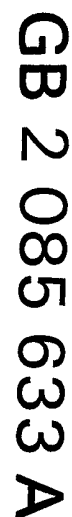


- a marking 5 indicating the serial number of the particular area 3 and a nameplate 6, while the areas 13 of the second table 2 each have two openings 14, 15 for the insertion of the key-operated indicator element removed from the first table so as to indicate the booking of a court selected. In the second table 2, each area 7 indicating the number of a court may cover at least three columns in the row of areas 11 indicating the days of the week in which bookings are made.



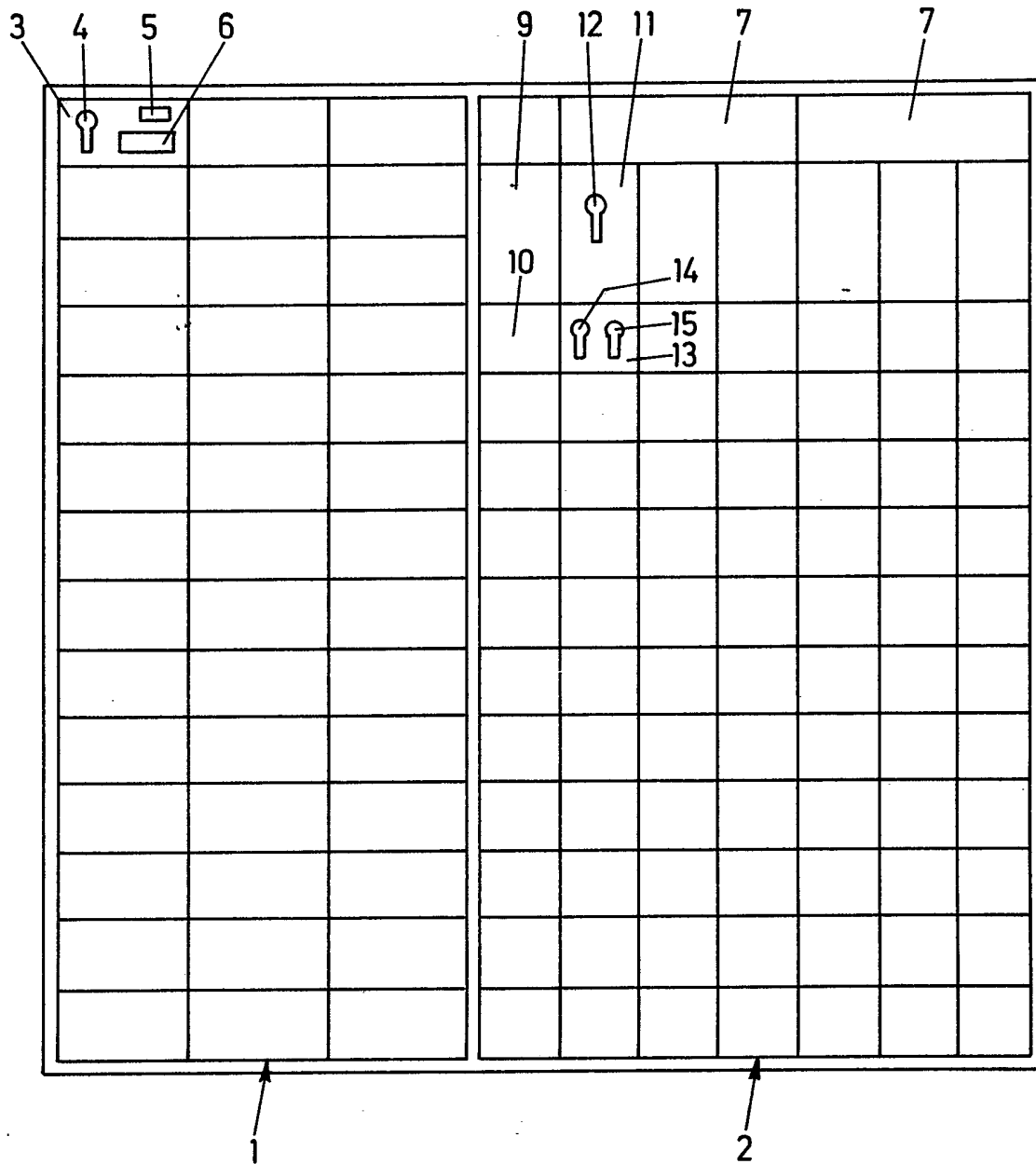
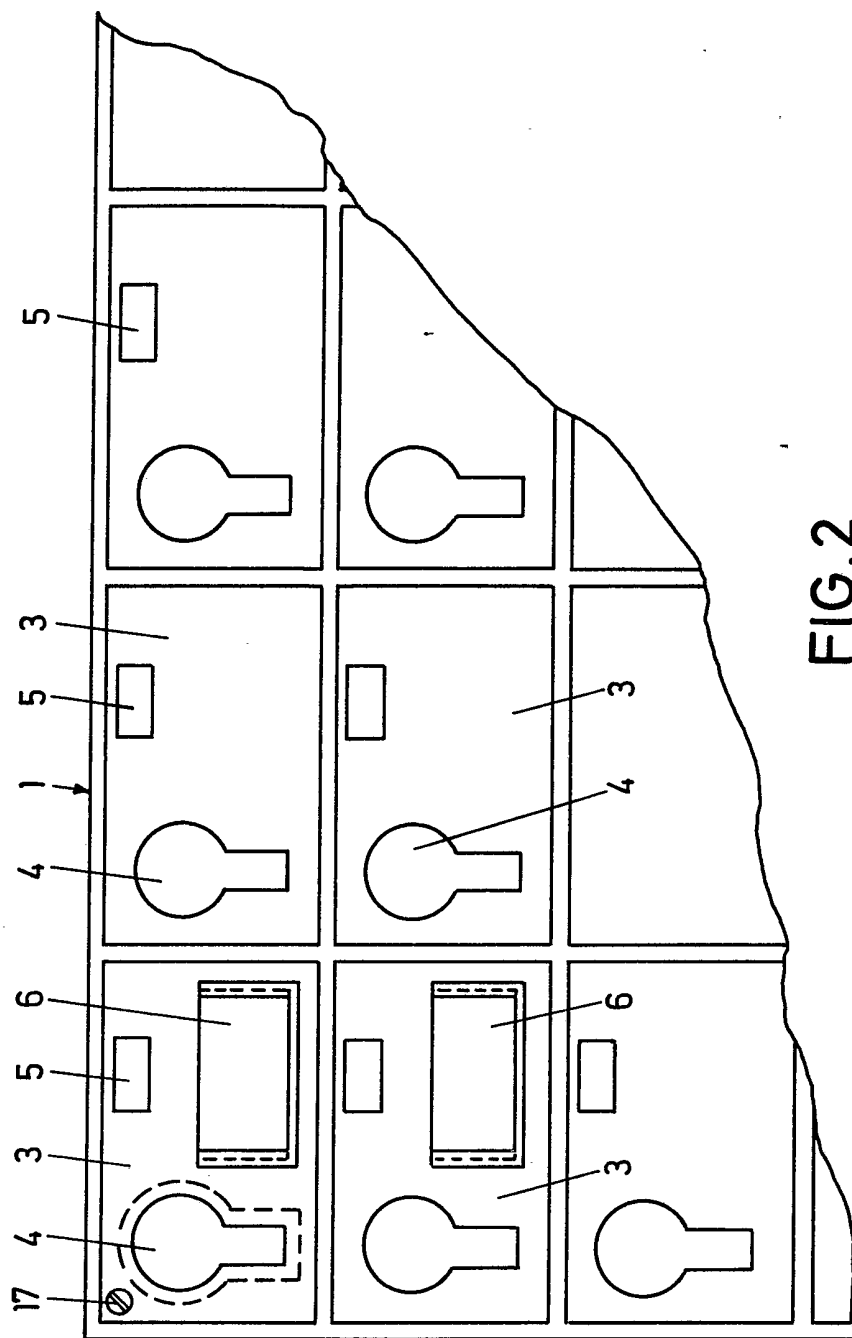
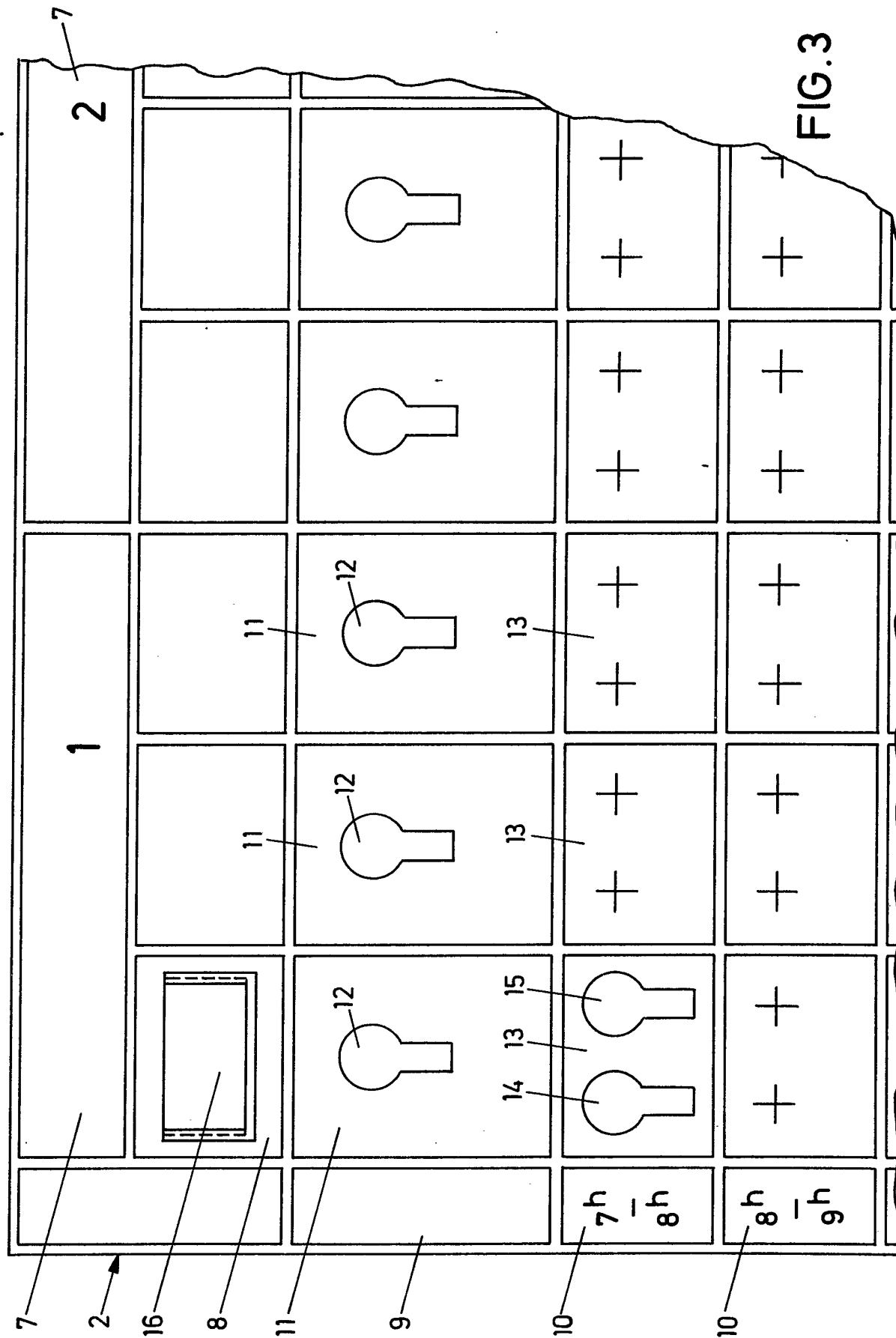


