

Sheffield Bridge Club – Guide for TDs

Duplicate Pairs Movements

This version prepared 12 April 2008 by Barrie Partridge, Senior TD.

This guide is intended to give some insight to the duplicate movements at Sheffield Bridge Club. It is intended primarily for the club's Tournament Directors but may be of wider general interest.

Many of the movements used at Sheffield Bridge Club may be found in "The EBU Manual of Duplicate Bridge Movements" by J.R Manning. However, some movements are possibly unique to Sheffield.

Movements with two winning pairs

Mitchell Movements

On Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, we usually have a movement with two winners. These movements are usually based upon the Mitchell Movement. In a standard Mitchell Movement, the number of rounds equals the number of tables and there is a stationary pair NS at every table. At the end of each round, the EW pairs move up one table and the boards move down one table.

Where there are an even number of tables, an adjustment needs to be made to the Mitchell Movement for otherwise the EW players will meet boards that they have played previously after the halfway stage. There are two ways of doing this. One is

The Skip Movement

whereby at the half way point, the EW pairs go up two tables instead of one table. This has the disadvantage that the EW pairs for the last round play again the NS pairs that they met in the first round. However, this is the method that we usually use with a Simultaneous Pairs where instead of playing the first round, the boards are made up at the table.

The Share and Relay Movement

is the other method and for this the boards are shared between two tables at one point and half way further round the movement, the boards "sit out" for a round in a "relay". If we have a half table, it is usual to exclude a NS pair from one of the sharing tables so that there is no actual sharing of boards.

7 tables

For less than seven tables, it is best to have a one winner movement for should there be a half table, the sit out periods would be unacceptably long. A seven table Mitchell is straightforward with 7 rounds of 4 boards each.

7½ and 8 tables

This is a straightforward Mitchell with a Share and Relay. We have a missing NS at a sharing table in the event of a half table. 8 rounds of 3 boards each.

8½ and 9 tables

Again a straightforward Mitchell of 9 rounds of 3 boards each. If a half table, we try to leave out a moving pair.

9½ and 10 tables

Another straightforward Mitchell with 10 rounds of 3 boards each and using the Share and Relay. If there is a half table, we should leave out a moving pair.

10½ and 11 tables

This is where it gets more complicated. 11 rounds of 3 boards each would mean 33 boards which is too many and 11 rounds of 2 boards would mean just 22 boards which is too few.

So a movement called an Extended Mitchell was devised (Manning p12) which allows for a movement with a number of rounds that is 2 more than the number of tables. This means that in the last two rounds, you meet pairs that you have previously played. However, this means that we can play a movement of 13 rounds of 2 boards each. TDs should be aware of a fiddly area around tables 5 and 6 during the last two rounds. Details of the movement are given on Manning p18, but TDs need merely ensure that players follow the instructions on the movement cards during the final two rounds. **Do not use this movement with a half table, because this would mean two pairs sitting out twice.**

An Extended Mitchell is known in some areas as a “Revenge Movement”!

If there is a half table, we need to use a different movement because otherwise two pairs would sit out twice and only play 22 boards.

We therefore use a movement called a Bowman (Manning p12) whereby the number of rounds is two **less** than the number of tables. We thus have 9 rounds of 3 boards each. Details are on p19 of Manning but we use a different matrix as the sharing tables are Tables 5 and 6. We leave out the NS at Table 11 to avoid particularly awkward sharing of boards. **Do not use this movement with 11 full tables.**

11½ and 12 tables

The 12 table share and relay Mitchell has 12 rounds of 2 boards each and should be used for **12 full tables only.**

For a half table, the pairs sitting out would play only 22 boards so we use a Bowman rather like that for 10½ tables but with 10 rounds of 3 boards each. The movement is adapted from that shown on p17 of Manning. The missing pair should be the NS pair at Table 12. Again, this should be used **only when there is a half table** for otherwise the sharing is very complicated. Beware that the players skip at the halfway stage. In short, be careful to follow the movement on the table cards.

12½ and 13 tables

A straightforward Mitchell of 13 rounds of 2 boards each. If a half table, a moving pair should be omitted.

13½ and 14 tables

A share and relay Mitchell of 14 rounds of 2 boards each. If a half table, the sitting pair at Table 7 or 8 should be omitted to avoid sharing in rounds of 2 boards. It is often difficult to complete this movement in the time available and usually only 13 rounds are completed.

14½ tables to 20 tables

These movements are not included in Manning. Their origin is unknown. It is possible that they may have come from a Scandinavian guide and it is also very possible that they were devised independently by the late Derek Jepson.

About 7 or 8 years ago, I wrote the following piece intended for use by other bridge clubs, and indeed, several other bridge clubs did express an interest:

MODIFIED MITCHELL MOVEMENTS

For 15 to 20 tables, Sheffield Bridge Club uses modified Mitchell movements such that with 15-18 tables, a 27 board movement with 9x3 board rounds is played, and with 19 or 20 tables, a 30 board movement with 10x3 board rounds is played.

The advantage of these movements over basic two board round Mitchells is that (assuming no half table) all the players play all the boards.

These Modified Mitchells are based upon the concept of two Nine Table Mitchells merged together (except for the 19-20 table movements which are based upon two Ten Table movements merged together).

Boards are mostly shared between groups of two tables, but where there is a table with two moving pairs, the boards are not shared. Boards are set out at the beginning with Boards 1-3 at tables 1 and 2 and the highest number boards at the highest numbered table(s). Boards always move down at the end of a round so that sitting pairs play the boards in ascending order.

