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APPLICATION NO.	ISSUE DATE	PATENT NO.	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
14/833,572	03/01/2016	9275516	COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON	5741

35811 7590 02/10/2016
IP GROUP OF DLA PIPER LLP (US)
ONE LIBERTY PLACE
1650 MARKET ST, SUITE 4900
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

ISSUE NOTIFICATION

The projected patent number and issue date are specified above.

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment is 0 day(s). Any patent to issue from the above-identified application will include an indication of the adjustment on the front page.

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Application Assistance Unit (AAU) of the Office of Data Management (ODM) at (571)-272-4200.

APPLICANT(s) (Please see PAIR WEB site <http://pair.uspto.gov> for additional applicants):

Bernard J. Marantelli, London, UNITED KINGDOM;
Diogenes Limited, Douglas, ISLE OF MAN;

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
14/833,572	08/24/2015	Bernard J. Marantelli	COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON	5741

35811 7590 02/04/2016
IP GROUP OF DLA PIPER LLP (US)
ONE LIBERTY PLACE
1650 MARKET ST, SUITE 4900
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

EXAMINER

TORIMIRO, ADETOKUNBO OLUSEGUN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3714

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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02/04/2016

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

pto.phil@dlapiper.com



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Address : COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
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Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
14/833,572	24 August, 2015	MARANTELLI, BERNARD J.	COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-

CON

IP GROUP OF DLA PIPER LLP (US) ONE LIBERTY PLACE 1650 MARKET ST, SUITE 4900 PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103	EXAMINER	
	ADETOKUNBO O. TORIMIRO	
	ART UNIT	PAPER
	3714	20160125

DATE MAILED:

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner for Patents

The QPIDS.REQ and IDS received on 01/21/2016 have been considered and entered.

The Response to 312 Amendment (PTOL-271) form is attached.

/ADETOKUNBO O TORIMIRO/
Examiner, Art Unit 3714

Form PTO-1449 US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE				ATTY. DOCKET NO. COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON		SERIAL NO. 14/833,572	
LIST OF PUBLICATIONS CITED BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)				APPLICANT Diogenes Limited		GROUP 3714	
				FILING DATE August 24, 2015			
US PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL*		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	2005/0153767 A1	07/14/05	Gauselmann			
	AB	2009/0124341 A1	05/14/09	Roach			
	AC	2012/0208632 A1	08/16/12	Roach			
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION
							YES NO
	AL						
	AM						
	AN						
	AO						
	AP						
OTHER PUBLICATIONS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
	AR	Australian Statement of Grounds and Particulars of Opposition dated January 15, 2016 in corresponding Australian Patent Application No. 2013333573.					
	AS						
	AT						
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			
/Adetokunbo Torimiro/				01/25/2016			
*EXAMINER: Initial if publication considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.							

Response to Rule 312 Communication	Application No. 14/833,572	Applicant(s) MARANTELLI, BERNARD J.
	Examiner ADETOKUNBO O. TORIMIRO	Art Unit 3714
-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address -- 1. ☒ The amendment filed on <u>21 January 2016</u> under 37 CFR 1.312 has been considered, and has been: a) ☒ entered. b) ☒ entered as directed to matters of form not affecting the scope of the invention. c) ☐ disapproved because the amendment was filed after the payment of the issue fee. Any amendment filed after the date the issue fee is paid must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.313(c)(1) and the required fee to withdraw the application from issue. d) ☐ disapproved. See explanation below. e) ☐ entered in part. See explanation below.		
/ADETOKUNBO O TORIMIRO/ Examiner, Art Unit 3714		

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Request For Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal Address to: Mail Stop RCE Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450	Application Number	14/833,572
	Filing Date	August 24, 2015
	First Named Inventor	Bernard J. Marantelli
	Art Unit	3714
	Examiner Name	Adetokunbo Olusegun Torimiro
	Attorney Docket Number	COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application. Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. **Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114.** Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).

- a. ☒ Previously submitted. If a final Office Action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office Action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.
- i. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
- ii. ☐ Other _____
- b. ☒ Enclosed
- i. ☐ Amendment/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☒ Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. ☒ Other: QPIDS and Form PTO-1449

2. Miscellaneous

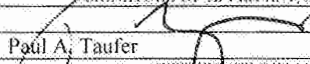
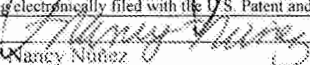
- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of ____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)
- b. ☐ Other _____

3. Fees

The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 50-2719.
- i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e) (\$1200)
- ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17)
- iii. ☒ Other: any deficiencies
- b. Check in the amount of \$ _____ enclosed
- c. Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY OR AGENT REQUIRED			
Signature		Date	January 21, 2016
Name (Print/Type)	Paul A. Tauber	Registration No.	35,703
CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION			
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically filed with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.			
Signature		Date	January 21, 2016
Name (Print/Type)	Nancy Nunez		

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.114. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Art Unit	: 3714	Customer No.: 035811
Examiner	: Adetokunbo Olusegun Torimiro	
Serial No.	: 14/833,572	
Filed	: August 24, 2015	Docket No.: COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON
Inventors	: Bernard J. Marantelli	Confirmation No.: 5741
Title	: WAGERING APPARATUS,	
	: METHODS AND SYSTEMS	Dated: January 21, 2016

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

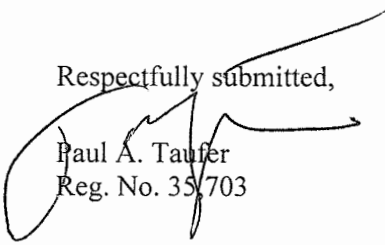
The Applicant encloses Form PTO-1449 which lists relevant US publications. A copy of the Australian Statement of Grounds and Particulars of Opposition issued in corresponding Australian Patent Application No. 2013333573 dated January 15, 2016 is also enclosed. The publications are submitted under 37 CFR §1.56 and are believed related to this application for the reasons stated.

Applicant certifies that the items of information contained in the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement were first cited in any communication from any foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months ago.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the \$180 fee as well as any insufficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-2719.

The Applicant respectfully requests that this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement be officially entered into the file and that appropriate notification be made that it was considered by the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,


Paul A. Tauffer
Reg. No. 35,703

PAT/nn
(215) 656-3385

Form PTO-1449 US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE				ATTY. DOCKET NO. COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON		SERIAL NO. 14/833,572		
LIST OF PUBLICATIONS CITED BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)				APPLICANT Diogenes Limited		GROUP 3714		
				FILING DATE August 24, 2015				
US PATENT DOCUMENTS								
EXAMINER INITIAL*		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
	AA	2005/0153767 A1	07/14/05	Gauselmann				
	AB	2009/0124341 A1	05/14/09	Roach				
	AC	2012/0208632 A1	08/16/12	Roach				
	AD							
	AE							
	AF							
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	AH							
	AI							
	AJ							
	AK							
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
	AL							
	AM							
	AN							
	AO							
	AP							
OTHER PUBLICATIONS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)								
	AR	Australian Statement of Grounds and Particulars of Opposition dated January 15, 2016 in corresponding Australian Patent Application No. 2013333573.						
	AS							
	AT							
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED				
*EXAMINER: Initial if publication considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.								

IN THE MATTER OF
Australian Patent Application No.
2013333573 in the name of Diogenes
Limited
- and -
IN THE MATTER OF Opposition by
Sportsbet Pty Ltd.

STATEMENT OF GROUNDS AND PARTICULARS

The Opponent provides the following information in support of the Notice of Opposition in relation to Australian patent application no. 2013333573.

The grounds and particulars of the opposition are as follows:-

1. Section 18(1)(a) – Not a manner of manufacture

The alleged invention is not a patentable invention because it does not comply with section 18(1)(a) of the Patents Act 1990, or because it is not an invention within the meaning of the Patents Act 1990.

Particulars

- 1.1. The invention as claimed in claims 1-67 constitutes an otherwise unpatentable scheme or business method implemented within a generic computing architecture, and is therefore not for a manner of manufacture.
 - 1.1.1. The claimed invention is in substance a scheme or plan. The use of “one or more wagering input devices” and “a system controller” does not result in the claimed invention broadly relating to an improvement in computer technology. Considering the invention described within the body of the specification, it is clear that any “technical” features are conventional in nature, and that the contribution made by the inventors lies solely in the scheme of providing a “buy-out”.
 - 1.1.2. The claimed invention does not involve the creation of an artificial state of affairs where the wagering devices and system controller are integral to the invention. Instead, these features constitute mere tools in which the invention is performed.

- 1.1.3. The claimed invention is for a scheme for conducting a wagering game which involves offering to “buy-out” players at a certain point during the game, such that the potential to win a jackpot is partially or wholly given up in exchange for a guaranteed reward (which is of less value than that of the potential jackpot). There is nothing about the claimed invention that provides a technical improvement in any sense.

2. Section 18(1)(b)(i) – Lack of novelty

The alleged invention is not a patentable invention because it does not comply with section 18(1)(b)(i) of the Patents Act 1990.

Particulars

- 2.1. The claimed invention is not novel in the light of the product “Cash My Bet” provided by William Hill, first released for public use on or around 2 November 2011.
- 2.1.1. The product Cash My Bet provides functionality to enable a player who has made a multi-leg wager to accept a “buy-out”, thereby enabling the player to give up the potential to win a jackpot award in exchange for “credit, tokens, currency or an award to the one or more players accepting the buy-out offer or partial buy-out offer”.
- 2.1.2. The product Cash My Bet further includes the remaining integers of at least the independent claims, as these features are necessary in order a) to provide a multi-outcome wagering event, and b) to provide “buy-out” functionality
- 2.2. The claimed invention is not novel in the light of the product “Cash Out” provided by Betfair. Cash Out was made available at least by 8 February 2012. The YouTube video entitled “Cash Out” dated 8 February 2012 describes the Cash Out product, which includes features identical to those defined in at least the independent claims. A link to the YouTube video is provided below.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pg9X3p09W6w>
- 2.2.1. The product Cash Out provides functionality to enable a player who has made a multi-leg wager to accept a “buy-out”, thereby enabling the player to give up the potential to win a jackpot award in exchange for “credit, tokens, currency or an award to the one or more players accepting the buy-out offer or partial buy-out offer”.
- 2.2.2. The product Cash Out further includes the remaining integers of at least the independent claims, as these features are necessary in order a) to provide a multi-outcome wagering event, and b) to provide “buy-out” functionality.

2.3. **D1**: US 2009/0124341 A1 (published: 14 May 2009).

2.3.1. **D1** describes a method and system wherein a player of a wagering game is enabled to selectively choose to receive a prize or proceed onto a next level in which a larger jackpot is available (see claim 1).

2.3.2. The entire disclosure of **D1** is relevant as it teaches a method and system comprising each integer of at least the independent claims.

2.4. **D2**: US 2012/0208632 A1 (published: 16 August 2012).

2.4.1. **D2** describes a method and system wherein a player of a wagering game is enabled to selectively choose to receive a prize or proceed onto a next level in which a larger jackpot is available (see claim 1).

2.4.2. The entire disclosure of **D2** is relevant as it teaches a method and system comprising each integer of at least the independent claims.

2.5. **D3**: US 2005/0153767 A1 (published: 14 July 2005).

2.5.1. Referring to claim 1, **D3** offers a player who has made a wager an opportunity to receive an award to end the game (equivalent to a “buy-out”) or, alternatively, to continue onwards in order to chance receiving a larger payout (a jackpot).

2.5.2. The entire disclosure of **D3** is relevant as it teaches a method and system comprising each integer of at least the independent claims.

3. Section 18(1)(b)(ii) – Lack of an inventive step

The alleged invention is not a patentable invention because it does not comply with section 18(1)(b)(ii) of the Act.

Particulars

3.1. The claimed invention does not involve an inventive step when compared with the prior art base as the invention would have been obvious to a person skilled in the relevant art in the light of the common general knowledge as it existed before its priority date, whether that knowledge is considered separately or together with information in a single piece of prior art information or a combination of two or more pieces of prior art information that the skilled person could, before the priority date of the relevant claim, be reasonably expected to have combined.

3.2. At least the following formed part of the common general knowledge as it existed before the priority date.

3.2.1. Methods of, and systems for, conducting a multi-outcome wagering event for one or more players, wherein the wagering event comprises a defined number of legs, and wagering systems including one or more wagering input devices for allowing the placement of a wager on one or more wagering events.

- 3.2.2. Presentation to a player at least one of a buy-out offer and a partial buy-out offer prior to completion of all of the defined number of legs.
- 3.2.3. Provision of wagering input devices being in communication with a system controller through which one or more players may participate in a multi-outcome wagering event.
- 3.2.4. Award of a jackpot at least where a particular number of the defined number of legs is completed.
- 3.2.5. Reception of a wager via the one or more wagering input devices in response to input from a player desiring to participate in the multi-outcome wagering event, wherein the wager coincides with each of the defined number of legs.
- 3.2.6. Generation of records reflecting the wager associated with the player at the system controller.
- 3.2.7. Reception of an input of an outcome of each of the defined number of legs corresponding to the multi-outcome wager event.
- 3.2.8. Generation and display, via the one or more wagering input devices, the outcome of each of the defined number of legs or one or more wagering events to a player.
- 3.2.9. Completion of the defined number of legs to finish the multi-outcome wagering event, determination of whether any of the players have won the at least one jackpot or portion thereof, notification to the players that have won the jackpot or portion thereof, and issuance of credit, tokens, currency or an award to the players that have won the jackpot or portion thereof.
- 3.2.10. Identification of one or more players eligible to win each of the defined number of legs based on the wager from among players participating in the multi-outcome wagering event, and determination of any players eligible to win at least one jackpot or a portion thereof based on the potential outcome of each of the defined number of legs in comparison against the record reflecting the wager from among players participating in the multi-outcome wagering event (wherein players eligible to win at least one leg are eligible to win at least one jackpot or a portion thereof).
- 3.2.11. Initiation and display of at least one of a buy-out offer and partial buy-out offer via the one or more wagering input devices to any number of the one or more players that are eligible to win at least one jackpot for at least a portion of said at least one jackpot (said buy-out offer or partial buy-out offer being initiated at any time before the multi-outcome wagering event has been completed).
- 3.2.12. Reception of an acceptance of the buy-out offer or partial buy-out offer via the one or more wagering input devices in response to input from a particular

number of the players eligible to win at least one jackpot that have accepted the buy-out offer or partial buy-out offer.

