June 10, 1930. B. MACFADDEN 1,763,243

GOLF GAME APPARATUS

Filed May 4, 1927

Fig: 2.

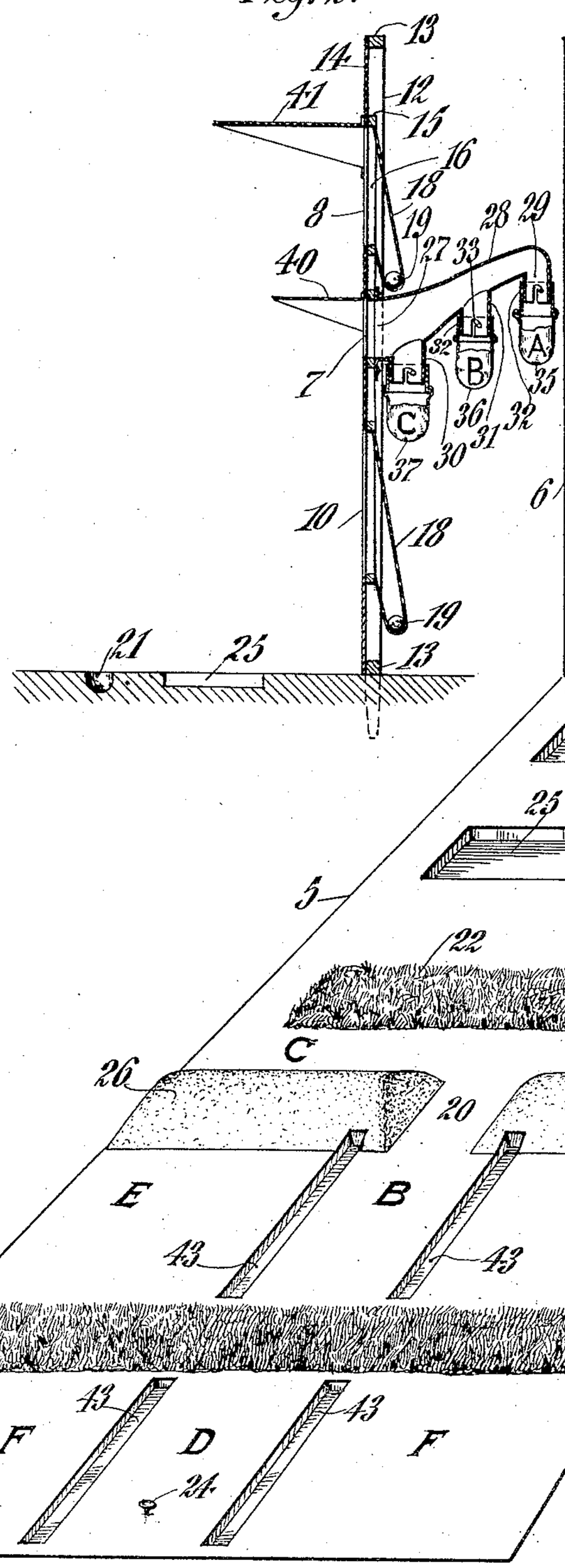
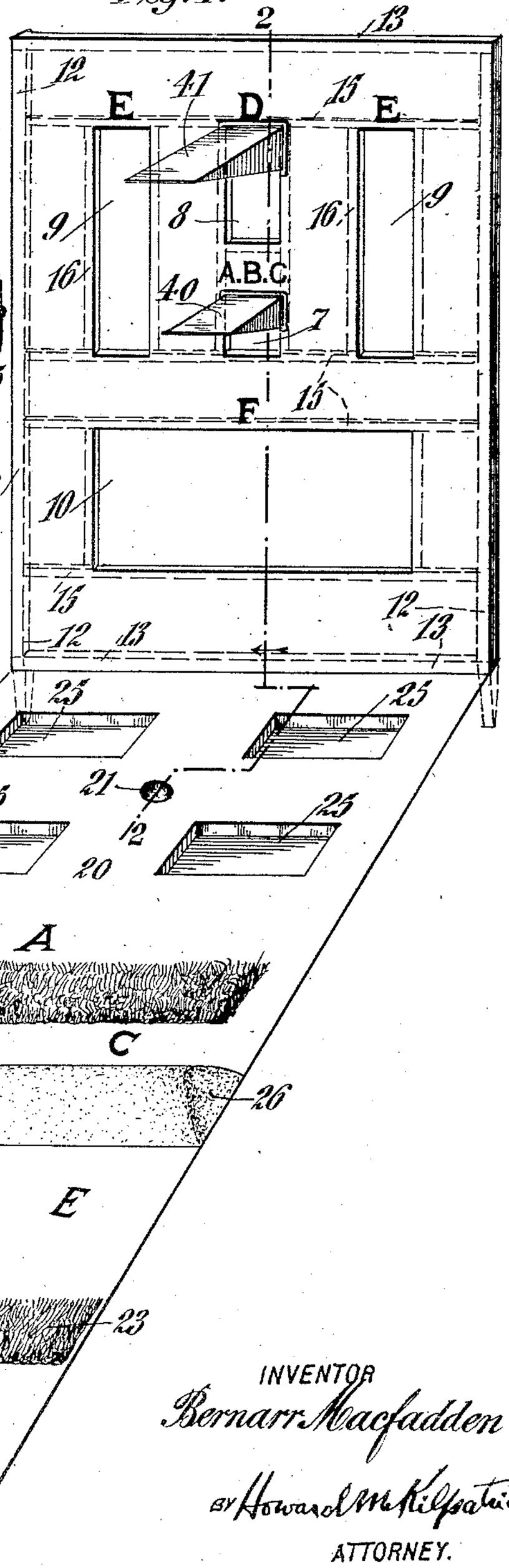