FIG. 1





SPECIFICATION

An indicator device

This invention relates to an indicator device comprising a booking timetable for the users of facilities, such as tennis courts or the like, e.g. for members of tennis clubs, where the facilities require booking by intended users for predetermined times.

German Gebrauchsmuster 7 804 069 discloses such a device using court number tables marked to indicate the day of the week, time and membership number or name, with indicator elements adapted to be locked to these tables to indicate the space or court booked, each indicator element being designed as a lock adapted to be inserted or locked into the appropriate opening in the timetable to indicate which court has been booked.

In tennis clubs, for example, it is known to use indicator tables marked with place numbers corresponding to the number of places or courts available (for example in an upper horizontal row of the table) and subdivided like a timetable, say into the days of the week and hours corresponding to the times available for bookings. Corresponding to these court numbers and booking times on the table are a number of boxes to which number plates, for example, can be attached by hooks. Each club member, for example, may be given such a number plate (optionally also carrying the member's name) so that, for example, two members may book a particular court in advance for a particular time by hanging their number plates on the appropriate box of the booking timetable.

It is also quite customary to use a simple blackboard with chalk for drawing up such a timetable for booking tennis courts.

It is also known to use booking tabs which are attached to the timetable magnetically or by vacuum (German Offenlegungsschrift No. 2 727 791).

This method of drawing up booking timetables for the users of sports grounds, in particular of tennis courts, has, however, frequently been found unsatisfactory in practice, since an entry made with chalk on a blackboard can easily be wiped off or altered by a third party while systems using number plates hooked to tables have the disadvantage that the plates can easily be shifted or removed by third parties, which is liable to cause disagreement among club members.

It is also known to provide rings with locks and bolts on such indicator tables so that the booking plate is first hung on the ring and the bolt is then placed over the ring and locked so that unwarranted removal is not possible. Such systems, however, are very expensive and complicated to operate.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to obviate the disadvantages mentioned above and prevent the difficulties arising from the possibility of tampering with the known indicator

devices and in particular to provide a novel form of indicator device as booking timetable which will provide optimum assurance, for example to the members of tennis clubs, that their booking times and court numbers will be preserved.

According to the present invention there is provided an indicator device comprising a booking timetable for the users of facilities requiring booking by intended users for predetermined times, for members of tennis clubs the device having two tables a second one of which has areas marked with the days of the week, and times, the first table having areas marked with identification means for each user, the device having indicator elements adapted to be locked to these tables to indicate a booking, each indicator element being in the form of a cylinder lock adapted to be operated by a key so that it may be locked in position after insertion in suitable openings in a timetable to indicate the particular booking, the areas of the first table being arranged in columns and rows and each area being provided with an opening for the cylinder lock and also with an indicated reference of the area and with said identification means, the areas of the second table each being provided with two openings each for the insertion of a cylinder lock operated by its key as indicator elements for indicating the booking of a facility according to selected data.

According to an advantageous embodiment of the invention, the areas in the second table for indicating a place or court number are arranged in a first row, the areas for indicating the days of the week are arranged in a second row and the areas for indicating the booking times are arranged in a first column while all the remaining rows and columns of the second table contain the areas for indicating bookings.

According to yet another advantageous feature of a preferred embodiment of the invention, the areas in the second table for indicating the day of the week for which the booking is made are provided each with an opening for the insertion of yet another cylinder lock marked with the day of the week and operated by its key.

To increase the range of application of the device according to the invention, it is advantageous if in the second table each area indicating the place or court number is associated with at least three columns in the row containing the areas for booking the day of the week.

According to yet another feature of the invention, it is advantageous if in the second table, an additional row of areas carrying marking plates is provided between the row of the first indicating areas and the row of the second indicating areas.

In a suitable embodiment of the lock system, the cylinder locks which can be changed from the first to the second table are each provided with a number corresponding to a serial number of an associated one of the areas of the first table.

In order that the indicator table may also be used to indicate bookings by different groups of players, at least two different types of cylinder locks operated by their own keys are provided

which can be transferred from one table to the other.

The indicator device designed according to the invention has the major advantage that only persons in possession of the appropriate keys are able to remove a cylinder lock, for example from the first table, i.e. from the area on the table indicating the number and name, to insert it in the second table in a position indicating the appropriate booking and to lock it in said table while at the same time they are prevented from making more than one booking. The method of sharing out the places or courts and playing times which can be achieved by means of the booking timetable according to the invention is much fairer for the club members, for example of a tennis club, particularly if each member has allocated to him only one area on the first table with the associated cylinder lock and key, serial number of the area, and nameplate.

It is also possible to come to the arrangement that only one person, for example, a ground-keeper, is authorised to insert the key-operated cylinder locks booking the day of the week in the second table.

Since the cylinder locks adapted to be inserted in their openings can be locked in the same manner as conventional safety locks there is no possibility of tampering with the booking timetable.

Lastly, at least two different types of cylinder locks which can be changed from one table of the indicator device to the other may be provided. The first type, for example, may be issued to full members while the second type may be issued to junior members of a club. Furthermore, the indicator device according to the invention is suitable not only for the users of tennis courts but also for users of other types of sports grounds or similar sports facilities, such as squash courts or billiard halls which are subdivided into playing areas.

