

Episode 1. Why do we play the movements we do and how does the scoring work?

An interview with Reg Hull (RH) by the Red Cross Quizzer (RCQ)

RCQ "How do you decide the movement each week?"

RH "Tricky question to start with eh. I know who likes to sit NS or EW and who likes to, or does not mind moving or scoring and try to balance the impossible by fulfilling all needs.

RCQ "What then?"

RH "Well if we have no ½ tables then it we play with NS static all night and EW move round. This is known as a **Mitchell** movement.

RCQ "What happens if there is a ½ table."

RH "I will minimise the length of time that a pair has to sit out and balance it across NS and EW as best as I can."

RCQ "Why bother? If it's you and Judy sitting out you could look into her eyes and make promises you know you can't keep."

RH "Exactly my point. You can only chat for so long. In my case it usually means that I will talk myself into trouble!

The movements we play reduce by at least 2 and often 3 boards the amount of time sat out."

This table shows illustrates this.

<u>No. of Tables</u>	<u>Number of Boards Sat Out</u>	
	<u>Mitchell</u>	<u>Reg</u>
3.5	6	4
4.5	5	3
5.5	4	3

RCQ "Ah I begin to understand"

RH "You should be worried if you are beginning to think like me. Have you seen my bidding?"

RCQ "Actually I have!. Moving on before it gets personal, anything else you want to say here?"

RH "Well in summary..

- a) You play almost everyone, so it's more sociable
- b) Instead of sitting out for over 30 minutes it's often only 15 minutes.
- c) The sit out is across most pairs.
- d) Where there are less than 6 tables, the EBU and similar sized clubs recommend it.
- e) The scoring is fairer"

RCQ " Ah.Glad you mentioned the scoring. There are some of us that think this is a bit of a dark art. Do you make it up or is it scientific? Before you answer that, let me rephrase. Why is it that sometimes we end up with 1 league table and not a NS and an EW one?"

RH "Well, this is when we have a ½ table. you become a unique pair number, sometimes playing NS and sometimes EW. So now you are scoring against ALL the other pairs. I could refer to the well-known article Mathematics of duplicate bridge or you can trust me!!!

RCQ "Many thanks for your time and sweets"

RH "You're welcome, just don't eat as many next time!"