Fig: 1.



INVENTOR
Bernarr Macfadden
BY Howard McKilpatrick
ATTORNEY.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

BERNARR MACFADDEN, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

GOLF GAME APPARATUS

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This invention relates to games or apparatus or devices for playing games where the space is limited and more particularly to means for playing in limited enclosures a game much simulating golf as played on large links, though it is noted that the invention is not limited to golf nor in some respects even to games in limited space.

One object of the invention is to provide an apparatus or device of this kind giving practice in a variety of strokes including, among others, lofting, long and short drives and putting, by which the game of regular golf may be taught.

Another object of the invention is to provide an apparatus or device of this kind in which a bad stroke in driving puts the player in difficult positions for subsequent strokes, as in regular golf.

Another object of the invention is to provide an apparatus or device of this kind which will tend to teach the player to use the best strokes for various conditions.

Other objects of the invention are to improve generally the simplicity and efficiency of such devices and to provide a device or apparatus of this kind which is amusing, diverting, health-giving, economical, durable and reliable in operation, economical to manufacture and easy to set up.

Still other objects of the invention will appear as the description proceeds; and while herein details of the invention are described and claimed, the invention is not limited to these, since many and various changes may be made without departing from the scope of the invention as claimed in the broader claims.

The inventive features for the accomplishment of these and other objects are shown herein in connection with an improved golf apparatus which, briefly stated, includes a green having a hole and hazards therein and a screen associated with the green and having therein holes of progressively increasing size. A ball receiving device at the rear of one of said openings for teaching long drives has a forward funnel portion secured around said openings, and an upwardly inclined tubular portion merging with the funnel portion. The device has a lower opening at said funnel portion for receiving low speed balls, another opening midway of the tubular portion which medium speed balls may reach, and an opening at the upper part of the tubular portion which only high speed balls will reach. Pockets secured under said lower openings have indicia thereon. Corresponding indicia are also located on the green, the indicia on the green corresponding to the pockets progressively nearer the screen being located at positions progressively less difficult relative to the hole. The other openings in the screen also have distinctive indicia associated therewith, the green being provided with corresponding indicia respectively located, relative to said hazards and hole, at more difficult positions than those corresponding to the pockets and at progressively more difficult positions for hitting a ball into the hole.

Or a green can be located in any yard, large or small. Hazards can be erected or the yard can be used as it is. The green herein disclosed is simply a description of how it can be made with that in view. The principal advantage of this game of golf is its simplicity and the ease with which it can be erected in a small or large yard. The only article that is absolutely necessary on the putting green is the regulation hole used in golf. One can then take the difficult shots from the first tee, as shown, and place the ball near the hole, and the less difficult shots further from the hole.

In the accompanying drawing, showing by way of example one of many possible embodiments of the invention,

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the device; and

Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view, partly in elevation, the section being taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1, looking in the direction of the arrows of said line.

My improved golf game apparatus comprises an elongated horizontal green 5 of turf, dirt, wood or any suitable material and an upright screen 6 transverse to the green at one end thereof and provided with a small central ball-receiving opening 7, a medium

small opening 8 above the central opening, larger taller lateral openings 9 on each side of the first named openings and a very large wide largest opening 10 near the bottom of the screen. While said openings are herein shown as rectangular rather than round or other shapes, this invention is not thus limited.

The screen may be built in any suitable manner and is here shown as comprising marginal upright and cross pieces 12, 13, a board or canvas 14 secured across said pieces and provided with said openings, and smaller upright and cross pieces 15, 16 secured to the rear face of the canvas and bounding said holes and extending to and secured to the marginal pieces. Pockets 18 of flexible material secured around said openings and to the said smaller pieces 15, 16 extend below the respective openings to receive and retain the balls 19 projected through the openings into the pockets.

