No. 774,906. PATENTED NOV. 15, 1904.

G. W. BENNETHUM.

SCORE SHEET FOR BOWLING ALLEYS.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 13, 1904.

NO MODEL.

Fig. 1.

Penn Bowling Alleys.

	Name.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	A------	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1
2	B------	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2
3	C------	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
4	D------	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1
5	E------	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2
6	F------	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
7	G------	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1
8	H------	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2
9	I------	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
10	J------	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1

	Name.	1	2	3	4	5
1	A------	R	L	R	L	R
2	B------	L	R	L	R	L
3	C------	R	L	R	L	R
4	D------		R		R	
5	E------	R		R		R

Fig. 2.

Witnesses
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No. 774,906. Patented November 15, 1904.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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SCORE-SHEET FOR BOWLING-ALLEYS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 774,906, dated November 15, 1904.

Application filed July 12, 1904. Serial No. 216,224. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE W. BENNETHUM, a citizen of the United States, residing in the city of Reading, county of Berks, State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Score-Sheets for Bowling-Alleys, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to an improved score-sheet adapted particularly for use in bowling-alleys for recording the successive scores made by players upon two or more alleys which are to be played upon in recurring succession by each player.

In bowling or similar games the order of play of a number of players is determined, primarily, by the arrangement of their names in a vertical column or row upon the score-sheet, and the scores made by each player in successive "frames" are recorded in score-blocks arranged in horizontal rows in line with each player's name. Commonly, at least, two alleys are employed, and where a considerable number of players engage in the same game it is advantageous to employ three or more alleys, so that the interval of time between frames may be correspondingly reduced and a game (commonly of ten frames) be more quickly completed. It is required, however, that each player play upon the several alleys (whether two or more) in regular succession, and this ordinarily necessitates constant watchfulness on the part of the players to prevent the use of the wrong alley by any player at any time, and in case of such misplay confusion is apt to result, and the resumption of orderly play is frequently more or less difficult, the memory of the players and the practice of following a certain preceding player upon a certain alley being relied upon to keep up this proper order. Moreover, if any player is for any reason unable to play in proper turn not only is orderly procedure made difficult, but the proper alleys upon which to make the deferred plays can hardly be determined.

The object of my invention is to avoid all troubles, delay, and uncertainty in determining the proper alley upon which any player is required to play any of his several frames, and to accomplish this my invention consists in providing upon the score-sheet a positive indication of the alley upon which each player is to play each frame of his game, thus eliminating entirely all exercise of memory or watchfulness on the part of players or director.

The invention is more particularly described in connection with the accompanying drawings and is specifically pointed out in the claims.

Figure 1 shows a score-sheet embodying my invention, the same being arranged for a three-alley game. Fig. 2 indicates a modification adapted for a two-alley game.

The general arrangement of the checker-board score-sheets indicated is similar to that commonly used, the vertical rows or columns numbered at the top "1," "2," "3," "4," &c., indicating the corresponding "frames" of the game to be recorded, and the horizontal rows numbered at the left "1," "2," "3," "4," &c., being assigned, respectively, to the several players engaging in the game, each of whom is thus provided with a separate score-block in each of the several frames.

Where more than two alleys are arranged side by side, they are commonly numbered successively "1," "2," "3," &c.

As stated, Fig. 1 shows my improved score-sheet arranged for a three-alley game, in which ten different players may be engaged, as indicated. The first player A will start play on No. 1 alley, the second on No. 2, and the third on No. 3, the fourth following in No. 1, the fifth in No. 2, &c., bringing the last player J on No. 1 alley. In each of the score-blocks in the vertical row or column 1 I provide a mark "1," "2," or "3," as the case may be, indicating positively the alley in which the player's score is to be made for the first frame, and each score-block of the succeeding frames is likewise positively marked to indicate the proper alley for use by the player in each of his turns. These marks are all arranged in series of three, (the number of alleys employed,) recurring in regular sequence both in the vertical and horizontal rows, each of said rows, however, starting with a different number of the series, as shown.

It will be readily seen that each player is thus positively and reliably informed as to the particular alley upon which he is required to play each and every frame of his game, and there is no possible excuse for any mistake being made, even though he or another player should have failed to appear in turn. No waiting or loss of time whatever need be incurred, a delayed player taking the proper alley out of turn with absolute certainty and without involving the slightest danger of confusion or disarrangement in the succeeding frames.

While the advantages of my improved score-sheet are most strikingly brought out by the obvious fact that it makes practicable the use of any desired number of alleys in a single game without possible trouble, confusion, or loss of time, yet the same advantages are very apparent and very highly appreciated in the ordinary two-alley game, in which it is well known there is very frequent question as to "which alley" a player is "up on" even among regular players.

In Fig. 2 my improved score-sheet is indicated as arranged for a two-alley game, the distinguishing marks for the separate score-blocks being in this case the letters "R" and "L," referring, respectively, to the "right" and "left" hand alleys of a pair. As shown on a portion of the sheet indicated, it is only essential in a two-alley score-sheet to indicate upon every alternate score-block the alley upon which the said score is to be made, the intervening unmarked blocks being necessarily used for the other alley; but I prefer in all cases to mark each and every individual score-block, which may of course be readily done by the same impression that prints the main portion of the sheet.

What I claim is—

1. A score-sheet for bowling-alleys having separate score-blocks thereon for the successive scores of several players, said score-blocks being provided with marks indicating the particular alley upon which each score is to be made.

2. A score-sheet for bowling-alleys having separate score-blocks for the successive scores of several players, and each score-block thereon provided with a mark indicating the particular alley upon which the score to be marked therein is to be made.

3. A score-sheet for bowling-alleys having vertical and horizontal rows of score-blocks, each row provided with a series of distinguishing marks for the several alleys to be employed recurring in regular sequence, to indicate the particular alley upon which each score of each player is to be made.

4. A score-sheet for bowling-alleys having a horizontal row of figures indicating the several frames to be played, a vertical side row or column for indicating the several players, and alined vertical and horizontal rows of score-blocks, each row provided with a series of distinguishing marks for the several alleys to be employed, recurring in regular sequence, to indicate the particular alley upon which each score of each player is to be made.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

GEORGE W. BENNETHUM.

Witnesses:

FRANK J. REEDY,

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