- 3.2.13. Each of the players accepting the buy-out offer being no longer be eligible to exclusively win the at least one jackpot, each of the players not accepting the buy-out offer remaining eligible to win the at least one jackpot, and each of the players accepting a partial buy-out offer remaining eligible to win at least a portion of the at least one jackpot.
- 3.2.14. Issuance of credit, tokens, currency or an award to the one or more players accepting the buy-out offer or partial buy-out offer.
- 3.2.15. Multi-outcome wagering events were known generally before the priority date, including those comprising a defined number of legs. In particular, such events were known in respect of sports gambling products.
- 3.2.16. Buy-out offers were known generally before the priority date. Known buy-out offers enabled a player of a multi-leg wagering event to accept a buy-out instead of a possibility of winning an award. In particular, such buy-out offers were known in respect of sports gambling products.
- 3.2.17. Jackpot awards were known generally before the priority date. These were known as rewards for succeeding in multi-leg wagering events. In particular, such awards were known in respect of sports gambling products.

- 3.3. The claimed invention is obvious in light of each of the documents and acts particularised at item 2 (Lack of Novelty), each of which either formed part of the common general knowledge of the person skilled in the art or formed part of the prior art base before the priority date.

4. Section 18(1)(c) – Not useful

The alleged invention is not a patentable invention because it does not comply with section 18(1)(c) of the Act.

Particulars

- 4.1. The invention as claimed is not useful as it requires that every leg result is made available to a player before the buy-out offer. This negates the purpose of offering a buy-out before a jackpot is won, and thus the invention as claimed fails to meet its promise.

5. Section 40(2)

The complete specification does not comply with section 40(2).

Particulars

- 5.1. The complete specification does not: disclose the invention in a manner which is clear enough and complete enough for the invention to be performed by a person

skilled in the relevant art; disclose the best method known to the applicant of performing the invention; and/or end with a claim or claims defining the invention.

- 5.2. The specification ends with claims comprising essential integers inconsistent with those of the described invention, and therefore the specification does not end with claims defining the invention.
- 5.3. The invention according to claim 19 requires that the system is adapted for determining the ownership status of a wager. There is no disclosure of functionality for determining ownership, and therefore the specification fails to fully describe the invention according to this claim.
- 5.4. The invention according to claim 15 is not fully described as there is no disclosure of how to prepare and broadcast a reality show.

6. Section 40(3)

The claims do not comply with section 40(3).

Particulars

- 6.1. The claims are not supported by the matter disclosed for at least the following reasons:
 - 6.1.1. Claim 53 is not supported by the matter disclosed. The specification does not support “one or more wagering events”, as required by these claims. The only reference within the specification is to multi-leg wagering events, which does not provide support for this broad integer.
 - 6.1.2. Claim 53 is not supported by the matter disclosed as it encompasses a wager comprising one wagering event. In this case, the player will know whether they are a winner before deciding to accept a buy-out, which is inconsistent with the concept of offering a buy-out before completion of a multi-leg wager.
 - 6.1.3. The invention described is for a “product” (see page 3, first paragraph), yet the claims are for a method or a system. The claims are therefore inconsistent with, and extend beyond the scope of, the invention described and are therefore not supported.
 - 6.1.4. The invention described is for a method and system wherein a “buy-out” offer is made to a player having a multi-leg wager before all of the legs are completed. However, claim 1 includes the following integers:

*receiving input of an outcome of each of the defined number of legs
corresponding to the multi-outcome wager event;
generating and causing display via the one or more wagering input devices
the outcome of each of the defined number of legs to a player;*

The claims therefore relate to a method where a buy-out offer is made after the player is made aware of the results of each leg, as opposed to only some of all of the legs. Claim 27 includes similar integers, and therefore the scope of the invention claimed in claims 1 and 27 is inconsistent with the scope of the invention described, and these claims are not supported.

6.1.5. Similarly, claim 53 includes the following integers:

*receive input of an outcome of the one or more wagering events;
generate and cause display via the one or more wagering input devices the outcome of the one or more wagering events to a player;*

The claim therefore relates to a method where a buy-out offer is made after the player is made aware of the results of all of the wagering events, as opposed to only some of all of the wagering events. Therefore, the scope of the invention claimed in claim 53 is inconsistent with the scope of the invention described, and these claims are not supported.

6.2. Each of the independent claims are not clear or succinct for at least the following reasons:

6.2.1. Claim 1 is directed towards conducting a multi-outcome wagering event for “one or more players”. Multiple instances within claim 1 refer to “one or more players”, and it is unclear whether in each case it is the same “one or more players”. The same issue arises in relation to claims 27 and 53.

6.2.2. Claim 1 refers to “one or more players” (for example, the preamble) and also refers to “a player” on multiple occasions. The claim is inconsistent and unclear when specifying the action taken by different participants in the method. For example, in each instance of “a player”, is this the same player or can it be a different player? The same issue arises in relation to claims 27 and 53.

6.2.3. Claim 1 refers to receiving a wager from “a player”, and then refers to identifying “one or more players eligible to win each of the defined number of legs”. The claim is unclear as it only specifies that a wager is received from a single player, yet then refers to the wagers of multiple players. The same issue arises in relation to claims 27 and 53.

6.2.4. Claim 1 refers to “at least where a particular number of the defined number of legs are completed”. The “particular number” is not referred to elsewhere in the claim, and is therefore apparently superfluous. The claim is therefore unclear and/or not succinct for including a feature with no interworking relationship with any other feature of the claim. The same issue arises in relation to claims 27 and 53

6.2.5. Claim 1 requires:

wherein each of the players not accepting the buy-out offer will remain eligible to win the at least one jackpot,

and wherein each of the players accepting a partial buy-out offer remains eligible to win at least a portion of the at least one jackpot;

Yet the claim also refers to “one or more players”. If there is one player, then the above integers cannot both simultaneously be satisfied. The claim is therefore inconsistent and unclear. The same issue arises in relation to claims 27 and 53.

6.2.6. Claims 9 and 13 refer to a “certain span of time” and/or a “certain number”. It is unclear what is this certain span or number, and how it is determined.

6.2.7. Claim 18 is unclear as it refers to an integer that may occur. The scope of the claim is therefore indeterminate.

6.2.8. Claim 53 is unclear as it encompasses a wager comprising one wagering event. In this case, the player will know whether they are a winner before deciding to accept a buy-out.

Address for service of documents in Australia is:

Griffith Hack, GPO Box 1285, Melbourne, VIC 3001

Our Ref: OP108776.AU

DATED: 15 January 2016

Sportsbet Pty Ltd



Nick Mountford

Patent Attorney for and on behalf of the Opponent

LISTING OF DOCUMENTS

Document ID	Document Citation	Accompany Statement?	Document is OPI?
D1	US 2009/0124341 A1	Y	
D2	US 2012/0208632 A1	Y	
D3	US 2005/0153767 A1	Y	

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal				
Application Number:		14833572		
Filing Date:		24-Aug-2015		
Title of Invention:		WAGERING APPARATUS, METHODS AND SYSTEMS		
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:		Bernard J. Marantelli		
Filer:		Paul A. Taufer/Nancy Nunez		
Attorney Docket Number:		COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON		
Filed as Small Entity				
Filing Fees for Utility under 35 USC 111(a)				
Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Basic Filing:				
Petition Fee-37CFR 1.17(h) (Group II)	2464	1	70	70
Request for Continued Examination	2801	1	600	600
Pages:				
Claims:				
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Extension-of-Time:				
Miscellaneous:				
Total in USD (\$)				670



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

Decision Date : January 21, 2016

In re Application of :

Bernard Marantelli

DECISION ON PETITION

UNDER CFR 1.313(c)(2)

Application No : 14833572

Filed : 24-Aug-2015

Attorney Docket No : COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON

This is an electronic decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.313(c)(2), filed January 21, 2016 , to withdraw the above-identified application from issue after payment of the issue fee.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The above-identified application is withdrawn from issue for consideration of a submission under 37 CFR 1.114 (request for continued examination). See 37 CFR 1.313(c)(2).

Petitioner is advised that the issue fee paid in this application cannot be refunded. If, however, this application is again allowed, petitioner may request that it be applied towards the issue fee required by the new Notice of Allowance.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the Patent Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197.

This application file is being referred to Technology Center AU 3714 for processing of the request for continuing examination under 37 CFR 1.114 .

Office of Petitions

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt	
EFS ID:	24680461
Application Number:	14833572
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	5741
Title of Invention:	WAGERING APPARATUS, METHODS AND SYSTEMS
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Bernard J. Marantelli
Customer Number:	35811
Filer:	Paul A. Taufer/Nancy Nunez
Filer Authorized By:	Paul A. Taufer
Attorney Docket Number:	COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON
Receipt Date:	21-JAN-2016
Filing Date:	24-AUG-2015
Time Stamp:	17:07:48
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	Deposit Account
Payment was successfully received in RAM	\$ 670
RAM confirmation Number	4335
Deposit Account	502719
Authorized User	DLA PIPER US LL
The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows: Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 (National application filing, search, and examination fees) Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 CFR 1.17 (Patent application and reexamination processing fees)	

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 CFR 1.19 (Document supply fees) Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 CFR 1.20 (Post Issuance fees) Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 CFR 1.21 (Miscellaneous fees and charges)					
File Listing:					
Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Petition automatically granted by EFS	petition-request.pdf	31288	no	2
			7fba015f45eda5ce97ee7ea04f97d9b5945af3dc		
Warnings:					
Information:					
2	Quick Path Information Disclosure Statement	CertQPIDS.pdf	137324	no	2
			33a686a5c610467467dba9a5b4e6652f8d637aa4		
Warnings:					
Information:					
3	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	RCE.pdf	546460	no	1
			e23bf0a986084cd12c8b84b471ca3d938f20df62		
Warnings:					
This is not a USPTO supplied RCE SB30 form.					
Information:					
4		SIDS.pdf	80878	yes	2
			67159e4422df03d67784e18ed0de8e4474855e64		
	Multipart Description/PDF files in .zip description				
	Document Description		Start	End	
	Transmittal Letter		1	1	
	Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Form (SB08)		2	2	
Warnings:					
Information:					
5	Other Reference-Patent/App/Search documents	StatementofGroundsandParticulars.pdf	145399	no	9
			933d7e04a5e07e9d2df5dd42768e9280fccda84		
Warnings:					
Information:					
6	Fee Worksheet (SB06)	fee-info.pdf	32600	no	2
			1baa7a39728275c378a8e741eae3f70fa840c2a1		
Warnings:					

Information:	
Total Files Size (in bytes):	973949
This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503. <u>New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111</u> If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application. <u>National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371</u> If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course. <u>New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office</u> If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.	

Doc Code: PET.AUTO Document Description: Petition automatically granted by EFS-Web		PTO/SB/140 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Department of Commerce
Electronic Petition Request	PETITION TO WITHDRAW AN APPLICATION FROM ISSUE AFTER PAYMENT OF THE ISSUE FEE UNDER 37 CFR 1.313(c)	
Application Number	14833572	
Filing Date	24-Aug-2015	
First Named Inventor	Bernard Marantelli	
Art Unit	3714	
Examiner Name	ADETOKUNBO TORIMIRO	
Attorney Docket Number	COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON	
Title	WAGERING APPARATUS, METHODS AND SYSTEMS	
An application may be withdrawn from issue for further action upon petition by the applicant. To request that the Office withdraw an application from issue, applicant must file a petition under this section including the fee set forth in § 1.17(h) and a showing of good and sufficient reasons why withdrawal of the application from issue is necessary. APPLICANT HEREBY PETITIONS TO WITHDRAW THIS APPLICATION FROM ISSUE UNDER 37 CFR 1.313(c). A grantable petition requires the following items: (1) Petition fee; and (2) One of the following reasons: (a) Unpatentability of one or more claims, which must be accompanied by an unequivocal statement that one or more claims are unpatentable, an amendment to such claim or claims, and an explanation as to how the amendment causes such claim or claims to be patentable; (b) Consideration of a request for continued examination in compliance with § 1.114 (for a utility or plant application only); or (c) Express abandonment of the application. Such express abandonment may be in favor of a continuing application, but not a CPA under 37 CFR 1.53(d).		
Petition Fee		
☒ Small Entity		
☐ Micro Entity		
☐ Regular Undiscounted		
Reason for withdrawal from issue		

Document code: WFEE

United States Patent and Trademark Office
Sales Receipt for Accounting Date: 01/25/2016

RBALL11	SALE	#00000007	Mailroom Dt:	01/21/2016	502719	14833572
		01	FC : 1806		180.00	DA

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail** Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
or Fax (571)-273-2885

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

35811 7590 12/22/2015
IP GROUP OF DLA PIPER LLP (US)
ONE LIBERTY PLACE
1650 MARKET ST, SUITE 4900
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
14/833,572	08/24/2015	Bernard J. Marantelli	COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON	5741

TITLE OF INVENTION: WAGERING APPARATUS, METHODS AND SYSTEMS

APPLN. TYPE	ENTITY STATUS	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	SMALL	\$480	\$0	\$0	\$480	03/22/2016

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
TORIMIRO, ADETOKUNBO OLUSEGUN	3714	463-028000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a **Customer Number** is required.