15 Tables. There are nine moving NS pairs and nine moving EW pairs.

EW at table 1 move to table 3 and then to table 5 as per the following diagram

1→3→5→7→9→11→12→13→15→1

NS move tables thus: 15→12→9→6→2→14→10→8→4→15

Tables 9, 12 and 15 are “all-moving” tables and do not share boards.

16 Tables. This is similar. Tables 9 and 10 are “all-moving” and do not share boards.

EW move thus: 1→3→5→7→9→10→11→13→15→1

NS move thus: 16→12→9→6→2→14→10→8→4→16

17 Tables. Again similar. Only Table 15 is “all-moving”.

EW move thus : 1→3→5→7→9→11→13→15→16→1

NS move thus: 2→4→6→8→10→12→14→15→17→2

18 Tables. With no merging, this is essentially two Nine Table Mitchells. All EWs move up two tables each round. All NS pairs sit.

19 tables. Merging is at Table 15 only, the only “all-moving” table.

EW move thus: 3→5→7→9→11→12→13→15→17→19→3

NS move thus: 1→2→4→6→8→10→14→15→16→18→1

20 Tables. With no merging, this is essentially two 10 table Mitchells, though, to avoid relays etc, it appears more complex!

EW move thus: 3→5→7→9→11→12→13→15→17→19→3

and thus: 1→2→4→6→8→10→14→16→18→20→1

To appreciate how the 9 table Mitchells are merged in the case of, for example, the 15 and 16 table movements, imagine the nine tables with moving EW pairs as one Mitchell movement. The EW pairs go up one table each round but ignoring those tables where there is a sitting EW pair. Now imagine the nine tables with the moving NS pairs as another Mitchell Movement. The NS pairs go down two tables each round but ignoring those tables with sitting NS pairs. Where there are tables with both pairs moving, this is where the two Nine Table Mitchells mesh together.

20½ to 26 tables

It is some years since we last had more than 20 tables, but those with long memories will recollect the movements were known as “Duplicating Movements” because two sets of boards were used and after playing the first board, we had to duplicate the cards into another board with the same Board Number but from a different set of boards.

The correct name for the movements is “Appendix Mitchell”.

Here the basic concept is that of having two movements of 13 Table Mitchells but merged together. One 13 table movement is that of Tables 1 to 13 where EW pairs do a circuit of moving up two tables each round within those tables. The other circuit is that of the 13 tables with the highest table numbers and for these 13 tables, the NS pairs do a circuit going up one table each round. With x tables, the 13 table Mitchells mesh over the 26-x tables in the middle of the movement where moving pairs play against each other. There are sitting NS pairs therefore at the lowest numbered tables and sitting EW pairs at the highest numbered tables. I can remember once or twice having 26 tables and with that maximum of tables, the 13 table Mitchells don’t actually mesh and there is a sitting pair at every table.

Movements with one winning pair

Howell Movements

On Saturdays, we usually have a movement with one winner. These movements are usually based upon the Howell, a movement in which every pair encounters each other pair just once. For x tables, the number of rounds is 2x-1 and there is only one stationary pair.

This works well for 3 tables (5 rounds of 5 or 6 boards each), 4 tables (7 rounds of 4 boards each), 5 tables (9 rounds of 3 boards each) and 7 tables (13 rounds of 2 boards each) as these give convenient durations of movement.

For other numbers of tables we use a “Three Quarter Howell Movement” in which we don’t play as many as all the other pairs.

The modification for a Three Quarter movement is that where you have one table with two moving pairs, you split the table so that you have two tables with the moving NS pair and the moving EW pair splitting between the two tables so that instead of them playing each other, they both play stationary pairs at the different tables. This allows us to have a movement for x tables with 2x-3 or even 2x-5 rounds.

Thus, while for

3, 4 or 5 tables

we use Full Howell movements, for

6 tables

we use a Three Quarter Howell movement with 9 rounds of 3 boards each and we have 3 sitting pairs.

7 tables

Here, we also use a Three Quarter movement for although a Full Movement would be a perfect movement, in practice we often would need to provide for more than one pair requiring a stationary position, and besides, 9 rounds of 3 boards each is less disruptive than 13 rounds of 2 boards each. The Three Quarter movement thus involves 5 sitting pairs.

8 tables.

Here, the Three Quarter concept is taken a stage yet further and we have 7 sitting pairs in our 9 rounds of 3 boards each movement.

9 tables or more tables.

We now leave the Howell movements (despite the labelling of the envelopes containing the movement cards) and use the movements for 2 winners but with an arrow-switch in which a small number of rounds are played with pairs rotating direction by 90 degrees and thus making it so that we have a single winning pair.

It is fairly rare to use single winner movements for 9 or more tables. Even for Saturday evenings, it would be better now to use a 2 winner movement for a fairer distribution of Trophy Points. However, these movements may be needed for events such as the Men's and Ladies' Pairs.

For 9 tables a straight Mitchell is used. The cards show the last 4 rounds being arrow-switched, which is strictly too many. At some point this will be updated, but it's not a high priority.

For 10 tables, a Hesitation Bowman (Manning p72) is used and for 11 tables, a Switched Bowman (Manning p82) is used.

We have movement cards for further tables, but alternatively an arrow-switched Mitchell may be used instead.

Further reading

The EBU Manual of Duplicate Movements by J.R.Manning. A copy of this may be found in the office but please do not remove this from the club and please return it to the office. Details for Teams-of-Four, Teams-of-Eight and Individual Movements are included there.

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