is called, and another bell becomes trapped on the front.

Back to St Clement's and Friends. When the treble lies behind, the bells on the front “must” cross.

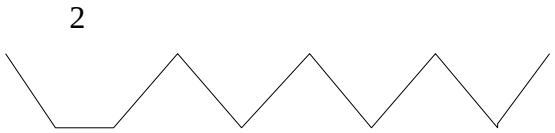
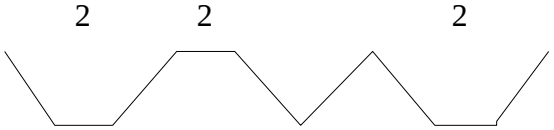
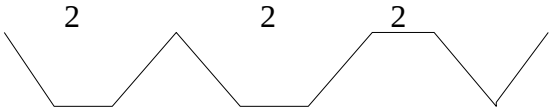
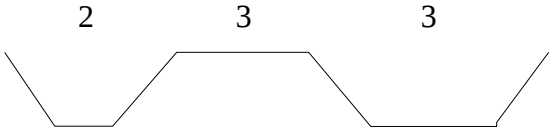
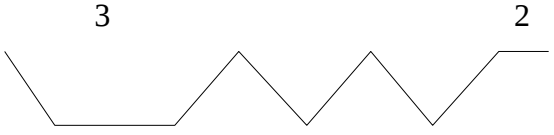
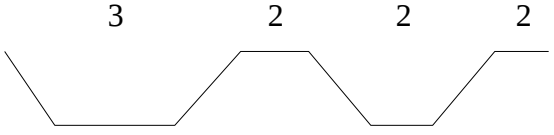
6	5	5	3	3	***1***	***1***	6	6	5	5	3	5
5	6	3	5	***1***	3	6	***1***	5	6	3	5	3
4	3	6	***1***	5	6	3	5	***1***	3	6	2	6
3	4	***1***	6	6	5	5	3	3	***1***	2	6	2
2	***1***	4			a	b			2	***1***	4	4
1	2	2			b	a			4	4	***1***	***1***

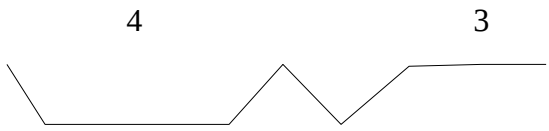
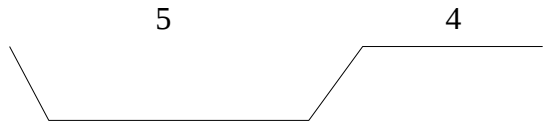
St Clement's and Friends Template

There are only 3 blows where the order of the bells on the front is unconstrained, and these are the 3 blows before the half-lead. For each blow, there are two possibilities: either the bells stays in the same place as at the previous blow, or they swap. So for 3 consecutive blows, there are 2 x 2 x 2 = 8 possibilities, of which St Clement's is one.

The Possibilities

If we look at 2nds place bell, these are the 8 possibilities:

St Clement's X16X36X36-12	1 4 **2** **4** **2** 2 2 **4** **2** **4**	
Buxton X16X1236X36-12	1 4 **2** **2** **4** 2 2 **4** **4** **2**	
Childwall X16X36.12.36-12	1 4 **2** **4** **4** 2 2 **4** **2** **2**	
Lakesend X16X1236.12.36-12	1 4 **2** **2** **2** 2 2 **4** **4** **4**	
Badgeworth X16.12.36X36-12	1 4 **4** **2** **4** 2 2 **2** **4** **2**	
Hempsted X16.12.36.12.36-12	1 4 **4** **2** **2** 2 2 **2** **4** **4**	

Armitage-is-the-name X16.12.1236X36-12	1 4 **4** **4** **2** 2 2 **2** **2** **4**	
[Un-named by Central Council Ruling] *X16.12.1236.12.36-12*	1 4 **4** **4** **4** 2 2 **2** **2** **2**	

Why am I mentioning these other methods? After all, only St Clement's is rung, right? Well, no. If you accept that Snowdon's “Diagrams” is a snapshot of popular ringing 30-odd years ago, Childwall is present, but not commonly rung. If we allow methods to slip out of usage, we may find that Bob Doubles is the ONLY method rung! Campanophile shows this number of quarters scored in the last year:

St Clement's	110
Buxton	14
Childwall	6
Armitage-is-the-name	6
Lakesend	5
Badgeworth	2
Hempsted	1

Being able to ring a new method “just” by changing one piece of work can introduce a new and useful pattern into a familiar method, and add a bit of pep to a practice night.

Calling

The callings for Plain Bob Minor work, and there may well be others, so for a quarter peal, use your favourite Plain Bob Minor strategy.

Splicing

We've identified the 5 friends of St Clement's, so how can you splice them into a touch and still maintain “The Truth”? My understanding is that when a particular pair of bells are doing front work together, provided they ring the same method whenever they meet on the front then that will not invalidate the Truth.