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) The names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,
(2) The name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

1 DLA Piper LLP (US)
2 _____
3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

Diogenes Limited

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Isle of Man

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☒ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☒ Issue Fee
☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
☒ The director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credits any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-2719 (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ Applicant certifying micro entity status. See 37 CFR 1.29
☐ Applicant asserting small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27
☐ Applicant changing to regular undiscounted fee status.

NOTE: Absent a valid certification of Micro Entity Status (see forms PTO/SB/15A and 15B), issue fee payment in the micro entity amount will not be accepted at the risk of application abandonment.

NOTE: If the application was previously under micro entity status, checking this box will be taken to be a notification of loss of entitlement to micro entity status.

NOTE: Checking this box will be taken to be a notification of loss of entitlement to small or micro entity status, as applicable.

NOTE: This form must be signed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.31 and 1.33. See 37 CFR 1.4 for signature requirements and certifications.

Authorized Signature

Paul A. Taufer

Date January 5, 2016

Typed or printed name

Registration No. 31,750

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal				
Application Number:		14833572		
Filing Date:		24-Aug-2015		
Title of Invention:		WAGERING APPARATUS, METHODS AND SYSTEMS		
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:		Bernard J. Marantelli		
Filer:		Thomas Daniel Christenbury/Carol Coney		
Attorney Docket Number:		COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON		
Filed as Small Entity				
Filing Fees for Utility under 35 USC 111(a)				
Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Basic Filing:				
Pages:				
Claims:				
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Utility Appl Issue Fee	2501	1	480	480

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Extension-of-Time:				
Miscellaneous:				
Total in USD (\$)				480

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt	
EFS ID:	24523538
Application Number:	14833572
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	5741
Title of Invention:	WAGERING APPARATUS, METHODS AND SYSTEMS
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Bernard J. Marantelli
Customer Number:	35811
Filer:	Thomas Daniel Christenbury/Carol Coney
Filer Authorized By:	Thomas Daniel Christenbury
Attorney Docket Number:	COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON
Receipt Date:	05-JAN-2016
Filing Date:	24-AUG-2015
Time Stamp:	07:59:51
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	Deposit Account
Payment was successfully received in RAM	\$480
RAM confirmation Number	9022
Deposit Account	502719
Authorized User	TAUFER, PAUL A.
The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows: Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 (National application filing, search, and examination fees) Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 CFR 1.17 (Patent application and reexamination processing fees)	

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 CFR 1.19 (Document supply fees)

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 CFR 1.20 (Post Issuance fees)

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 CFR 1.21 (Miscellaneous fees and charges)

File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Transmittal Letter	transmittal.pdf	41036 5508cfabc1218a5cf84ab2d7e8522ae65ee9c	no	1

Warnings:

The page size in the PDF is too large. The pages should be 8.5 x 11 or A4. If this PDF is submitted, the pages will be resized upon entry into the Image File Wrapper and may affect subsequent processing

Information:

2	Issue Fee Payment (PTO-85B)	FormPTOL85.pdf	122199 7b7016620f24b1fb9e714963f9b013a8cb073e9	no	1
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Warnings:

The page size in the PDF is too large. The pages should be 8.5 x 11 or A4. If this PDF is submitted, the pages will be resized upon entry into the Image File Wrapper and may affect subsequent processing

Information:

3	Fee Worksheet (SB06)	fee-info.pdf	30679 d7ffbe50dc13f6f03582283c7315d782656ecc2a	no	2
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Warnings:

Information:

Total Files Size (in bytes):			193914
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This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office

If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Art Unit	: 3714	Customer No.: 035811
Examiner	: Adetokunbo Olusegun Torimiro	
Serial No.	: 14/833,572	
Filed	: August 24, 2015	Docket No.: COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON
Inventors	: Bernard J. Marantelli	Confirmation No.: 5741
Title	: WAGERING APPARATUS,	Not. Of Allow.: 12/22/15
	: METHODS AND SYSTEMS	Dated: January 5, 2016

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

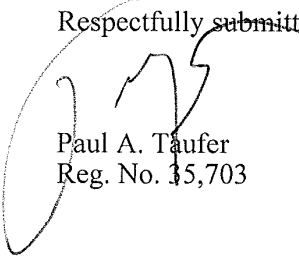
Sir:

Applicant submit herewith Form PTOL-85B.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the \$480.00 fee to Deposit Account No. 50-2719 to cover the fee for payment of the issue fee.

The Commissioner is also authorized to charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2719.

Respectfully submitted,


Paul A. Taufer
Reg. No. 35,703

PAT/cc
(215)656-3385

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. BOX 1450
ALEXANDRIA VA 22313-1451

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IP GROUP OF DLA PIPER LLP (US)
ONE LIBERTY PLACE
1650 MARKET ST, SUITE 4900
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103



**Courtesy Reminder for
Application Serial No: 14/833,572**

Attorney Docket No:
COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON
Customer Number: 35811

Date of Electronic Notification: 12/22/2015

This is a courtesy reminder that new correspondence is available for this application. If you have not done so already, please review the correspondence. The official date of notification of the outgoing correspondence will be indicated on the form PTOL-90 accompanying the correspondence.

An email notification regarding the correspondence was sent to the following email address(es) associated with your customer number:

pto.phil@dlapiper.com

To view your correspondence online or update your email addresses, please visit us anytime at <https://sportal.uspto.gov/secure/myportal/privatepair>. If you have any questions, please email the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at EBC@uspto.gov or call 1-866-217-9197.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

35811 7590 12/22/2015
IP GROUP OF DLA PIPER LLP (US)
ONE LIBERTY PLACE
1650 MARKET ST, SUITE 4900
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

EXAMINER

TORIMIRO, ADETOKUNBO OLUSEGUN

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3714

DATE MAILED: 12/22/2015

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
14/833,572	08/24/2015	Bernard J. Marantelli	COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON	5741

TITLE OF INVENTION: WAGERING APPARATUS, METHODS AND SYSTEMS

APPLN. TYPE	ENTITY STATUS	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	SMALL	\$480	\$0	\$0	\$480	03/22/2016

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the ENTITY STATUS shown above. If the ENTITY STATUS is shown as SMALL or MICRO, verify whether entitlement to that entity status still applies.

If the ENTITY STATUS is the same as shown above, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

If the ENTITY STATUS is changed from that shown above, on PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, complete section number 5 titled "Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)".

For purposes of this notice, small entity fees are 1/2 the amount of undiscounted fees, and micro entity fees are 1/2 the amount of small entity fees.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
or **Fax (571)-273-2885**

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

35811 7590 12/22/2015
IP GROUP OF DLA PIPER LLP (US)
ONE LIBERTY PLACE
1650 MARKET ST, SUITE 4900
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
14/833,572	08/24/2015	Bernard J. Marantelli	COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON	5741

TITLE OF INVENTION: WAGERING APPARATUS, METHODS AND SYSTEMS

APPLN. TYPE	ENTITY STATUS	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	SMALL	\$480	\$0	\$0	\$480	03/22/2016

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
TORIMIRO, ADETOKUNBO OLUSEGUN	3714	463-028000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
- ☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) The names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 _____
- (2) The name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 _____
- 3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
- ☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☐ The director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credits any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ Applicant certifying micro entity status. See 37 CFR 1.29
- ☐ Applicant asserting small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27
- ☐ Applicant changing to regular undiscounted fee status.

NOTE: Absent a valid certification of Micro Entity Status (see forms PTO/SB/15A and 15B), issue fee payment in the micro entity amount will not be accepted at the risk of application abandonment.

NOTE: If the application was previously under micro entity status, checking this box will be taken to be a notification of loss of entitlement to micro entity status.

NOTE: Checking this box will be taken to be a notification of loss of entitlement to small or micro entity status, as applicable.

NOTE: This form must be signed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.31 and 1.33. See 37 CFR 1.4 for signature requirements and certifications.

Authorized Signature _____

Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

Registration No. _____



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
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P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
14/833,572	08/24/2015	Bernard J. Marantelli	COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON	5741
35811 7590 12/22/2015 IP GROUP OF DLA PIPER LLP (US) ONE LIBERTY PLACE 1650 MARKET ST, SUITE 4900 PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103			EXAMINER TORIMIRO, ADETOKUNBO OLUSEGUN	
			ART UNIT 3714	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 12/22/2015

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (Applications filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Office has discontinued providing a Patent Term Adjustment (PTA) calculation with the Notice of Allowance.

Section 1(h)(2) of the AIA Technical Corrections Act amended 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(3)(B)(i) to eliminate the requirement that the Office provide a patent term adjustment determination with the notice of allowance. See Revisions to Patent Term Adjustment, 78 Fed. Reg. 19416, 19417 (Apr. 1, 2013). Therefore, the Office is no longer providing an initial patent term adjustment determination with the notice of allowance. The Office will continue to provide a patent term adjustment determination with the Issue Notification Letter that is mailed to applicant approximately three weeks prior to the issue date of the patent, and will include the patent term adjustment on the patent. Any request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment determination (or reinstatement of patent term adjustment) should follow the process outlined in 37 CFR 1.705.

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

OMB Clearance and PRA Burden Statement for PTOL-85 Part B

The Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 requires Federal agencies to obtain Office of Management and Budget approval before requesting most types of information from the public. When OMB approves an agency request to collect information from the public, OMB (i) provides a valid OMB Control Number and expiration date for the agency to display on the instrument that will be used to collect the information and (ii) requires the agency to inform the public about the OMB Control Number's legal significance in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.5(b).

The information collected by PTOL-85 Part B is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

Notice of Allowability	Application No. 14/833,572	Applicant(s) MARANTELLI, BERNARD J.	
	Examiner ADETOKUNBO O. TORIMIRO	Art Unit 3714	AIA (First Inventor to File) Status No

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Terminal Disclaimer received on 11/09/2015.
☐ A declaration(s)/affidavit(s) under **37 CFR 1.130(b)** was/were filed on _____.

2. ☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on _____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.

3. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-75. As a result of the allowed claim(s), you may be eligible to benefit from the **Patent Prosecution Highway** program at a participating intellectual property office for the corresponding application. For more information, please see http://www.uspto.gov/patents/init_events/pph/index.jsp or send an inquiry to PPHfeedback@uspto.gov.

4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

Certified copies:

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some *c) ☐ None of the:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	5. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
2. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____	6. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
3. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material	7. ☐ Other _____.
4. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____.	

/ADETOKUNBO O TORIMIRO/ Examiner, Art Unit 3714	
--	--

Issue Classification 	Application/Control No. 14833572	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination MARANTELLI, BERNARD J.
	Examiner ADETOKUNBO O TORIMIRO	Art Unit 3714

CPC					
Symbol				Type	Version
G07F	17	3258		F	2013-01-01

CPC Combination Sets				
Symbol	Type	Set	Ranking	Version

		Total Claims Allowed:	
		75	
(Assistant Examiner)	(Date)	O.G. Print Claim(s)	O.G. Print Figure
/ADETOKUNBO O TORIMIRO/ Examiner, Art Unit 3714	12/14/2015	1	1,5
(Primary Examiner)	(Date)		

Issue Classification 	Application/Control No. 14833572	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination MARANTELLI, BERNARD J.
	Examiner ADETOKUNBO O TORIMIRO	Art Unit 3714

US ORIGINAL CLASSIFICATION						INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION										
CLASS			SUBCLASS			CLAIMED					NON-CLAIMED					
463			28			A	6	3	F	9 / 24 (2006.0)						
CROSS REFERENCE(S)						A	6	3	F	13 / 00 (2014.0)						
						G	0	6	F	17 / 00 (2006.0)						
CLASS	SUBCLASS (ONE SUBCLASS PER BLOCK)					G	0	6	F	19 / 00 (2011.01.01)						
463	20	22	25	40	42											

		Total Claims Allowed:	
		75	
(Assistant Examiner)	(Date)		
/ADETOKUNBO O TORIMIRO/ Examiner, Art Unit 3714	12/14/2015	O.G. Print Claim(s)	O.G. Print Figure
(Primary Examiner)	(Date)	1	1,5

EAST Search History**EAST Search History (Prior Art)**

Ref #	Hits	Search Query	DBs	Default Operator	Plurals	Time Stamp
L1	12370	wager\$3 event	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	SAME	ON	2015/12/14 13:54
L2	448	buy adj out	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	SAME	ON	2015/12/14 13:54
L3	60	buy adj out offer	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	SAME	ON	2015/12/14 13:54
L4	26	partial buy adj out	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	SAME	ON	2015/12/14 13:54
L5	11	partial buy adj out and wager\$3	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	SAME	ON	2015/12/14 13:54
L6	11	partial buy adj out and gam\$3	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	SAME	ON	2015/12/14 13:55
L7	21	partial buy adj out and player	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	SAME	ON	2015/12/14 13:55
L8	110	multi adj outcome	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	SAME	ON	2015/12/14 13:55
L9	59	multi adj outcome wager\$3	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	SAME	ON	2015/12/14 13:55
L10	12	marantelli.in.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	SAME	ON	2015/12/14 13:56
L11	0	(wagering partial buy out offer multi outcome event input device display).clm.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	SAME	ON	2015/12/14 13:57
L12	2	(wager associated player legs jackpot portion buy out offer partial portion).clm.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR	SAME	ON	2015/12/14 13:58

