

led diamonds initially and then they can manage a diamond ruff in addition to the two top diamonds and the ♣A.

2 Bridge movements

I've been asked to write a short account of Mitchell and Howell movements. Most of the time duplicate bridge at Taieri uses a Mitchell movement. North-South remain seated throughout the session while East-West move around the room in a cycle. At the same time the boards also move cyclically but in the other direction. In this movement essentially the North-South players are competing against one another while the East-West are competing in a separate competition.

You will have noticed that the director sometimes assigns a relay table where the boards wait for one round before being passed on. You may also have noticed that this happens only when the number of tables is even: without the relay East-West would meet the boards they began with when they had gone half-way round the room (because the boards would also have gone half-way round the room in the opposite direction).

Sometimes the director will solve this even number of tables problem in another way – by having East-West skip a table when they have gone half-way round the room. For example, skips are more common than relays in Canada and the UK. Skip movements are slightly easier to get right but they have the disadvantage that North-South don't play every East-West pair.

Once you think you have mastered a Mitchell movement it will inevitably happen that you meet a completely different type of movement – a Howell movement. I have learnt that these were invented by a whist player called Edwin Cull Howell (1860–

1907). He died 18 years before Contract Bridge was invented! Those whist players were smart guys.

In a Howell movement, while there may be a small number of stationary pairs, nearly everyone moves after each round irrespective of whether you were sitting North-South; and they move in a cycle sometimes to a North-South position, sometimes to an East-West position. The great merit of a Howell movement is that you can play against more than half (sometimes all) of the pairs in the competition so that there is a single winner (rather than a North-South winner and an East-West winner). So this is quite an advantage in a small field. The movement is sufficiently complex that every table has a little guide that tells both pairs which table to go to for the next round. Even though the players are moving in an apparently complex cyclic way the boards still move regularly from one table to the next after each round.

3 Club news and comments

Tournaments We have a Cancer Charity Tournament on the 16th August. Raffle items will be required for the Charity Tournament.

New members Welcome to new members Enid Simcock, Bill Chapple and Pat Chapple.

Stewart Kerr The committee would like to thank Stewart Kerr for all the great work he has been doing around the Club rooms.

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