The green 5 may be arranged in any yard of any size and in a variety of ways but is here shown as being provided with an axial fairway 20 extending substantially from end to end and having therein a hole 21 near the screen and being intersected midway and near the outer end by zones of rough 22, 23 such as long grass or an imitation thereof. The green is also shown as provided with a tee 24 at the outer end of the fairway and sand pits 25 on both sides of the fairway between the hole and the screen and between the hole and the rough, and a pair of bunkers 26 between the roughs 22 and 23.

A ball receiving device may be provided at the rear of any of said openings, for instance, the opening 7, for encouraging long drives. This device may comprise a large forward funnel portion 27 (Fig. 2) having its edge secured around said opening 7 and a rearwardly and upwardly inclined tubular portion 28 merging with the funnel portion, and having a downturned rear discharge end 29. Said device is provided with lower openings surrounded by flanges 30, 31 about midway of the tubular portion and at the funnel portion. Rings 32 removably secured to said flanges 30, 31 and downturned end 29 by a bayonet-slot connection 33 carry pockets 35, 36, 37 secured on said rings and having indicia, for instance, A, B, C applied thereon.

Said funnel is adapted to receive balls projected into said opening 7, the balls incoming at slight speed falling into the pocket C, balls at higher speed riding upwardly in the tubular portion and reaching the pocket B, highest speed balls reaching the pocket A.

The screen is provided with corresponding indicia A, B and C at progressively more difficult positions relative to the hole 21.

The green is also provided with markings A, B, C over the opening 7, corresponding to the indicia on the pockets, and also with indicia D, E, F designating medium small, larger and largest openings 8, 9 and 10. The green is provided in addition to the markings A, B and C, with markings D, E, F, the markings being all respectively located at progressively more difficult positions for hitting the ball into the hole, marking A being on the fairway between the rough and the hole, the marking B being on the fairway just beyond the rough 22, two markings C being near the end of the rough 22 with the rough and a sand pit between such marking and the hole, the marking D being in the fairway beyond the outer rough 22. The markings E are beyond both bunkers, while the markings F are beyond the outer rough 23 outside of the fairway.

While said markings are herein shown as letters rather than as numerals for counting scores, the invention is not so limited.

The game may be played in a great variety of ways or as follows:

The players may alternate strokes as in regular golf, and to commence the first player places the ball upon the tee and drives for one of the openings 7 to 10. If he misses the opening he tries again from the tee as in the first shot and keeps on hitting for an opening until the ball is landed in one of them, taking care to count the strokes as in regular golf. Or when the ball is not driven into an opening and falls in front of the apparatus the ball can be placed on the green at the most difficult shot. In order to make openings 7 and 8 more difficult and to require that the strokes more simulate long drives, hoods 40, 41 are mounted over these openings perpendicular to the screen, thus to prevent pitch shots from landing therein.

After the ball has landed in an opening and a pocket 18, 35, 36 or 37 it is by hand removed from the pocket and placed on the letter of the green corresponding to the letter placed over the opening in which the ball landed. Thus, if the ball has landed in the most difficult pocket 35, it is then placed upon the letter A of the green and the player putts for the hole 21, which he should make in one or a few strokes. If, however, the ball has landed in the opening 10, it must be placed upon a letter F of the green, and it may require many strokes to make the hole, as the various hazards must be avoided. Small ditches 43 prevent the ball from being putted from the letters E and F to the fairway, but do not interfere with driving at the tee or the markings B or D. The score will be counted as in regular golf.

If it be desired to play with the screen only and without the green, the letters A, B, C, D, E and F may be respectively valued, for instance, as 200, 150, 50, 30, 20, 10 and 5, as representing length of strokes in yards, and the players alternately drive at the holes,

the player making the highest score in a certain number of strokes winning the game.

Many ways of playing the game will suggest themselves, and the invention is not in any way limited to any method of playing.

I claim as my invention:

1. In a game apparatus, a green having a goal; a screen having an opening therein; a ball receiving device at the rear of said opening, comprising a forward funnel secured around said opening; an upwardly inclined tubular portion merging with the funnel portion; said device having lower openings different distances from its ends; indicia designating said lower openings; and corresponding indicia on the green, the indicia on the green corresponding to the lower openings progressively nearer the screen being located at positions progressively less difficult relative to the goal.