12/ 14/ 2015 1:58:45 PM

<i>Index of Claims</i> 	Application/Control No. 14833572	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination MARANTELLI, BERNARD J.
	Examiner ADETOKUNBO O TORIMIRO	Art Unit 3714

✓	Rejected	-	Cancelled	N	Non-Elected	A	Appeal
=	Allowed	÷	Restricted	I	Interference	O	Objected

☐ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant				☐ CPA		☐ T.D.		☐ R.1.47	
CLAIM		DATE							
Final	Original	10/29/2015	12/14/2015						
	1	✓	=						
	2	✓	=						
	3	✓	=						
	4	✓	=						
	5	✓	=						
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	33	✓	=						
	34	✓	=						
	35	✓	=						
	36	✓	=						

<i>Index of Claims</i> 	Application/Control No. 14833572	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination MARANTELLI, BERNARD J.
	Examiner ADETOKUNBO O TORIMIRO	Art Unit 3714

✓	Rejected	-	Cancelled	N	Non-Elected	A	Appeal
=	Allowed	÷	Restricted	I	Interference	O	Objected

☐ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant				☐ CPA		☐ T.D.		☐ R.1.47	
CLAIM		DATE							
Final	Original	10/29/2015	12/14/2015						
	37	✓	=						
	38	✓	=						
	39	✓	=						
	40	✓	=						
	41	✓	=						
	42	✓	=						
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	68	✓	=						
	69	✓	=						
	70	✓	=						
	71	✓	=						
	72	✓	=						

<i>Index of Claims</i> 	Application/Control No. 14833572	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination MARANTELLI, BERNARD J.
	Examiner ADETOKUNBO O TORIMIRO	Art Unit 3714

✓	Rejected	-	Cancelled	N	Non-Elected	A	Appeal
=	Allowed	÷	Restricted	I	Interference	O	Objected

☐ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant		☐ CPA		☐ T.D.		☐ R.1.47			
CLAIM		DATE							
Final	Original	10/29/2015	12/14/2015						
	73	✓	=						
	74	✓	=						
	75	✓	=						

Search Notes 	Application/Control No. 14833572	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination MARANTELLI, BERNARD J.
	Examiner ADETOKUNBO O TORIMIRO	Art Unit 3714

CPC- SEARCHED		
Symbol	Date	Examiner

CPC COMBINATION SETS - SEARCHED		
Symbol	Date	Examiner

US CLASSIFICATION SEARCHED			
Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner
463	20,22,25,40,42	12/14/2015	AT

SEARCH NOTES		
Search Notes	Date	Examiner
-Inventor Name Search	12/14/2015	AT
-Assignee Search	12/14/2015	AT
-East Text Search	12/14/2015	AT
-Plus Search	12/14/2015	AT
-Backward/Forward Search	12/14/2015	AT

INTERFERENCE SEARCH			
US Class/ CPC Symbol	US Subclass / CPC Group	Date	Examiner
463	28	12/14/2015	AT

/ADETOKUNBO O TORIMIRO/ Examiner.Art Unit 3714	
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United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
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Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING OR 371(C) DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTY. DOCKET NO./TITLE
14/833,572	08/24/2015	Bernard J. Marantelli	COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON CONFIRMATION NO. 5741

35811
IP GROUP OF DLA PIPER LLP (US)
ONE LIBERTY PLACE
1650 MARKET ST, SUITE 4900
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

PUBLICATION NOTICE



Title:WAGERING APPARATUS, METHODS AND SYSTEMS

Publication No.US-2015-0364010-A1

Publication Date:12/17/2015

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF APPLICATION

The above-identified application will be electronically published as a patent application publication pursuant to 37 CFR 1.211, et seq. The patent application publication number and publication date are set forth above.

The publication may be accessed through the USPTO's publically available Searchable Databases via the Internet at www.uspto.gov. The direct link to access the publication is currently <http://www.uspto.gov/patft/>.

The publication process established by the Office does not provide for mailing a copy of the publication to applicant. A copy of the publication may be obtained from the Office upon payment of the appropriate fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.19(a)(1). Orders for copies of patent application publications are handled by the USPTO's Office of Public Records. The Office of Public Records can be reached by telephone at (703) 308-9726 or (800) 972-6382, by facsimile at (703) 305-8759, by mail addressed to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Office of Public Records, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 or via the Internet.

In addition, information on the status of the application, including the mailing date of Office actions and the dates of receipt of correspondence filed in the Office, may also be accessed via the Internet through the Patent Electronic Business Center at www.uspto.gov using the public side of the Patent Application Information and Retrieval (PAIR) system. The direct link to access this status information is currently <http://pair.uspto.gov/>. Prior to publication, such status information is confidential and may only be obtained by applicant using the private side of PAIR.

Further assistance in electronically accessing the publication, or about PAIR, is available by calling the Patent Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.

Office of Data Management, Application Assistance Unit (571) 272-4000, or (571) 272-4200, or 1-888-786-0101

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Art Unit	: 3714	Customer No.: 035811
Examiner	: Adetokunbo Olusegun Torimiro	
Serial No.	: 14/833,572	
Filed	: August 24, 2015	Docket No.: COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON
Inventors	: Bernard J. Marantelli	Confirmation No.: 5741
Title	: WAGERING APPARATUS, METHODS AND SYSTEMS	Dated: November 10, 2015

RESPONSE

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

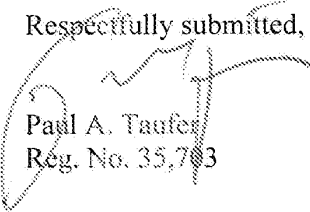
Sir:

This is in response to the Official Action dated November 5, 2015.

Claims 1 – 75 are rejected on the ground of non-statutory double patenting over US 8,721,439. In light of the eTerminal Disclaimer submitted November 9, 2015, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


Paul A. Tauber
Reg. No. 35,703

PAT/nn
(215) 656-3385

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt	
EFS ID:	24037640
Application Number:	14833572
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	5741
Title of Invention:	WAGERING APPARATUS, METHODS AND SYSTEMS
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Bernard J. Marantelli
Customer Number:	35811
Filer:	Paul A. Taufer/Nancy Nunez
Filer Authorized By:	Paul A. Taufer
Attorney Docket Number:	COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON
Receipt Date:	10-NOV-2015
Filing Date:	24-AUG-2015
Time Stamp:	13:54:05
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	no
------------------------	----

File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Amendment/Req. Reconsideration-After Non-Final Reject	RespTD.pdf	200618 fd49943644a48c4d2f365aae568b226bc5d81009	no	1

Warnings:

Information:

This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office

If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD Substitute for Form PTO-875				Application or Docket Number 14/833,572		Filing Date 08/24/2015		☐ To be Mailed	
ENTITY: ☐ LARGE ☒ SMALL ☐ MICRO									
APPLICATION AS FILED – PART I									
		(Column 1)		(Column 2)					
FOR		NUMBER FILED		NUMBER EXTRA		RATE (\$)		FEE (\$)	
☐ BASIC FEE (37 CFR 1.16(a), (b), or (c))		N/A		N/A		N/A			
☐ SEARCH FEE (37 CFR 1.16(k), (i), or (m))		N/A		N/A		N/A			
☐ EXAMINATION FEE (37 CFR 1.16(o), (p), or (q))		N/A		N/A		N/A			
TOTAL CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(i))		minus 20 =		*		X \$ =			
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(h))		minus 3 =		*		X \$ =			
☐ APPLICATION SIZE FEE (37 CFR 1.16(s))		If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, the application size fee due is \$310 (\$155 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).							
☐ MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT (37 CFR 1.16(j))									
* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2.						TOTAL			
APPLICATION AS AMENDED – PART II									
		(Column 1)		(Column 2)		(Column 3)			
AMENDMENT	11/10/2015		CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT			HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))		* 75		Minus	** 75	= 0	X \$40 =	0
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))		* 4		Minus	***4	= 0	X \$210 =	0
	☐ Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))								
	☐ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))								
	TOTAL ADD'L FEE								0
		(Column 1)		(Column 2)		(Column 3)			
AMENDMENT			CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT			HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE (\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE (\$)
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))		*		Minus	**	=	X \$ =	
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))		*		Minus	***	=	X \$ =	
	☐ Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))								
	☐ FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))								
	TOTAL ADD'L FEE								
* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3. ** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20". *** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3". The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.									

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.16. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

Doc Code: DIST.E.FILE Document Description: Electronic Terminal Disclaimer - Filed		PTO/SB/26 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Department of Commerce	
Electronic Petition Request	TERMINAL DISCLAIMER TO OBVIATE A DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTION OVER A "PRIOR" PATENT		
Application Number	14833572		
Filing Date	24-Aug-2015		
First Named Inventor	Bernard Marantelli		
Attorney Docket Number	COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON		
Title of Invention	WAGERING APPARATUS, METHODS AND SYSTEMS		
☒ Filing of terminal disclaimer does not obviate requirement for response under 37 CFR 1.111 to outstanding Office Action ☒ This electronic Terminal Disclaimer is not being used for a Joint Research Agreement.			
Owner		Percent Interest	
DIOGENES LIMITED		100%	
The owner(s) with percent interest listed above in the instant application hereby disclaims, except as provided below, the terminal part of the statutory term of any patent granted on the instant application which would extend beyond the expiration date of the full statutory term of prior patent number(s) 8721439 as the term of said prior patent is presently shortened by any terminal disclaimer. The owner hereby agrees that any patent so granted on the instant application shall be enforceable only for and during such period that it and the prior patent are commonly owned. This agreement runs with any patent granted on the instant application and is binding upon the grantee, its successors or assigns. In making the above disclaimer, the owner does not disclaim the terminal part of the term of any patent granted on the instant application that would extend to the expiration date of the full statutory term of the prior patent, "as the term of said prior patent is presently shortened by any terminal disclaimer," in the event that said prior patent later: - expires for failure to pay a maintenance fee; - is held unenforceable; - is found invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction; - is statutorily disclaimed in whole or terminally disclaimed under 37 CFR 1.321; - has all claims canceled by a reexamination certificate; - is reissued; or - is in any manner terminated prior to the expiration of its full statutory term as presently shortened by any terminal disclaimer. ☒ Terminal disclaimer fee under 37 CFR 1.20(d) is included with Electronic Terminal Disclaimer request.			

☐ I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4), that the terminal disclaimer fee under 37 CFR 1.20(d) required for this terminal disclaimer has already been paid in the above-identified application.	
Applicant claims the following fee status: ☒ Small Entity ☐ Micro Entity ☐ Regular Undiscounted	
I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.	
THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am: ☒ An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office who is of record in this application Registration Number <u>35703</u> ☐ A sole inventor ☐ A joint inventor; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all of the inventors as evidenced by the power of attorney in the application ☐ A joint inventor; all of whom are signing this request	
Signature	/Paul A. Taufer/
Name	Paul A. Taufer

*Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is required if terminal disclaimer is signed by the assignee (owner).
 Form PTO/SB/96 may be used for making this certification. See MPEP § 324.

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal				
Application Number:		14833572		
Filing Date:		24-Aug-2015		
Title of Invention:		WAGERING APPARATUS, METHODS AND SYSTEMS		
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:		Bernard J. Marantelli		
Filer:		Paul A. Taufer/Nancy Nunez		
Attorney Docket Number:		COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON		
Filed as Small Entity				
Filing Fees for Utility under 35 USC 111(a)				
Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Basic Filing:				
Statutory or Terminal Disclaimer	1814	1	160	160
Pages:				
Claims:				
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Extension-of-Time:				
Miscellaneous:				
Total in USD (\$)				160

Doc Code: DISQ.E.FILE

Document Description: Electronic Terminal Disclaimer – Approved

Application No.: 14833572

Filing Date: 24-Aug-2015

Applicant/Patent under Reexamination: Marantelli et al.

Electronic Terminal Disclaimer filed on November 9, 2015

☒ APPROVED

This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer

☐ DISAPPROVED

Approved/Disapproved by: Electronic Terminal Disclaimer automatically approved by EFS-Web

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt	
EFS ID:	24026682
Application Number:	14833572
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	5741
Title of Invention:	WAGERING APPARATUS, METHODS AND SYSTEMS
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Bernard J. Marantelli
Customer Number:	35811
Filer:	Paul A. Taufer/Nancy Nunez
Filer Authorized By:	Paul A. Taufer
Attorney Docket Number:	COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON
Receipt Date:	09-NOV-2015
Filing Date:	24-AUG-2015
Time Stamp:	15:57:38
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	Deposit Account
Payment was successfully received in RAM	\$160
RAM confirmation Number	2628
Deposit Account	502719
Authorized User	DLA PIPER US LL
The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows: Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.16 (National application filing, search, and examination fees) Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.17 (Patent application and reexamination processing fees)	

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.19 (Document supply fees)

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.20 (Post Issuance fees)

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.21 (Miscellaneous fees and charges)

File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Electronic Terminal Disclaimer-Filed	eTerminal-Disclaimer.pdf	33476 4e1abbc20855d84701f1842464b45233a29c7105	no	2

Warnings:

Information:

2	Fee Worksheet (SB06)	fee-info.pdf	30626 a65518af00c9aa049bdabe98cacdbf569f8b9569	no	2
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Warnings:

Information:

Total Files Size (in bytes): 64102

This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office

If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
14/833,572	08/24/2015	Bernard J. Marantelli	COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON	5741

35811	7590	11/05/2015
IP GROUP OF DLA PIPER LLP (US)		
ONE LIBERTY PLACE		
1650 MARKET ST, SUITE 4900		
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103		

EXAMINER	
TORIMIRO, ADETOKUNBO OLUSEGUN	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3714	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
11/05/2015	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

pto.phil@dlapiper.com

Office Action Summary	Application No. 14/833,572	Applicant(s) MARANTELLI, BERNARD J.	
	Examiner ADETOKUNBO O. TORIMIRO	Art Unit 3714	AIA (First Inventor to File) Status No

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08/24/2015.
☐ A declaration(s)/affidavit(s) under **37 CFR 1.130(b)** was/were filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on ____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.
- 4) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims*

- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-75 is/are pending in the application.
5a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1-75 is/are rejected.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 9) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

* If any claims have been determined allowable, you may be eligible to benefit from the **Patent Prosecution Highway** program at a participating intellectual property office for the corresponding application. For more information, please see http://www.uspto.gov/patents/init_events/pph/index.jsp or send an inquiry to PPHfeedback@uspto.gov.

