This invention relates to a gutter area of an indoor putting game, and has for one of its objects, the production of a simple and efficient means for receiving balls from a playing area.

A further object of this invention is the production of a simple and efficient means for supporting a gutter area adjacent the edges of a floor area, and for supporting a fabric curtain adjacent the gutter area.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will appear throughout the following specification and claims.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of the indoor putting game or green;

Figure 2 is a central longitudinal sectional view thereof;

Figure 3 is a fragmentary sectional perspective view of a portion of the floor structure and side wall structure;

Figure 4 is a vertical sectional view taken on line 2-2 of Figure 2;

Figure 5 is an enlarged vertical sectional view of one of the adjustable floor jacks, certain portions being shown in elevation;

Figure 6 is a vertical sectional view of one of the floor anchors, the anchor eye being shown in elevation;

Figure 7 is a fragmentary top plan view of the counter mirror and counter, the indicating rings of the mirror being shown in reflection in dotted lines;

Figure 8 is a bottom plan view of the ceiling mirror;

Figure 9 is a fragmentary front elevation view of the scorer's counter;

Figure 10 is a diagrammatic view of one of the electrical circuits for one of the scoring point indicating lights carried by the counter.

By referring to the drawings, it will be seen that 16 designates the undulating floor of a suitable type which may be varied as to contour and surface as may be desired to adapt the same to local conditions when constructing the floor. For the purposes of this invention it has been found to be of advantage to secure a sponge rubber sheet 11 upon the upper face of the floor 16 to constitute a suitable cushion. 17, then, secure to the upper face of the sheet 11 a surface layer or covering of rubber grass 12 which is a material simulating natural grass, as shown in Figure 3.

The floor 16 is suitably braced by means of longitudinal tie members 12 and transverse tie members 13 placed at desirable locations and in a conventional structural manner. These members 12 and 13 may be spiked and connected in any suitable manner common to the trade, to provide a sturdy structure. A plurality of support posts 14 are mounted upon a concrete slab 15 which is prepared to support the superstructure and the lower ends of the support posts 14 are preferably anchored to the slab 15 by means of cement footings 18, also in a conventional manner. Suitable blocks or shims 17 are used upon each supporting post 14 where needed to provide the support with suitable means to carry the undulating floor at varied heights at different points, and also to slightly adjust the height of the floor or to tightly fit the floor upon the posts. Anchor blocks 18 are located at selected intervals within the upper surface of the supporting panel 15, as shown in Figure 2, and an eyelet 19 is preferably threaded into each anchor block, which anchor block 18 preferably constitutes a lead plug. A twisted anchor wire 20 is secured to each eyelet 19 and passes around the tie member 12 or is secured in any other desired manner to firmly hold the undulating floor against upward or downward movement.

At selected high points or at other desired points, a special undulating floor jack, support and anchor 21 shown in Figure 2 and also shown in detail in Figure 5, may be used. This floor jack 21 which also acts as a support and anchor for the floor 10 comprises preferably a 2" x 4" lumber wood member 22 upon which the floor 10 rests. This member 22 is seated within a channel member 23 preferably formed of iron strap metal substantially U-shaped in cross-section and secured to the wood member 22 by suitable nails 24. The channel member 23 is provided with a depending internally threaded sleeve 25 into which is threaded the upper end of the adjusting standard 26. A thumb screw 26 locks the standard 26 upon the sleeve 25. The lower oppositely threaded end of the standard 26 is threaded into the internally threaded socket 27. The socket 27 is anchored to the panel 15 by means of a securing screw 28 which is threaded into a lead plug 29 which plug 28 is fitted into the panel 15, as shown in detail in Figure 5. The standard 26 is provided with a transverse aperture 30 to receive a suitable rod to facilitate rotation of the standard 26 to raise or lower the floor, when rotating, the standard 26 in the selected direction.

