



Dealing with Late Arrivals

The website's *Diary* page says "Players should arrive by 7.20 for a 7.30pm start". This was proposed at the 2007 AGM but an amended proposal was agreed, namely that "Once the director has decided on the evening's movement, any pairs who arrive later may, at the director's discretion, not be allowed to play".

My advice is that it is sensible to decide the movement by 7.25pm at the latest and you are fully entitled to send away any pair arriving after you have done so, citing the 2007 AGM decision.

Of course, no director wishes to turn people away unnecessarily. It may be that you can fit them in without making any adjustment at all to the movement. This is likely to be the case if there is already a half table. And, with sufficient experience, you may feel able to adjust the movement to accommodate them (see below). *But if you are not confident about effecting the changes flawlessly by 7.30pm, send the late arrivals away.* Do not risk inconveniencing those who took the trouble to arrive in good time and assist in setting up the room.

I will back you, whatever you decide.

If you start with a half table

Adding a late pair is no problem if the number of tables is **between 3½ and 8½**, or **11½ or more**: simply fill up the half table and keep the same movement.

This does **not** work, however, with **9½ or 10½** tables: see below.

If you start with full tables

Evidently you would now have to add a new half table to accommodate the late pair.

This is no problem if the number of tables is **13 or more**: simply put a set of boards on the new table; the movement will still be a Mitchell (with or without a skip).

If the number of tables is **between 3 and 7**, you would have to change the movement (and frequently the number of boards per round). *Make the change only if you are confident.*

- Changing from 3 to 3½ tables: change the form of Howell.
- Changing from 4 to 4½, 5 to 5½, 6 to 6½, 7 to 7½ tables: change the Mitchell to a Howell (or change the form of Howell).

With **8 and 9** tables it is easier, as the rounds remain of 3 boards:

- Changing from 8 to 8½ tables: change the Share & Relay Mitchell to a straightforward Mitchell. Remove the relay and shift the boards up one table from there on.
- Changing from 9 to 9½ tables: change the Mitchell to a Bowman. Seat the late arrivals EW at the new table 10, share boards between tables 1 and 9, and remember to skip after 4 rounds.

But there are problems with **9½, 10 and 10½** tables. *Make the change only if you are confident.*

- Changing from 9½ to 10, 10½ to 11 tables. *You do not want to retain a Bowman without the half table. This because the highest numbered table is now a full table and has to share boards with other lower-numbered tables (a different one each time).* Change the Bowman (3 boards per round) to a Blackpool (2 boards per round). Remember to add the relays.

- Changing from 10 to 10½ tables. *You do not want to retain a Blackpool with a half table. This is because the EW pair that sits out the first round also sits out the 11th round and the EW pair that sits out the second round also sits out the 12th round.* Remove the relays and change the Blackpool (2 boards per round) to a Bowman (3 boards per round).

With **11 and 12** tables it is easier again, as the rounds remain of 2 boards:

- Changing from 11 to 11½ tables: change the Blackpool to a Double Weave or Share & Relay Mitchell (the latter is a bit more work):

For the Double Weave, remove the relays between tables 1 and 11 and place a set of boards on the new table 12. *Just remember to tell odd numbered EWs to move up and even numbered EWs to move down; and NSs not to pass the boards in the same direction as that taken by the departing EWs!*

For the Share & Relay, remove the relays between tables 1 and 11, create a new relay between tables 5 and 6, move the boards down one table as far as the relay, and share boards between tables 1 and 12.

- Changing from 12 to 12½ tables: change to a standard Mitchell. This is marginally easier if you have set up a Double Weave and not a Share & Relay Mitchell.

Starting from the Double Weave, all you have to do is put another set of boards on the new table 13.

Starting from the Share & Relay, you need to remove the relay and shift the boards up one table from there on.

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