Application Papers

- 10) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

Certified copies:

- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some** c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

** See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 3) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08a and/or PTO/SB/08b)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>08/31/2015</u> | 4) ☐ Other: ____ |

1. The present application is being examined under the pre-AIA first to invent provisions.

DETAILED ACTION

Double Patenting

2. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper time wise extension of the “right to exclude” granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory double patenting rejection is appropriate where the claims at issue are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the reference application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement. A terminal disclaimer must be signed in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(b).

The USPTO internet Web site contains terminal disclaimer forms which may be used. Please visit <http://www.uspto.gov/forms/>. The filing date of the application will determine what form should be used. A web-based eTerminal Disclaimer may be filled out completely online using web-screens. An eTerminal Disclaimer that meets all requirements is auto-processed and approved immediately upon submission. For more information about eTerminal Disclaimers, refer to <http://www.uspto.gov/patents/process/file/efs/guidance/eTD-info-I.jsp>.

3. Claims 1-75 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-30 of U.S. Patent No. 8,721,439. Although the claims at issue are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because they both describe an event for one or more players, where a player is presented with at least one of a buy-out and a partial buy-out offer, comprising initiating at least one of a buy-out offer and partial buy-out offer to any number of the one or more players that are eligible to win, and further identifying any acceptances of said at least one of a buy-out offer and partial buy-out offer that have been initiated.

4. Claims 1-75 of the present application discloses every element and limitation of the US Patent 8,721,439. The difference however is that the present application's claims have more elements than the US Patent, and hence appears to be narrower in scope and is therefore an obvious variant thereof of US Patent 8,721,439.

This is therefore an obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Adetokunbo O. Torimiro whose telephone number is (571) 270-1345. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (8am - 4pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Lewis can be reached on (571) 272-7673. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/ADETOKUNBO O TORIMIRO/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3714



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
 United States Patent and Trademark Office
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 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
 www.uspto.gov

BIB DATA SHEET

CONFIRMATION NO. 5741

SERIAL NUMBER	FILING or 371(c) DATE	CLASS	GROUP ART UNIT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	
14/833,572	08/24/2015	463	3714	CCB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON	
APPLICANTS Diogenes Limited, Douglas, ISLE OF MAN; INVENTORS Bernard J. Marantelli, London, UNITED KINGDOM; ** CONTINUING DATA ***** This application is a CON of 14/449,541 08/01/2014 which is a CIP of 14/275,136 05/12/2014 PAT 9117341 which is a CON of 13/958,028 08/02/2013 PAT 8721439 which is a CIP of 13/605,813 09/06/2012 PAT 8602884 ** FOREIGN APPLICATIONS ***** ** IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED ** ** SMALL ENTITY ** 09/04/2015					
Foreign Priority claimed ☐ Yes ☒ No 35 USC 119(a-d) conditions met ☐ Yes ☒ No Verified and /ADETOKUNBO OLUSEGUN TORIMIRO/ Acknowledged Examiner's Signature	☐ Met after Allowance Initials	STATE OR COUNTRY UNITED KINGDOM	SHEETS DRAWINGS 5	TOTAL CLAIMS 75	INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 4
ADDRESS IP GROUP OF DLA PIPER LLP (US) ONE LIBERTY PLACE 1650 MARKET ST, SUITE 4900 PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103 UNITED STATES					
TITLE WAGERING APPARATUS, METHODS AND SYSTEMS					
FILING FEE RECEIVED 3140	FEES: Authority has been given in Paper No. _____ to charge/credit DEPOSIT ACCOUNT No. _____ for following:		☐ All Fees ☐ 1.16 Fees (Filing) ☐ 1.17 Fees (Processing Ext. of time) ☐ 1.18 Fees (Issue) ☐ Other _____ ☐ Credit		

Form PTO-1449 US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE				ATTY. DOCKET NO. COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON		SERIAL NO. 14/833,572		
LIST OF PUBLICATIONS CITED BY APPLICANT <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>				APPLICANT Bernard J. Marantelli		GROUP		
				FILING DATE August 24, 2015				
US PATENT DOCUMENTS								
EXAMINER INITIAL*		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
	AA	2008/0153579 A1	06/26/08	Brenner et al.				
	AB	2005/0116410 A1	06/02/05	Vlazny et al.				
	AC	2006/0237905 A1	10/26/06	Nicely et al.				
	AD	7,811,164 B1	10/12/10	Fox				
	AE	7,901,281 B2	03/08/11	Breslo				
	AF	8,602,884 B1	12/10/13	Marantelli				
	AG	2003/0078093 A1	04/24/03	Simms et al.				
	AH	2003/0040360 A1	02/27/03	Kaminkow				
	AI	8,105,149 B2	01/31/12	DeWaal				
	AJ	7,963,838 B2	06/21/11	Gauselmann				
	AK	7,883,403 B2	02/08/11	Low et al.				
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
	AL	2011205028 A1	08/18/11	AU				
	AM							
	AN							
	AO							
	AP							
OTHER PUBLICATIONS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)								
	AR							
	AS							
	AT							
EXAMINER		/Adetokunbo Torimiro/			DATE CONSIDERED		10/29/2015	
*EXAMINER: Initial if publication considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.								

Form PTO-1449 US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE				ATTY. DOCKET NO. COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON		SERIAL NO. 14/833,572	
LIST OF PUBLICATIONS CITED BY APPLICANT <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>				APPLICANT Bernard J. Marantelli		GROUP	
				FILING DATE August 24, 2015			
US PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL*		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	7,942,735 B2	05/17/11	Meyer et al.			
	AB	2011/0136566 A1	06/09/11	Acres			
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION
							YES NO
	AL						
	AM						
	AN						
	AO						
	AP						
OTHER PUBLICATIONS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
	AR						
	AS						
	AT						
EXAMINER /Adetokunbo Torimiro/				DATE CONSIDERED 10/29/2015			
*EXAMINER: Initial if publication considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.							

<i>Index of Claims</i> 	Application/Control No. 14833572	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination MARANTELLI, BERNARD J.
	Examiner ADETOKUNBO O TORIMIRO	Art Unit 3714

✓	Rejected	-	Cancelled	N	Non-Elected	A	Appeal
=	Allowed	÷	Restricted	I	Interference	O	Objected

☐ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant			☐ CPA			☐ T.D.			☐ R.1.47		
CLAIM		DATE									
Final	Original	10/29/2015									
	1	✓									
	2	✓									
	3	✓									
	4	✓									
	5	✓									
	6	✓									
	7	✓									
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	31	✓									
	32	✓									
	33	✓									
	34	✓									
	35	✓									
	36	✓									

<i>Index of Claims</i> 	Application/Control No. 14833572	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination MARANTELLI, BERNARD J.
	Examiner ADETOKUNBO O TORIMIRO	Art Unit 3714

✓	Rejected	-	Cancelled	N	Non-Elected	A	Appeal
=	Allowed	÷	Restricted	I	Interference	O	Objected

☐ Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant			☐ CPA			☐ T.D.			☐ R.1.47		
CLAIM		DATE									
Final	Original	10/29/2015									
	37	✓									
	38	✓									
	39	✓									
	40	✓									
	41	✓									
	42	✓									
	43	✓									
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	64	✓									
	65	✓									
	66	✓									
	67	✓									
	68	✓									
	69	✓									
	70	✓									
	71	✓									
	72	✓									

<i>Index of Claims</i> 	Application/Control No. 14833572	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination MARANTELLI, BERNARD J.
	Examiner ADETOKUNBO O TORIMIRO	Art Unit 3714

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CLAIM		DATE								
Final	Original	10/29/2015								
	73	✓								
	74	✓								
	75	✓								

EAST Search History**EAST Search History (Prior Art)**

Ref #	Hits	Search Query	DBs	Default Operator	Plurals	Time Stamp
L1	37	marantelli.in.	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	SAME	ON	2015/10/29 14:48
L2	18	marantelli.in. and buy adj out	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	SAME	ON	2015/10/29 14:48
L3	14492	wager\$3 event	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	SAME	ON	2015/10/29 14:49
L4	1612	wager\$3 adj event	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	SAME	ON	2015/10/29 14:49
L5	19	wager\$3 adj event buy out	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	SAME	ON	2015/10/29 14:49
L6	19	wager\$3 adj event buy adj out	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	SAME	ON	2015/10/29 14:49
L7	21	wager\$3 buy adj out	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	SAME	ON	2015/10/29 14:49
L8	43	wager\$3 and buy adj out	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	SAME	ON	2015/10/29 14:49
L9	17	wager\$3 and buy adj out partial	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	SAME	ON	2015/10/29 14:49
L10	32	buy adj out partial	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	SAME	ON	2015/10/29 14:50
L11	138	buy adj out and partial	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	SAME	ON	2015/10/29 14:50
L12	13	buy adj out and number adj2 leg	US-PGPUB; USPAT; USOCR; FPRS; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	SAME	ON	2015/10/29 14:50

10/ 29/ 2015 3:05:07 PM

Search Notes 	Application/Control No. 14833572	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination MARANTELLI, BERNARD J.
	Examiner ADETOKUNBO O TORIMIRO	Art Unit 3714

CPC- SEARCHED		
Symbol	Date	Examiner

CPC COMBINATION SETS - SEARCHED		
Symbol	Date	Examiner

US CLASSIFICATION SEARCHED			
Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner
463	20,22,25,28,40,42	10/29/2015	AT

SEARCH NOTES		
Search Notes	Date	Examiner
-Inventor Name Search	10/29/2015	AT
-Assignee Search	10/29/2015	AT
-East Text Search	10/29/2015	AT
-Plus Search	10/29/2015	AT
-Backward/Forward Search	10/29/2015	AT

INTERFERENCE SEARCH			
US Class/ CPC Symbol	US Subclass / CPC Group	Date	Examiner

/ADETOKUNBO O TORIMIRO/ Examiner.Art Unit 3714	
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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING or 371(c) DATE	GRP ART UNIT	FIL FEE REC'D	ATTY. DOCKET NO.	TOT CLAIMS	IND CLAIMS
14/833,572	08/24/2015	3714	3140	COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON	75	4

CONFIRMATION NO. 5741

FILING RECEIPT



0000000077284259

35811

IP GROUP OF DLA PIPER LLP (US)
ONE LIBERTY PLACE
1650 MARKET ST, SUITE 4900
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

Date Mailed: 09/10/2015

Receipt is acknowledged of this non-provisional patent application. The application will be taken up for examination in due course. Applicant will be notified as to the results of the examination. Any correspondence concerning the application must include the following identification information: the U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER, FILING DATE, NAME OF APPLICANT, and TITLE OF INVENTION. Fees transmitted by check or draft are subject to collection. Please verify the accuracy of the data presented on this receipt. **If an error is noted on this Filing Receipt, please submit a written request for a Filing Receipt Correction. Please provide a copy of this Filing Receipt with the changes noted thereon. If you received a "Notice to File Missing Parts" for this application, please submit any corrections to this Filing Receipt with your reply to the Notice. When the USPTO processes the reply to the Notice, the USPTO will generate another Filing Receipt incorporating the requested corrections**

Inventor(s)

Bernard J. Marantelli, London, UNITED KINGDOM;

Applicant(s)

Diogenes Limited, Douglas, ISLE OF MAN;

Power of Attorney: The patent practitioners associated with Customer Number 35811

Domestic Priority data as claimed by applicant

This application is a CON of 14/449,541 08/01/2014
which is a CIP of 14/275,136 05/12/2014 PAT 9117341
which is a CON of 13/958,028 08/02/2013 PAT 8721439
which is a CIP of 13/605,813 09/06/2012 PAT 8602884

Foreign Applications for which priority is claimed (You may be eligible to benefit from the **Patent Prosecution Highway** program at the USPTO. Please see <http://www.uspto.gov> for more information.) - None.

Foreign application information must be provided in an Application Data Sheet in order to constitute a claim to foreign priority. See 37 CFR 1.55 and 1.76.

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The country code and number of your priority application, to be used for filing abroad under the Paris Convention, is **US 14/833,572**

Projected Publication Date: 12/17/2015

Non-Publication Request: No

Early Publication Request: No

**** SMALL ENTITY ****

Title

WAGERING APPARATUS, METHODS AND SYSTEMS

Preliminary Class

463

Statement under 37 CFR 1.55 or 1.78 for AIA (First Inventor to File) Transition Applications: No

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Almost every country has its own patent law, and a person desiring a patent in a particular country must make an application for patent in that country in accordance with its particular laws. Since the laws of many countries differ in various respects from the patent law of the United States, applicants are advised to seek guidance from specific foreign countries to ensure that patent rights are not lost prematurely.