A golf ball gutter 30 preferably extends along two sides of the putting green or game area. This arrangement may be varied without depart-
ing from the spirit of the invention. These gutters may constitute a combination hand rail and golf ball rack into which the golf balls 32 may be placed. The gutter 33 comprises a longitudinal rail 33 which supports parallel spaced side members 34 having rounded inner edges to provide the ball rack. The rail 33 is supported at spaced intervals by means of a plurality of posts 35, such as the post 35 shown in detail in Figure 3, which is shown resting upon the bottom longitudinal support rail 36. This illustrates a typical structural arrangement for the present invention and is duplicated throughout the structure for adequately supporting the parts. The post 35 is anchored to the rails 33 and 36 by lateral flanges 37 and 38 respectively and to the base panel or slab 15 by means of a suitable foot or feet 39. A longitudinally extending gutter or trough supporting board 40 is carried by the bottom rail 36, and a rigid gutter 41 rests upon this board 40, as shown in Figure 3, and is located below the rail 33. One edge of a low inner wall of the trough or gutter 41 is secured to the edge of the floor 18 at one level as at 42, and one edge of the outer wall of the trough is secured, as at 43, to an adjoining floor section 44 at a higher level as shown in Figure 3. A portion 41a of the gutter 41 extends transversely across one end of the playing area of the floor 18 in front of the desk or counter 55, as shown in Figures 1 and 2. The indoor putting game may be built singularly or may be built to provide a plurality of alleys merely by duplicating the structure described herein, and arranging the games side by side.

As shown in detail in Figure 3, the space between the upper rail 33 and the gutter 41 may be filled in by means of a gathered fabric or other type curtain 45, which curtain 45 preferably is suspended from the flexible suspending curtain wire 47 constituting a strand element which may be anchored at its ends to suitable posts, as the posts 35, by means of eyelets 47. The curtain 45 preferably hangs centrally of the golf ball gutter 41. The curtain 45 is adapted to stop the golf balls as they are brushed off the floor into the gutter 41. The balls 32 are picked up from the gutter 41 and are placed in the golf ball gutters 30 of the hand railing and are ready for the players’ use. As shown in Figures 1 and 4, a cup 48 is located at one end of the floor 18 and a trough or tube 49 leads from the cup 48 under the floor 18 to the trough 41. A suitable removable official score card holder 49 may be slidably mounted upon the hand railing or trough 30 for use in close proximity to the players.

A 3’ x 3’ mirror 50 is hung from the ceiling 51 above the cup 48. A plurality of concentrically arranged scoring rings 54 are formed upon the face of the mirror 50. These rings are numbered 1 to 10 in the manner shown in Figure 8. The mirror 50 is preferably adjustable upon a ball and socket suspension 52 of a suitable type, so that the mirror 50 may be adjusted to a desired position.

The counter mirror 53 has two cross lines 55 and 57 upon its upper face, by which the attendant lines up the ceiling mirror and the “cup” hole 48 on the floor to determine the scoring position of the golf ball with respect to the cup 48. The concentric rings 54 on the mirror 50 will be reflected upon the counter mirror 53, as shown in dotted lines in Figure 7, and when the cross lines 56 and 57 on the counter mirror 53 register with the cross lines of numerals formed on the ceiling mirror 50 and the reflection of the cup 48 in the mirror 50 registers with the point of intersection of the lines 55 and 57 on the mirror 53, the position of the scoring ball 32 relative to the cup 48 may be determined. The ball 32 will be reflected upon the mirror 50 faces to reflection will be cast upon the counter mirror and since the mirrors 50 and 53 have been properly aligned, the scoring position of the ball 32 may be easily seen upon the mirror 53 by the attendant standing at the desk 55. The mirror 50 in Figure 5 is shown in a proper position relative to the mirror 53 shown in Figure 7, except that the under face of the mirror 50 is shown in Figure 8 and the upper face of the mirror 53 is shown in Figure 7. By considering Figures 7 and 5, the manner in which the numerals on the mirror 50 register with the cross lines 56 and 57 on the mirror 53 will be obvious.

Any suitable means may be employed for adjusting the mirrors 50 and 53 for the purpose of properly aligning the mirrors, without departing from the spirit of the invention. The desk or counter 55 preferably is placed on a raised platform 59 which extends above the floor of the artificial green, at one end thereof, as shown in Figure 2. An illuminated numbered panel 58 is mounted upon the front of the desk or counter 55, and carries a translucent glass panel 60 behind which are located a set of numerals which are numbered to display 0 to 10. Light bulbs such as the bulb 61 shown in detail in Figure 10 are arranged in back of the panel 58, one to each box 60. A series of push button switches 62 numbered 0 to 10 are arranged in the rear of the counter mirror 53, and are suitably connected to the bulbs in the boxes 60 to selectively illuminate the numbers on the numbered panel 58 when a selected switch 62 is closed through the conventional circuit 63, shown in Figure 10. Preferably the 0 number light is green and the 10 number light is red, while the other numbered lights are white. When the selected switch 62 is pressed, the light behind the glass panel 59 illuminates the desired score.