The present invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the attached drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a schematic front view of an indicator device according to the invention,

Fig. 2 shows a section taken out of a first table of the indicator device, also in front view and on the scale of 1:1 and

Fig. 3 shows a section taken out of a second table of the indicator device, again in front view and on the scale of 1:1.

As shown in Fig. 1, the indicator device substantially consists of two tables 1 and 2 which are placed side by side in the same plane and may be, for example, fixed to a wall.

The first table 1 comprises a number of areas 3 formed by subdividing the table into rows and columns. Each of these areas 3 has an opening 4 for the insertion of a cylinder lock (not shown) designed to be operated, i.e. closed by its key, a marking 5 indicating the serial number of the area 3, and a name plate 6. This name plate 6 may be, for example, inserted in a window with plastic

cover attached to the front of the area 3 and carries the name of the club member. Each member may thus have an area 3 on the table 1 allocated to him. The cylinder lock adapted to be inserted in the opening 4 carries the same number as that shown on the marking 5 of an area, 3, as may be seen more clearly in Fig. 2, for example.

In Fig. 1, the parts 3, 4, 5, and 6 have been entered in one area 3 of the first row and first column only for the sake of simplicity, but in fact every area in table 1 contains the same elements.

The other table 2 of the indicator device also comprises a number of areas 13 formed by subdivision of the Table into rows and columns. Each of these areas has two openings 14 and 15 for the insertion of a cylinder of a cylinder lock from the first table 1 adapted to be operated, i.e. closed by its appropriate key, constituting the indicator elements to indicate that the court has been booked. This second table 2 also has areas 7 to indicate the number of the court, areas 9 and 11 to indicate the day of the week on which the court is booked, and areas 10 to indicate the time of the booking. These indicating areas 7, 9, 11 and 10 are arranged in rows and columns in table 2 in such a manner that the areas 13 indicating the court booking are systematically associated with the areas 7, 11 and 10.

In the second table 2, the areas 7 indicating the numbers of the courts are advantageously arranged in the first row, the areas 9 and 11 indicating the day of the week are advantageously arranged in the second row and the areas 10 indicating the booking times are advantageously arranged in the first column. All remaining rows and columns in the second table 2 are occupied by areas 13 which indicate a court booking. For the sake of simplicity, the two openings 14 and 15 for locks have been shown in only one area 13 in Fig. 1, but all the other areas 13 in table 2 are in fact provided with such openings in the same manner.

The indicating areas 11 in the second row of the second table 2 which are used to indicate the day of the week on which the court is booked each have one opening 12 for the insertion of another cylinder lock adapted to be locked in position by a key and marked to indicate the day of the week. These cylinder locks for the areas 11 are operated by the groundsman, as will be described in detail hereinafter.

The areas 10 in the first column of tables 2 are provided to indicate the exact time. They may therefore be subdivided, e.g. into hours, as shown in Fig. 3. Furthermore, each area 7 indicating the court number in the second table 2 covers at least three columns in the row of areas 11 indicating the days of the week. Fig. 3. also shows that in table 2, an additional row of areas 8 may be inserted between the row of areas 7 indicating the court numbers and the areas 11 indicating the days of the week of the bookings. These additional areas 8 may carry marking plates 16 which may be used, for example, to insert the day of the week or provide any other information for the users of the grounds.

The mode of functioning of the indicator device will now be explained in detail.

If, for example, two members of a tennis club wish to play together at a particular time on a particular court, e.g. on Monday from 7.00 to 8.00 a.m. on Court No. 1, then each of these players opens the lock allotted to him on his area 3 on table 1 and transfers it to the appropriate area 13 to indicate the court booking. Thus, for example, the first player, who has, say, the area 3 with serial number 1 allocated to him on table 1, will insert the cylinder lock in the opening 14 of the area 13 while the second player, who has the area 3 with serial number 6 allocated to him, will also transfer his lock to the opening 15 of the same area 13 in table 2.