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Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 5.11 & 5.15

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PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD Substitute for Form PTO-875						Application or Docket Number 14/833,572				
APPLICATION AS FILED - PART I										
(Column 1)		(Column 2)		SMALL ENTITY		OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY				
FOR	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE(\$)	FEE(\$)		RATE(\$)	FEE(\$)			
BASIC FEE (37 CFR 1.16(a), (b), or (c))	N/A	N/A	N/A	70		N/A				
SEARCH FEE (37 CFR 1.16(k), (l), or (m))	N/A	N/A	N/A	300		N/A				
EXAMINATION FEE (37 CFR 1.16(o), (p), or (q))	N/A	N/A	N/A	360		N/A				
TOTAL CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(j))	75	minus 20 = *	55	x 40 =	2200					
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS (37 CFR 1.16(h))	4	minus 3 = *	1	x 210 =	210					
APPLICATION SIZE FEE (37 CFR 1.16(s))	If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, the application size fee due is \$310 (\$155 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).			0.00						
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT (37 CFR 1.16(j))				0.00						
			TOTAL	3140		TOTAL				
* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2.										
APPLICATION AS AMENDED - PART II										
(Column 1)		(Column 2)		(Column 3)		SMALL ENTITY		OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY		
AMENDMENT A		CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE(\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE(\$)		RATE(\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE(\$)
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	*	Minus	**	=	x	=		x	=
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	*	Minus	***	=	x	=		x	=
	Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))									
	FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))									
					TOTAL ADD'L FEE				TOTAL ADD'L FEE	
AMENDMENT B		CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE(\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE(\$)		RATE(\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE(\$)
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	*	Minus	**	=	x	=		x	=
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	*	Minus	***	=	x	=		x	=
	Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))									
	FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))									
					TOTAL ADD'L FEE				TOTAL ADD'L FEE	
* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3. ** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20". *** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3". The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest found in the appropriate box in column 1.										

PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD Substitute for Form PTO-875						Application or Docket Number 14/833,572	
APPLICATION AS FILED - PART I							
(Column 1)		(Column 2)		SMALL ENTITY		OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY	
FOR	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE(\$)	FEE(\$)		RATE(\$)	FEE(\$)
BASIC FEE (37 CFR 1.16(a), (b), or (c))	N/A	N/A	N/A	70		N/A	
SEARCH FEE (37 CFR 1.16(k), (l), or (m))	N/A	N/A	N/A	300		N/A	
EXAMINATION FEE (37 CFR 1.16(o), (p), or (q))	N/A	N/A	N/A	360		N/A	
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MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT (37 CFR 1.16(j))				0.00			
* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2.						TOTAL	3140
APPLICATION AS AMENDED - PART II							
(Column 1)		(Column 2)		(Column 3)		SMALL ENTITY	
AMENDMENT A	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE(\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE(\$)		RATE(\$)
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	*	Minus **	=	x	=	x
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	*	Minus ***	=	x	=	x
	Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))						
	FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))						
TOTAL ADD'L FEE							TOTAL ADD'L FEE
(Column 1)		(Column 2)		(Column 3)		SMALL ENTITY	
AMENDMENT B	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE(\$)	ADDITIONAL FEE(\$)		RATE(\$)
	Total (37 CFR 1.16(i))	*	Minus **	=	x	=	x
	Independent (37 CFR 1.16(h))	*	Minus ***	=	x	=	x
	Application Size Fee (37 CFR 1.16(s))						
	FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM (37 CFR 1.16(j))						
TOTAL ADD'L FEE							TOTAL ADD'L FEE
* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3. ** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20". *** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3". The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest found in the appropriate box in column 1.							



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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING or 371(c) DATE	GRP ART UNIT	FIL FEE REC'D	ATTY. DOCKET NO.	TOT CLAIMS	IND CLAIMS
14/833,572	08/24/2015	3711	3140	COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON	75	4

CONFIRMATION NO. 5741

FILING RECEIPT



35811

IP GROUP OF DLA PIPER LLP (US)
ONE LIBERTY PLACE
1650 MARKET ST, SUITE 4900
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

Date Mailed: 09/08/2015

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Inventor(s)

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Applicant(s)

Diogenes Limited, Douglas, ISLE OF MAN;

Power of Attorney: The patent practitioners associated with Customer Number 35811

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which is a CIP of 14/275,136 05/12/2014 PAT 9117341
which is a CON of 13/958,028 08/02/2013 PAT 8721439
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The country code and number of your priority application, to be used for filing abroad under the Paris Convention, is **US 14/833,572**

Projected Publication Date: Perfected

Non-Publication Request: No

Early Publication Request: No

**** SMALL ENTITY ****

Title

WAGERING APPARATUS, METHODS AND SYSTEMS

Preliminary Class

273

Statement under 37 CFR 1.55 or 1.78 for AIA (First Inventor to File) Transition Applications: No

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Form PTO-1449 US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE				ATTY. DOCKET NO. COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON		SERIAL NO. 14/833,572		
LIST OF PUBLICATIONS CITED BY APPLICANT <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>				APPLICANT Bernard J. Marantelli		GROUP		
				FILING DATE August 24, 2015				
US PATENT DOCUMENTS								
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Form PTO-1449 US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE					ATTY. DOCKET NO. COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON		SERIAL NO. 14/833,572	
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 A game method and gaming system

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ABSTRACT

5 A method of gaming comprises displaying a set of objects
to a first player, receiving at least one object selection
from the first player, receiving an award instruction from
a second player specifying an award that the first player
can accept or reject, and displaying the award to the
first player so that the first player can accept or reject
the award.

10

5/8

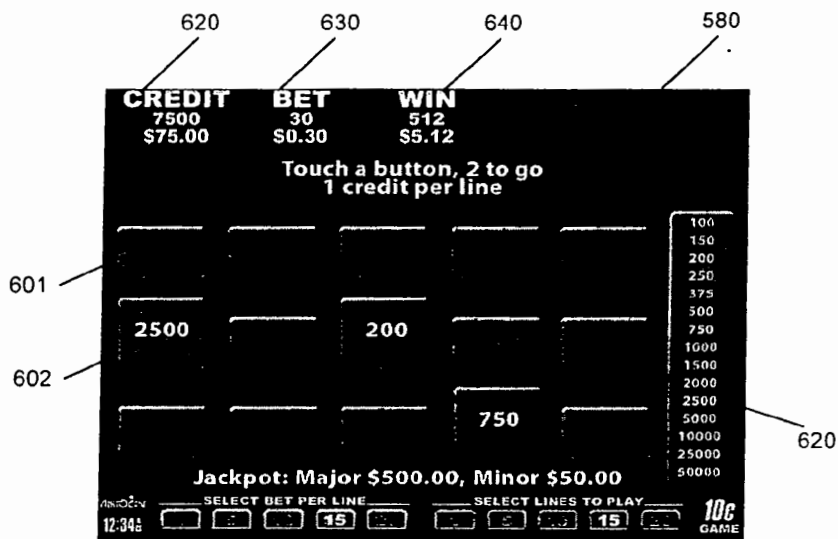


Figure 6

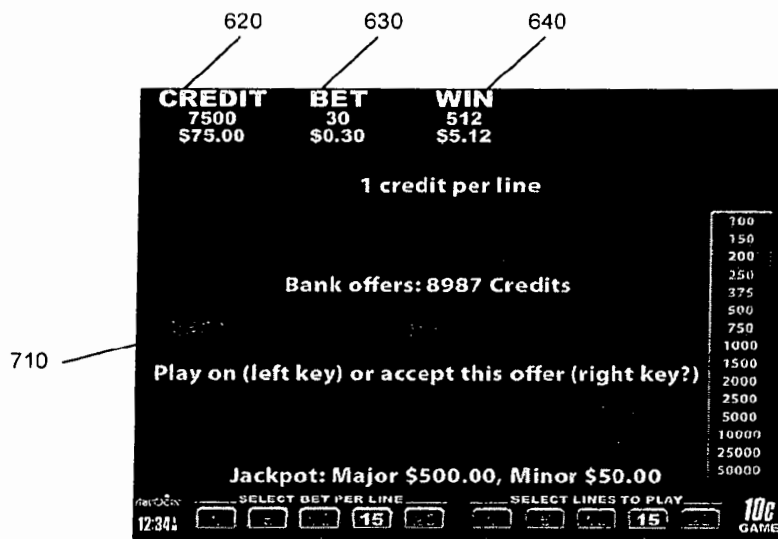


Figure 7

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AUSTRALIA

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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

Standard Patent

Applicant:

Aristocrat Technologies Australia Pty Limited

Invention Title:

A GAME METHOD AND GAMING SYSTEM

The following statement is a full description of this invention,
including the best method for performing it known to me/us:

Title

A METHOD OF GAMING AND GAMING SYSTEM

5 Related Application

This application is a divisional application of Australian application no. 2010201551, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference. Most of the disclosure of that application is also included herein, however, reference may be made to the specification of application no. 2010201551 as filed or accepted to gain further understanding of the invention claimed herein.

15 Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a method of gaming, a gaming system, a game controller and a player interface for a gaming system.

20

Background to the Invention

Many gaming machines carry out a single game such as a slot machine game involving a display of rotating wheels having symbols, where the resulting symbol combinations correspond to prizes to be paid to the player. Many newer gaming machines provide a "bonus" or "feature" game that occurs in response to a particular event in the "base" or "main" game. Such bonus games are intended to add player excitement and enjoyment. There is a need for other games that are suitable to be used as a bonus or main game.

Summary of the Invention

35 The invention broadly relates to a method of gaming comprising:

- (a) displaying a set of objects to a first

player;

(b) receiving at least one object selection from the first player;

(c) receiving an award instruction from a second player specifying an award that the first player can accept or reject;

(d) displaying the award to the first player so that the first player can accept or reject the award.

10 In an embodiment, the method comprises:

(e) (i) if an acceptance instruction is received from the first player, granting the first player the displayed award or (ii) if a rejection instruction is received from the first player rejecting the displayed award, receiving at least one further object selection instruction from the first player and a further award instruction from the second player specifying an award; and

(f) repeating steps (d) and (e) until (i) an acceptance instruction is received from the first player accepting the displayed award or (ii) another award condition is met.

25 An award condition may be that a last object remains that corresponds to a last prize.

An award condition may be that a combination of objects has been selected.

30 In an embodiment, if another award condition has not been met when the first player accepts a displayed award, game play may continue with the second player assuming the role of the first player and making object selections. In this embodiment displayed awards may subsequently be specified by a game controller or another player who assumes the role of the second player.

In an embodiment there may be more than one second player.
For example: (i) plural second players entitled to make
concurrent award offers or (ii) plural second players
entitled to make award offers in turn or (iii) plural
5 second players entitled to take the role of the second
player should the second player assume the role of the
first player.

The game method may comprise executing a base game and
10 commencing step (a) in response to occurrence of a trigger
event in the base game.

The invention also relates to a gaming system comprising:
a first player interface comprising a display for
15 displaying a set of objects to a first player, and an
instruction input mechanism that enables a player to input
at least one object selection instruction, and,
optionally, an award acceptance instruction or an award
rejection instruction;

20 a second player interface comprising an
instruction input mechanism to enable a second player to
input an award instruction specifying an award to be
displayed to a first player; and

a game controller in data communication with the
25 first and second player interfaces and configured to:

(a) cause the display of the first player
interface to display to the first player an award based on
an award instruction received from the second player that
the first player can accept or reject.

30 In an embodiment, the game controller is configured to:

(b) (i) if an acceptance instruction is
received from the first player grant the first player the
displayed award or, (ii) if rejection instruction is
35 received from the first player, receive at least one
further object selection instructions from a first player,
and a further award instruction from a second player

specifying an award to be displayed to a first player, and the game controller is configured to repeat processes (b) and (c) until (i) an acceptance instruction is received or (ii) another award condition is met.

5

The invention also relates to a game controller for a gaming system comprising a memory storing a set of objects,

the game controller configured to:

10

(a) receive (i) at least one object selection instruction from a first player specifying selection of an object from the set of objects, and (ii) an award instruction from a second player specifying an award to be displayed to a first player; and

15

(b) cause a first player display to display an award based on the received award instruction that the first player can accept or reject.

In an embodiment, the game controller is configured to:

20

(c) (i) if an acceptance instruction is received specifying that the first player accepts the displayed awards, grant the first player the displayed award or, (ii) if a rejection instruction is received specifying that the first player rejects the displayed award, receive at least one further object selection instruction and a further award instruction from a second player specifying an award to be displayed to a first player, and

25

the game controller further configured to repeat processes (a), (b) and (c) until (i) an acceptance instruction is received or (ii) another award condition is met.

30

In a further aspect, the invention broadly relates to a method of gaming comprising:

35

(i) conducting a first selection round by
(a) displaying a set of objects to a first

player;

(b) receiving at least one object selection from the first player, and

(c) displaying an award to the first player that the first player can accept or reject; and

(ii) conducting at least a second selection round if the first player does not accept the displayed award, the second pick round comprising at least one further object selection being made other than by the first player.

In one embodiment, the further object selection may be made by a game controller.

In another embodiment, the further object selection may be made by a second player.

The invention also relates broadly to a game controller for a gaming system comprising:

a memory for storing a set of objects, the game controller configured to:

(i) conduct a first selection round during which the game controller is configured to:

(a) cause a first player display a set of objects to a first player;

(b) receive at least one object selection instruction from the first player specifying an object of the set of objects and make the object identified by the selection unavailable;

(c) cause the first player display to display an award to the first player that the first player can accept or reject; and

(ii) conduct at least a second selection round if the first player does not accept the displayed award during which at least one further object is selected other than by the first player.