2. In a game apparatus, a green having a hole; a screen having an opening therein; a ball receiving device at the rear of said opening, comprising a forward funnel secured around said opening; an upwardly inclined tubular portion merging with the funnel portion; said device having lower openings at said funnel portion, midway of the tubular portion; and pockets secured under said lower openings and having indicia thereon; and corresponding indicia on the green, the indicia on the green corresponding to the pockets progressively nearer the screen being located at positions progressively less difficult relative to the hole.

3. In a game apparatus, a green having a hole therein; an upright screen at one end of the green provided with openings therein; and a ball receiving device at the rear of one of said openings, comprising a large forward funnel portion having the edge secured around the opening; a rearwardly and upwardly inclined tubular portion merging with the funnel portion, and having a downturned rear discharge end; said device being provided with lower openings surrounded by flanges about midway of the tubular portion and at the funnel portion; rings removably secured to said flanges and downturned end by a bayonet-slot connection; pockets secured on said rings and having indicia A, B, C thereon; said funnel being adapted to receive balls incoming at slight speed falling into the pocket C, balls at higher speed riding upwardly in the tubular portion and reaching the pocket B, highest speed balls reaching the pocket A; and indicia A, B, C on said green at progressively more difficult positions relative to the hole.

4. A ball receiving device comprising a large forward funnel portion; a rearwardly and upwardly inclined tubular portion merging with the funnel portion, and having a downturned rear discharge end; said device being provided with lower openings surrounded by flanges about midway of the tubular portion and at the funnel portion; rings removably secured to said flanges and downturned end; and pockets removably secured on said rings and having indicia thereon.

5. A ball receiving device comprising a rearwardly and upwardly inclined passage portion provided with lower openings in its lower face at different distances up the incline; and pockets secured under said openings.

6. In a game apparatus, a green having a hole; a screen having an opening therein; a ball receiving device at the rear of said opening, comprising an upwardly inclined passage portion having lower openings; pockets secured under said lower openings and having indicia associated therewith; and corresponding indicia on the green, the indicia on the green corresponding to the indicia of the pockets and located at positions progressively less difficult relative to the hole.

7. A ball receiving device comprising a rearwardly and upwardly inclined passage portion having a smooth lower face on which balls may roll, said lower face being provided with a plurality of lower ball-receiving openings disposed different distances up the inclined face.

8. In a game apparatus, a green having a hole therein; a screen at the edge of the green and provided with spaced ball-receiving openings of progressively increasing size and including a small opening, a very large opening and openings of intermediate size; the spacing structure of said screen spacing said openings from each other and the edges of the screen and being as wide as the width of the smaller openings and adapted when struck by the ball to throw the ball back to the green; distinctive indicia associated with the respective openings; and corresponding indicia located on the green at progressively more difficult positions for hitting the ball into the hole, the indicia corresponding to the larger openings being located on the green at the more difficult locations.

9. In a game apparatus, a green having a hole therein; a screen at the edge of the green and provided with spaced ball-receiving openings of progressively increasing size and including a small opening, a very large opening and openings of intermediate size; the spacing structure of said screen spacing said openings from each other and the edges of the screen and being as wide as the width of the smaller openings and adapted when struck by the ball to throw the ball back to the green; distinctive indicia associated with the respective openings; and corresponding indicia located on the green at progressively more difficult positions for hitting the ball into the hole, the indicia corresponding to the larger openings being located at the more difficult locations; the center of the openings

corresponding to the most difficult green-position being the most remote from said spacing structure, whereby the opening corresponding to the most difficult green-position is the least hazardous.

10. In a game apparatus, a green having a hole therein; a screen at the edge of the green and provided with spaced ball-receiving openings of progressively increasing size and including a small opening, a very large opening and openings of intermediate size; the spacing structure of said screen spacing said openings from each other and the edges of the screen and being as wide as the width of the smaller openings and adapted when struck by the ball to throw the ball back to the green; distinctive indicia associated with the respective openings; and corresponding indicia located on the green at progressively more difficult positions for hitting the ball into the hole, the indicia corresponding to the larger openings being located at the more difficult locations; the width of said spacing structure and the position and size of the openings rendering the ball less likely, when aimed at the small openings, to go into any opening, and more likely to hit said structure than if aimed at a larger opening; thereby to cause the player to balance the disadvantage of risking hitting said spacing structure, when aiming at a smaller hole, against the advantage of one of the less difficult green-positions associated with the smaller holes.

11. In a green apparatus, a green having a hole therein; a screen at an edge of the green and provided with at least three spaced ball-receiving openings of progressively increasing size and progressively decreasing distance from the bottom of the screen; distinctive indicia associated with the respective openings; and corresponding indicia located at progressively more hazardous green-positions for hitting the ball into the hole; the opening corresponding to the most hazardous green-position being the least hazardous.

Signed at New York in the county of New York and State of New York, 1927.

BERNARR MACFADDEN.