The two locks now inserted in this area are then locked and the keys are removed by the two players. The cylinder locks thus indicate that a booking has been made according to the selected data, i.e. the court number, the day of the week and the time. Since each of the cylinder locks which can be transferred from table 1 to table 2 and conversely carries one of the serial numbers 5 entered in the areas 3 of table 1, these locks cannot get mixed up. Fig. 3 further shows that the areas 11 in the third row of table 2 contains the openings 12 in which the groundsman has previously inserted and locked the cylinder locks marked with the day of the week. The cylinder lock in the first area 11, for example, carries the marking "Monday" while the cylinder lock in the second area carries the marking "Tuesday" and that in the third area 11 is marked "Wednesday" (omitted from Fig. 3 for the sake of simplicity).

In this manner, each court can be booked three days in advance. The same applies, of course, to the indicating areas or court booking areas associated with the other court numbers.

After the third day, the arrangement of the cylinder locks in the openings of the areas 11 indicating the days of the week on which bookings have been made is altered so that the bookings now begin with the next day of the week, i.e. "Thursday", so that the groundsman now marks the sequence "Thursday, Friday, Saturday" in the three successive areas 11. To effect this, the groundsman introduces the appropriate cylinder locks in the areas 11 and locks them therein. This successive alteration of the days of the week in the areas 11 is, of course, carried out in the same manner or similarly in the areas indicating the day of the week in the columns of table 2 provided for the other court numbers.

When the playing time has expired, as indicated by an area 13 in table 2, each user of the court must, of course, remove his cylinder lock from the opening 14 or 15 in the area 13 and either return it to the area 3 allocated to him in table 1 or use it to make a fresh booking according to selected data, i.e. court number, day of week and time, by inserting the cylinder lock in the appropriate area 13 in table 2.

The first table 1 of the indicator device would in practice have a total of, for example, 400 areas 3,

i.e. a number of areas of the same order as the number of members of a tennis club, so that each member may have an allotted area 3 in table 1. At the same time, each member will have a cylinder lock with key handed to him, and the cylinder lock will carry the allocated number of area 3 in table 1. Table 1 in fact serves as a device for storing the cylinder locks when they are not in use for booking a court.

Table 1 of the indicator device equipped with the lock openings 4 and table 2 having the lock openings 12, 14 and 15 can easily be manufactured from any suitable material, e.g. a plastics material. The whole indicator device may easily be fixed to a wall by screws 17, for example.

Apart from the fact that the solution according to the invention with its relatively simple technical means provides an easily operated and reliable indicator device, the device also constitutes a booking timetable which can offer the greatest possible fairness for the users of the grounds, e.g. of a tennis club.

CLAIMS

1. An indicator device comprising a booking timetable for the users of facilities requiring booking by intended users for predetermined times, for members of tennis clubs the device having two tables a second one of which has areas marked with the days of the week, and times, the first table having areas marked with identification means for each user, the device having indicator elements adapted to be locked to these tables to indicate a booking, each indicator element being in the form of a cylinder lock adapted to be operated by a key so that it may be locked in position after insertion in suitable openings in a timetable to indicate the particular booking, the areas of the first table being arranged in columns and rows and each area being provided with an opening for the cylinder lock and also with an indicated reference of the area and with said identification means, the areas of the second table each being provided with two openings each for the insertion of a cylinder lock operated by its key as indicator elements for indicating the booking of a facility according to selected data.

2. An indicator device according to claim 1, wherein in the second table, areas indicating a place or court number are arranged in a first row, areas indicating the days of the week or booking dates are arranged in a second row and areas indicating the booking times are arranged in a first column, all the remaining rows and columns of the second table containing the areas indicating bookings.

3. An indicator device according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the second table, the areas indicating the days of the week have an opening for the insertion of another cylinder key, marked with a day of the week, adapted to be operated by its associated key.

4. An indicator device according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein in the second table each area indicating the number of a place or court is

associated with at least three columns in the row containing the areas for booking the day of the week.

5 5. An indicator device according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein in the second table an additional row of areas carrying marking plates is inserted between the row of areas indicating said place or court and the row of areas for booking the day of the week.

10 6. An indicator device according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the cylinder locks which are transferrable between the first and second tables

are provided each with a number corresponding to a serial number indicating an associated area in the first table.

15 7. An indicator device according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein at least two different types of cylinder locks, which are transferrable between the two tables and adapted to be operated by their associated keys, are provided.

20 8. An indicator device comprising a booking timetable for users of facilities, substantially as described herein with reference to and as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.