The invention also relates broadly to a gaming system comprising:

a player interface having an instruction input mechanism;

5 a first player display for displaying a set of objects to a first player; and

a game controller, the game controller configured to:

10 (i) conduct a first selection round during which the game controller is configured to:

(a) cause a first player display to display a set of objects to a first player;

15 (b) receive at least one object selection instruction from the first player and make the object identified by the selection unavailable;

(c) cause the first player display to display an award to the first player that the first player can accept or reject; and

20 (ii) conduct at least a second round if the first player does not accept the displayed award during which at least one further object is selected other than by the first player.

25 Persons skilled in the art will appreciate that the above methods may be implemented by computer program code executed by a computer. Such program code may be provided on a computer readable medium. Persons skilled in the art will also appreciate that various features of the embodiments may be combined.

30

Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a gaming system in the form of a stand alone gaming machine;

35

Figure 2 is a schematic diagram of a gaming system;

Figure 3 is a schematic diagram illustrating the memory of Figure 2; and

5 Figure 4 is a schematic diagram of a gaming system having networked gaming machines.

Figure 5 is a block diagram of the functional components of a first embodiment;

10 Figure 6 is a screen shot of a display during playing of game in accordance with the first embodiment;

Figure 7 is a screen shot of a display during playing of game in accordance with the first embodiment;

15 Figure 8 is a flowchart corresponding to the first embodiment;

20 Figure 9 is a block diagram of the functional components of the second embodiment; and

Figure 10 is a block diagram of the functional components of the third embodiment.

25 Description of the Preferred Embodiments

Referring to the drawings, there is shown a gaming system arranged to implement a game where a player makes object selections which result in prizes becoming unavailable to the player. At various points in the game, the player is offered a prize that the player can accept or reject. The player can accept the prize or reject the prize and continue playing in the hope that they will get a larger prize offered to them. Two player variants of this game are also disclosed. The gaming system can take a number of different forms.

30
35

In a first form, a stand alone gaming machine is provided wherein all or most components required for implementing the game are present in a player operable gaming machine.

- 5 In a second form, a distributed architecture is provided wherein some of the components required for implementing the game are present in a player operable gaming machine and some of the components required for implementing the game are located remotely relative to the gaming machine.
- 10 For example, a "thick client" architecture may be used wherein part of the game is executed on a player operable gaming machine and part of the game is executed remotely, such as by a gaming server; or a "thin client" architecture may be used wherein most of the game is
- 15 executed remotely such as by a gaming server and a player operable gaming machine is used only to display audible and/or visible gaming information to the player and receive gaming inputs from the player.
- 20 However, it will be understood that other arrangements are envisaged. For example, an architecture may be provided wherein a gaming machine is networked to a gaming server and the respective functions of the gaming machine and the gaming server are selectively modifiable. For example,
- 25 the gaming system may operate in stand alone gaming machine mode, "thick client" mode or "thin client" mode depending on the game being played, operating conditions, and so on. Other variations will be apparent to persons skilled in the art.

30

- A gaming system in the form of a stand alone gaming machine 10 is illustrated in Figure 1. The gaming machine 10 includes a console 12 having a display 14 on which is displayed representations of a game 16 that can be played
- 35 by a player. A mid-trim 20 of the gaming machine 10 houses a bank of buttons 22 for enabling a player to interact with the gaming machine, in particular during

game play. The mid-trim 20 also houses a credit input mechanism 24 which in this example includes a coin input chute 24A and a bill collector 24B. Other credit input mechanisms may also be employed, for example, a card reader for reading a smart card, debit card or credit card. A player marketing module having a reading device may also be provided for the purpose of reading a player tracking device as part of a loyalty program. The player tracking device may be in the form of a card, flash drive or any other portable storage medium capable of being read by the reading device.

A top box 26 may carry artwork 28, including for example pay tables and details of bonus awards and other information or images relating to the game. Further artwork and/or information may be provided on a front panel 29 of the console 12. A coin tray 30 is mounted beneath the front panel 29 for dispensing cash payouts from the gaming machine 10.

The display 14 shown in Figure 1 is in the form of a video display unit, particularly a cathode ray tube screen device. Alternatively, the display 14 may be a liquid crystal display, plasma screen, any other suitable video display unit, or the visible portion of an electromechanical device. The top box 26 may also include a display, for example a video display unit, which may be of the same type as the display 14, or of a different type.

Figure 2 shows a block diagram of operative components of a typical gaming machine which may be the same as or different to the gaming machine of Figure 1.

The gaming machine 100 includes a game controller 101 having a processor 102. Instructions and data to control operation of the processor 102 are stored in a memory 103,

which is in data communication with the processor 102. Typically, the gaming machine 100 will include both volatile and non-volatile memory and more than one of each type of memory, with such memories being collectively
5 represented by the memory 103.

The gaming machine has hardware meters 104 for purposes including ensuring regulatory compliance and monitoring player credit, an input/output (I/O) interface 105 for
10 communicating with peripheral devices of the gaming machine 100. The input/output interface 105 and/or the peripheral devices may be intelligent devices with their own memory for storing associated instructions and data for use with the input/output interface or the peripheral
15 devices. A random number generator module 113 generates random numbers for use by the processor 102. Persons skilled in the art will appreciate that a random number generator may employ a pseudo random number generation scheme. Herein, the term "random" is intended to
20 encompass both truly random and pseudo-random.

In the example shown in Figure 2, a player interface 120 includes peripheral devices that communicate with the game controller 101 including one or more displays 106, a touch
25 screen 107, a card and/or ticket reader 108, a printer 109, a bill acceptor and/or coin input mechanism 110 and a coin output mechanism 111. Additional hardware may be included as part of the gaming machine 100, or hardware may be omitted as required for the specific
30 implementation.

In addition, the gaming machine 100 may include a communications interface, for example a network card 112. The network card may, for example, send status
35 information, accounting information or other information to a central controller, server or database and receive data or commands from the central controller, server or

database.

Figure 3 shows a block diagram of the main components of an exemplary memory 103. The memory 103 includes RAM 103A, EPROM 103B and a mass storage device 103C. The RAM 103A typically temporarily holds program files for execution by the processor 102 and related data. The EPROM 103B may be a boot ROM device and/or may contain some system or game related code. The mass storage device 103C is typically used to store game programs, the integrity of which may be verified and/or authenticated by the processor 102 using protected code from the EPROM 103B or elsewhere.

It is also possible for the operative components of the gaming machine 100 to be distributed, for example input/output devices 106,107,108,109,110,111 to be provided remotely from the game controller 101.

Figure 4 shows a gaming system 200 in accordance with an alternative embodiment. The gaming system 200 includes a network 201, which for example may be an Ethernet network. Gaming machines 202, shown arranged in three banks 203 of two gaming machines 202 in Figure 5, are connected to the network 201. The gaming machines 202 provide a player operable interface and may be the same as the gaming machines 10,100 shown in Figures 2 and 3, or may have simplified functionality depending on the requirements for implementing game play. While banks 203 of two gaming machines are illustrated in Figure 4, banks of one, three or more gaming machines are also envisaged.

One or more displays 204 may also be connected to the network 201. The displays 204 may, for example, be associated with one or more banks 203 of gaming machines. The displays 204 may be used to display representations associated with game play on the gaming machines 202,

and/or used to display other representations, for example promotional or informational material.

5 In a thick client embodiment, game server 205 implements part of the game played by a player using a gaming machine 202 and the gaming machine 202 implements part of the game. With this embodiment, as both the game server and the gaming device implement part of the game, they collectively provide a game controller. A database
10 management server 206 may manage storage of game programs and associated data for downloading or access by the gaming devices 202 in a database 206A. Typically, if the gaming system enables players to participate in a Jackpot game, a Jackpot server 207 will be provided to monitor and
15 carry out the Jackpot game.

In a thin client embodiment, game server 205 implements most or all of the game played by a player using a gaming machine 202 and the gaming machine 202 essentially
20 provides only the player interface. With this embodiment, the game server 205 provides the game controller. The gaming machine will receive player instructions, pass these to the game server which will process them and return game play outcomes to the gaming machine for
25 display. In a thin client embodiment, the gaming machines could be computer terminals, e.g. PCs running software that provides a player interface operable using standard computer input and output components.

30 Servers are also typically provided to assist in the administration of the gaming network 200, including for example a gaming floor management server 208, and a licensing server 209 to monitor the use of licenses relating to particular games. An administrator terminal
35 210 is provided to allow an administrator to run the network 201 and the devices connected to the network.

The gaming network 200 may communicate with other gaming systems, other local networks, for example a corporate network, and/or a wide area network such as the Internet, for example through a firewall 211.

5

Persons skilled in the art will appreciate that in accordance with known techniques, functionality at the server side of the network may be distributed over a plurality of different computers. For example, elements
10 may be run as a single "engine" on one server or a separate server may be provided. For example, the game server 205 could run a random generator engine. Alternatively, a separate random number generator server could be provided. Further, persons skilled in the art
15 will appreciate that a plurality of games servers could be provided to run different games or a single game server may run a plurality of different games as required by the terminals.

20 First Embodiment

The gaming system of the first embodiment can be used to implement a game independently or as a "feature" game.

25 As an additional feature game it can be applied to any style of base game, for example, a spinning or slot game, keno, bingo, a dice game, a card game, a table game, etc.

The main functional components for implementing the first
30 embodiment are illustrated in Figure 5. A gaming system 500 has a game controller 510 and a player interface 550. The game controller 510 has a game processor 520, a random number generator 530 and a memory 540. The player
interface 550 has an input mechanism 560, a credit
35 input/output mechanism 570 and a display 580.

The rules for carrying out the game are stored as program

code in memory 540. The code is executed by a game processor 520 in conjunction with player instructions input via input mechanism 560 in order to generate game outcomes.

5

In order to begin the game, the player inputs credit via credit mechanism 570 and operates input mechanism 560 to indicate they want to play the game. The game processor 520 generates new game data. In each new game, a range of prizes is displayed on a prize display. The player makes selections of objects that could improve or reduce the prize the player receives. Periodically, the player is offered the opportunity to get out of the game by accepting a prize. The prize offered to the player is typically less than some of the available prizes but more than others. Thus, the player has to decide whether to accept the prize or continue the game with the opportunity to obtain a greater prize but with the risk of a lesser prize. A series of objects is displayed to the player. Each time an object is selected, a prize is made unavailable to the player. After a predetermined number of objects have been selected, a prize that the player can accept or reject is displayed on a display.

In order to start each game, the processor 520 generates game data and an initial display displaying all of the objects. The processor 520 obtains the number of objects to be displayed and the set of prizes from memory 540. For example, the program code may specify that there are 15 objects and 15 prizes ranging in value from 100 credits to 50,000 credits. The game processor 520 processes random numbers from random generator 530 in order to randomly associate individual ones of the objects with individual ones of the prizes. The processor 520 then stores initial game data 542A in memory 540 which specifies the characteristics of each object including where they are to be displayed in a first region 582A of

display 580 and the prize they are associated with. The processor 520 then controls display 580 to display the objects in a first region 582A of the display 580 and the prizes in a second region 582B of display 580, the display
5 being such that the association of prizes and objects is not apparent to the player.

The processor also determines how many objects are to be selected by a player in a first selection round, for
10 example, three. The processor controls the display 580 in order to display the number of objects selections the player must make to the player. In other embodiments, the number of selections may not be disclosed to the player.

15 The player then operates object selector 562 to make object selections. The object selector will typically be in the form of a touch screen interface that allows the player to touch any one of the displayed objects in order to select it. The player may additionally be asked to
20 confirm their selection by pressing a portion of the touch interface. Persons skilled in the art will appreciate that other means for selecting the object could also be employed, for example, buttons corresponding to each of the individual objects. Each operation of the object
25 selection causes an object selection instruction to be sent to the processor 520. The processor 520 determines the object to which the selection relates and updates the memory by incorporating additional game data 542B to specify that an object has been selected and to indicate
30 that the prize associated with that object is made unavailable to the player. The processor then updates regions 582A and 582B of display 580 to indicate graphically that an object has been selected and a prize has become unavailable thereby revealing the association
35 between objects and prizes. The processor 520 also updates the display to indicate how many selections now remain in the selection round. For example, if there were

originally three selection in the selection round, the processor 520 updates display 580 to indicate that only two selections remain. Thus, in order to complete the selection round, the player is required to submit two
5 further object selections via object selector 562.

After each object selection, the processor 520 adds additional data 542B and updates display 580. At the end of the selection round, the processor carries out a
10 further process to determine an award to be displayed to the player. The processor determines a value of a prize from the value of the remaining prizes. For example, if each of the prizes are credits, the prize that is offered may be an average of the remaining prizes or some value
15 related mathematically in some other way to the remaining prize or value.

Once the prize has been determined by processor 520 in accordance with the program code stored in memory 540, it
20 is displayed to the player on display 580. The player then must operate either an acceptance selector 564 or a rejection selector 566 in order to enter an acceptance or rejection instruction. Assuming the player initially enters a rejection instruction, the processor 520
25 determines from memory 540 how many selections are to be made by a player in a second round and displays the number of selections to a player.

Such a scenario is illustrated in the screen shot of
30 Figure 6 where the objects are displayed as fifteen blocks in a major portion of the display 580. It will be recalled from above that three selections were made in a first selection round. The blocks are either rectangular 601 if they have not been selected or larger and square
35 602 if they have been selected. It will thus be seen from Figure 6 that three blocks have been selected. Each selected block displays the prize that it was associated

with. For example, block 602 indicates that it is associated with a prize of 2,500 credits. A second region 582B of the display towards the right of display 580 contains the set of prizes that were initially available to the player. Those prizes that are now unavailable to the player are shown in a different colour, for example, prize 612 of 2500 credits. The display 580 also displays a current value of the credit meter 620, and a bet amount 630, and a current value of the win meter 640. The display also indicates that a player must select two additional objects in this second selection round. Play continues with the player making two additional object selections using object selector 562.