By noting Figure 1, it will be seen that the cup 48 is located near one end of the green or floor 18 directly before the ceiling mirror 50. The opposite side of the green, a painted line or strip 64 is located and marked “The King’s Putt.” Upon either side of the longitudinal center of the green are arranged or painted in spaced longitudinal and transverse relation a series of half circles 65. This arrangement constitutes a marked area to establish putting positions, and it should be understood that this arrangement may be varied as to size and location of the putting positions without departing from the spirit of the invention.

It should be understood that the artificial green is designed to simulate a segment of the natural grass green. The present green is typical of the average green on which the golfer plays, neither too fast nor too slow. A player may practice putting by the hour, or he and/or his foursome or foursome may put together on all sides of the artificial green. The cup has a mirror 50 placed directly above it on which are marked 9 scoring rings 54 to determine a point score by the attendant in charge, for each putt played. The cup 48 is the 10 point ring, the next 9 point ring, the
next the 8 point ring, and so on out to the 1 point ring, outside of which the putt does not score.

The putting positions 55 along the edges of the artificial grass, green vary from 3 feet from the cup to 25 feet from the cup. Thirty feet from the cup is placed the long range putting position 64 marked “King’s Putt.”

A suitable score card is given to each player or group of players ranging from one to four. There is an attendant for each two greens where two or more greens are provided, who signifies the score in or around the cup and who removes the ball from the green so the player is ready for the next putt.

Each putt score is made as follows: A sunk putt scores 10 points which is multiplied by the number of the putting position. A close putt is scored by the scoring ring around the cup in which it stops and this score is added to the number of the putting position. For example, the sunk putt is made from position 1. The sunk putt scores 10 points which is multiplied by 1 or 10 points. If the sunk putt is sunk from the “King’s Putt” position the score is 10 times 10, or 100 points. Again for example, the close putt, stopping in the 8 ring, is made from position 1, this score is 8 plus 1 or 9 points. Now if the close putt is made say from the 7th position, and stops in, say, the 6th ring, the score is 6 plus 7 or 13 points, and so on through all the scoring rings and all the putting positions.

On examining the official score card the player will note six scoring features, namely: Practice Putts—Putting Ring—Sunk Putts—Qualifying and High Score Putts—Grand Total—and Sunk Putt Total. The Practice Putt score and the Sunk Putt Total score do not figure in the official score except in the case of a tie score between players.

The sides or walls of the area, as well as the curtains and railings may be suitably decorated with designs simulating rustic areas without departing from the spirit of the invention.

Having described the invention, what I claim as new is:

1. A game comprising a playing area having a floor, the floor having a gutter area, a base panel, a bottom longitudinal support rail in said gutter area carried by said base panel, a post anchored to said support rail, said post carrying lateral flanges securing said post to said rail and to said base panel, a longitudinal gutter supporting element carried by said bottom rail, said floor having an edge adjacent the gutter area, a gutter resting upon said gutter supporting element and having one edge secured to the edge of the floor adjacent the gutter area, a ball rack carried by said post, and a gathered fabric curtain hung between the ball rack and said gutter.

2. A game comprising a playing area having a floor, the floor having a gutter area, a base panel, a bottom longitudinal support rail in said gutter area carried by said base panel, a post anchored to said support rail, said post carrying lateral flanges securing said post to said rail and to said base panel, a longitudinal gutter supporting board carried by said bottom rail, said floor having an edge adjacent the gutter area, a ball rack carried by said post, and a gathered fabric curtain hung between the ball rack and said gutter.

3. A game comprising a playing area having a floor, the floor having a gutter area, a base panel, a bottom longitudinal support rail in said gutter area carried by said base panel, a post anchored to said support rail, said post carrying lateral flanges securing said post to said rail and to said base panel, a longitudinal gutter supporting element carried by said bottom rail, said floor having an edge adjacent the gutter area, a ball rack carried by said post, and a gathered fabric curtain hung between the ball rack and said gutter.

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