

Team-of-Four Movements

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The following is quoted text from The Official Encyclopedia of Bridge, Third Edition, New, Revised, and Expanded, published by the American Contract Bridge League in the year 1976, with Editor-in-Chief Mr. Richard L. Frey, Executive Editor Mr. Alan F. Truscott, and Editor Amalya L. Kearsse.

The concept of the Team of Four Movements is a concept carried over from the days of the American Whist League, which held national Whist tournaments based on Teams of Four as participating and competing card players. The following is a summary of how this concept of moving the teams evolved.

Team-of-Four Movements

These are based, for small games, on the movement originated by the American Whist League in the nineteenth century. With an odd number of teams, the movement is completed in one round less than the number of competing teams, and each progression is the same, the boards moving toward the lower numbered tables, and the traveling pairs skipping a table to the next lower number. By omitting middle rounds, this is adaptable to large games by an irregularity in the movement at the midpoint.

After half the boards are played, the traveling pairs return the boards just played to their home table, and get their new table assignment for the next round by adding 12 (if twenty-four boards constituted a session, 14 in a twenty-eight board session) to their original number, and going to the resultant sum for the next round. (If the sum is greater than the highest numbered table, subtract the number of tables in play from the sum, and progress to that table.)

With an even number of teams in competition, this movement does not provide competition between all teams, and this is compensated for by a phantom table so that one North-South and one East-West pair sit out each round.

To overcome this difficulty, Major C. L. Patton devised a movement based on the Howell schedule, and a relay movement was produced later by Shepard Barclay.

Note: Major C. L. Patton is Major Charles Lionel Patton-Bethune, who died in the year 1957 in London, England.

Note: In his publication Lenz on Bridge - Volume 2, published in 1927, the author Mr. Sidney Lenz refers to Major C. L. Patton in his chapter headed with the designation **The Optimist as the genial President of the Knickerbocker Whist Club.**

Both had advantages over the American Whist League movement for even-numbered teams. In the early 1950s, at the suggestion of Richard Freeman, the American Whist League movement was modified by two irregularities. After two (or three) fourteen-table rounds, traveling pairs skip an extra table, boards progressing normally; after all but two (or three) rounds, both the traveling pairs skip an extra table, and the boards skip a table. All but one match is completed by the end of the movement, and this last match can be played by relaying new boards as in a head-on match.

In 1963, Lawrence Rosler devised a two-section team movement (very reminiscent of the Barclay movement of the 1930s). One of its salient features is that discussion of the last set or a glimpse of the next round's boards is not a defect of the movement. Sections of equal size are required. East-West pairs in the two sections interchange; after boards are twinned in the home section, a Mitchell progression is used in both sections, except that in *one* of the sections, the East-West pairs remain stationary, and the North-South pairs move. This allows both pairs of team to play a given board on the same round. However, it means that both partnerships of half the teams will be moving pairs, while both pairs of the remaining teams will be stationary.

Note: Mr. Lawrence Rosler is a co-author with Mr. Jeff Rubens of the publication *Journalist Leads*, and also a bridge theorist and contributor to the publications of the American Contract Bridge League.

A modification of the Rosler method called the Mirror Mitchell, which is used in most National Championship board-a-match events, allows each team to have one stationary pair. A regular Mitchell movement is used in one section. In the other sections the boards progress each round to the next lower numbered tables, while the pairs skip one table toward the lower numbered tables.

These movements apply to board-a-match and abbreviated IMP events.