As described above, processor 520 updates both memory 542B and display 580 to indicate that the objects have been selected and that the prizes associated with them are unavailable. Figure 7 illustrates the display at the end of such a pick round where the processor has determined an offer to be made to the player. Most of the display is "greyed" out. The display includes the text "Bank offers: 8987 Credits, Play on (left key) or accept this offer (right key)". Thus, the processor 520 has controlled the display so that the player is displayed a prize of 8987 credits that they can either reject by pressing the left key or accept by pressing the right key.

Game play continues under control of the processor 520 in the same manner as described above until a player enters an acceptance instruction using prize acceptor 564 or a last object remains whereafter the player is awarded a prize corresponding to the last object. If a player accepts a prize, the processor 520, updates of meters 535 including credit meter and win meter to reflect the prize that had been won and controls the display to show the prize won and to update the credit and win meters 620, 640.

To further illustrate the invention, reference is now made to the flow chart of Figure 8. Figure 8 proceeds on the assumption that the game is a feature game that may occur after a trigger event. A wide variety of appropriate trigger events are known to persons skilled in the art.

Examples of trigger events are:

- random,
- associated with an advertised combination,
- 10 • associated with a non-advertised combination,
- associated with a special bet,
- associated with a time,
- associated with a tournament,
- associated with 1 or more specific game states,
- 15 • associated with 1 or more console states,
- specific operator activity, and
- specific player activity.

The trigger can come from the game or a system connected to the game.

After a trigger event occurs, the feature can commence automatically or be prompted by the player pressing a button or the like.

Referring to Figure 8, at step 800 the feature game is triggered. At step 810, the processor 520 populates the game data, associates the objects and prizes and displays the objects on the display for the player to select. At step 820 the processor 520 determines the number of selection rounds and picks for each round. At step 830 the processor 520 determines whether the round is the last round. If it is not the last round, the round is started at step 840. The number of picks remaining for the round is displayed at step 841. At step 842, the player makes a decision as to which object to select by operating the object selector. At step 843, the processor 520

decrements the number of picks remaining for the round. At step 844, the processor 520 animates the object X on the display to reveal the prize P. At step 845, the processor 520 updates the memory and display to show the prizes that has been made unavailable. At step 846, the processor 520 determines whether the number of picks remaining for this round is zero. If it is not zero, the processor 520 repeats steps 841 to 845. If the number of picks remaining is zero at step 847, the processor 520 calculates and displays a prize. At step 850, the processor 520 determines whether the player accepts the prize. If the prize is accepted, the processor 520 awards the prize 860 and updates relevant meters before returning to the main game. If the player rejects the prize the processor 520 increments the round counter 870 and proceeds to step 830.

Processor 520 cycles through steps 830 to step 870 until it determines at step 830 that this is the last round. At step 880, the processor 520 displays the number of picks remaining. At step 882, a player selects an object and the processor 520 processes the received object selection instruction. At step 843, the processor 520 decrements the number of picks remaining. At step 884, the processor 520 animates object X to reveals prize P. At step 885, the processor 520 updates the memory and display to reflect the selection. At step 886, the processor 520 determines whether the number of picks is zero. In the last round, the number of picks being zero will coincide with one prize remaining. The processor 520 cycles through steps 841 to 846 until the number of picks is zero. At this stage, the processor 520 awards the prize associated with the last object of the player by revealing that prize to the player and returns to the main game.

It will be apparent from the above description that in the first preferred embodiment, a single prize is associated

with each object. Further, the player can select the objects in any order such that any object may be the last object and the identity of the last object is not known until the player makes a final selection.

5

Various modifications to the above game are possible. For example, the prizes can have a variety of values as well known in the art including in addition to credit prizes, progressive prizes, non-cash prizes, free games, bonus games, bonus symbols for use in the base game or extra picks.

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It is envisaged that the prize on the display is of equal value to the prize revealed. However, in some embodiments the prize on display might be different to the prize revealed. For example, when the player selects an object or prize that is revealed and the prize that is eliminated from the prize display is close in value to the prize in the list of prizes.

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Further, the number of objects can be constant for each feature game or can vary. The number of objects can be varied randomly or based on the bets placed by the player. Varying the number of objects can include decreasing or increasing the number. Varying the number of objects can also include swapping an object for another object kept in a reserved space.

25

Similarly, the number of selection rounds may be constant for each game or can be varied, for example, based on the number of bets, randomly or time when the game is played. Again, the number of selections for each round can be fixed or variable. Variations may be related to which round has been played or the size of the remaining prizes. In one example, if a particular prize, for example the highest prize is made unavailable to the player, a bonus or consolation prize may be provided to the player.

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Further, the player may be offered assistance in making the decision to take the prize offered. For example, the machine can display the offer prize but give some
5 indication of the mean value of the remaining prizes.

Two further embodiments will now be described in relation to Figures 9 and 10. In Figures 9 and 10, where elements of substantially the same as those found in Figure 5, the
10 same numbering is used.

Second Embodiment

Referring to Figure 9, there is shown a multiplayer
15 embodiment. Where possible number consistent with the first embodiment is employed. Illustrated in Figure 9 as a first player interface 550 which is the same as used in the interface of Figure 5 and a second player interface 950. While only a single second player interface 950 is
20 shown, in some variations there may be multiple second player interfaces as described in more detail below.

In the embodiment of Figure 9, rather than the processor 520 determining the offers to be displayed to the player
25 of the game who is operating the first player interface (a first player), the offers are made by a second player operating a second player interface 950. The second player interface also includes a credit input mechanism and a display 980 that has first and second regions
30 982A, 982B that display the same information as the first and second regions 582A and 582B of the first player interface. The game proceeds generally as indicated in relation to the first embodiment above until the end of the first object selection round. At this point in the
35 game, the processor 520 causes a message to be displayed on the second player interface 950 to ask the player to enter their "bid". The user calculates a bid they are

prepared to offer and either selects it from a range of possible bids or enters the bid as an award instruction using an award offer selector 968 of input mechanism 960.

- 5 Processor 520 then displays this offer on display 580 of the first user interface and the first player can accept or reject the offer in the same manner in which they accept or reject an offer in the first preferred embodiment.

10

In a variant to the above, there may be multiple second player interfaces and players of each interface may be entitled to enter an offer and a player of the first interface may be entitled to accept any one of the offers.

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In a further variant, the player of the second interface or the player of each interface may have an option not to enter an offer in which case an offer is made by the game processor 520 instead.

20

As in the first embodiment, game play may continue through a series of pick rounds in which the first player rejects an offer. If the first player accepts an offer by operating the offer acceptor 564, the game may be resolved in a number of ways. In one example, if the first player accepts a second player offer the credit meter of the first player is incremented by the displayed award and the credit meter 935 of the second player is incremented or decremented by the difference between what the second player has offered and an offer calculated by processor

30

520.

- In a variation, the second player whose prize offer has been accepted by the first player is allowed to continue the game with further offers either being made by the game controller or by other second players. At this point, the second player interface operates substantially as per the first player interface, that is, the input functions of

35

the first player interface become available to the input mechanism 960 of the second player interface. The player continues until they accept a prize and their credit meter is incremented or decremented by the difference between
5 the prize they accept and the prize that the original first player accepted. Various other modifications will be apparent to persons skilled in the art.

It will be appreciated in the above discussion, that in
10 this embodiment, play need not necessarily be able to continue till a last object is selected. That is, it may be terminated at an earlier stage. Further, the number of prizes in this embodiment need not necessarily equal the number of objects.

15

Third Embodiment

In the embodiment in Figure 10, the second player interface is substantially identical to the first player
20 interface. In this embodiment, the second player interface includes an input mechanism 1060 having an object selector 1062, an acceptance instruction selector 1064, and a rejection instruction selector 1066, a credit mechanism 1070, and a display 1080 having a first display
25 region 1082A and a second display region 1082B, each operating the same as the display regions of the first player interface.

In this embodiment, first and second players operate the
30 first and second player interfaces 550,1050. Processor 520 determines conducts a first selection round where the first player makes selections and is offered awards calculated by the processor 520. If the first player accepts the award offered to them at the end of the first
35 round, the prize is awarded to the first player the meter 535 is incremented. If play continues to the second round, play now switches to the second player interface

- with the second player making object selection by operating object selector 1062. At the end of the second round, the second player may accept or reject an award. If the player accepts the award, the second player's
- 5 credit meter 1035 is incremented. Play continues with the players alternating turns until one of the players accepts an award or one of the players is left with the last object.
- 10 In a variation to this embodiment based on the second embodiment, the players input mechanisms may be modified to allow the players to input an award mechanism so that they can take turns to offer a prize to be displayed to the other player.
- 15 Various other modifications will be apparent to persons skilled in the art, in one example of this embodiment the number of objects may be different to the number of prizes. For example, in one example there might be 20
- 20 objects and three prizes and each of the objects are associated with letters such that as each object is selected, a letter is revealed and one of three words is populated, each of which is associated with a prize. For example, one word may be "bad luck" and the prize may be
- 25 ten credits, a second word may be "winner" and the prize may be 100 credits, and a third word may be "jackpot" and the prize 1,000 credits. As each object is selected, a letter is revealed and one of the words is "populated". Completion of the word leads to the prize associated
- 30 therewith being awarded to the player that completes that word. Accordingly, it will be appreciate that at least two objects will remain in this example when a player completes a word and maybe more offers are made based on the likelihood on a word being completed.
- 35 It will be appreciated the second and third embodiment will typically be conducted in a network gaming

environment such as illustrated in Figure 5. However, persons skilled in the art will appreciate that the third and second embodiment can be carried out on a stand alone gaming machine with players taking it in turns to operate a single interface which is adapted to act as both a first and second player interface, for example, a touch screen interface can be readily reconfigured with a different display in order to allow first and second players to input different instructions.

10

These and other variations will be apparent to persons skilled in the art as falling within the scope of the invention described herein.

15 In the claims which follow and in the preceding description of the invention, except where the context requires otherwise due to express language or necessary implication, the word "comprise" or variations such as "comprises" or "comprising" is used in an inclusive sense,
20 i.e. to specify the presence of the stated features but not to preclude the presence or addition of further features in various embodiments of the invention.

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A method of gaming comprising:
 - (a) displaying a set of objects to a first
5 player;
 - (b) receiving at least one object selection
from the first player;
 - (c) receiving an award instruction from a
second player specifying an award that the first player
10 can accept or reject; and
 - (d) displaying the award to the first player so
that the first player can accept or reject the award.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, comprising:
 - (e) (i) if an acceptance instruction is
15 received from the first player, granting the first player
the displayed award or (ii) if a rejection instruction is
received from the first player rejecting the displayed
award, receiving at least one further object selection
20 instruction from the first player and a further award
instruction from the second player specifying an award;
and
 - (f) repeating steps (d) and (e) until (i) an
acceptance instruction is received from the first player
25 accepting the displayed award or (ii) another award
condition is met.
3. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein at least
one award condition is that a last object remains that
30 corresponds to a last prize.
4. A method as claimed in claim 2 or claim 3 wherein
at least one award condition is that a combination of
objects has been selected.
35
5. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4,
wherein if another award condition has not been met when

the first player accepts a displayed award, game play continues with the second player assuming the role of the first player and making object selections.

- 5 6. A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein further displayed awards are specified by a game controller.
7. A method as claimed in claim 5 wherein further displayed awards are specified by another player who
10 assumes the role of the second player.
8. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein there are a plurality of second players.
- 15 9. A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the plurality of second players are entitled to make concurrent award offers.
- 10 10. A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the plurality of second players are entitled to make award offers in turn.
- 25 11. A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the plurality of second players are entitled to take the role of the second player should the second player assume the role of the first player.
- 30 12. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 11 comprising executing a base game and commencing step (a) in response to occurrence of a trigger event in the base game.
- 35 13. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 12 comprising initially displaying a set of available prizes and making a prize unavailable in response to each object selection.

14. A gaming system comprising:

a first player interface comprising a display for displaying a set of objects to a first player, and an instruction input mechanism that enables a player to input at least one object selection instruction, and, optionally, an award acceptance instruction or an award rejection instruction;

a second player interface comprising an instruction input mechanism to enable a second player to input an award instruction specifying an award to be displayed to a first player; and

a game controller in data communication with the first and second player interfaces and configured to:

(a) cause the display of the first player interface to display to the first player an award based on the award instruction received from the second player that the first player can accept or reject.

15. A gaming system as claimed in claim 14 wherein the game controller is configured to:

(b) (i) if an acceptance instruction is received from the first player grant the first player the displayed award or, (ii) if rejection instruction is received from the first player, receive at least one further object selection instructions from a first player, and a further award instruction from a second player specifying an award to be displayed to a first player, and

the game controller is configured to repeat processes (b) and (c) until (i) an acceptance instruction is received or (ii) another award condition is met.

16. A gaming system as claimed in claim 15, wherein at least one award condition is that a last object remains that corresponds to a last prize.

17. A gaming system as claimed in claim 15 or claim 16 wherein at least one award condition is that a

combination of objects has been selected.

18. A gaming system as claimed in any one of claims 14 to 17, wherein if another award condition has not been met when the first player accepts a displayed award, the game controller continues game play with the second player assuming the role of the first player and making object selections.
19. A gaming system as claimed in claim 18, wherein further displayed awards are specified by the game controller.
20. A gaming system as claimed in claim 18 wherein further displayed awards are specified by award instructions input by another player who assumes the role of the second player.
21. A gaming system claimed in any one of claims 14 to 20, wherein the game controller executes a base game and is configured to receive the at least one object selection subsequent to occurrence of a trigger event in the base game.
22. A game controller for a gaming system comprising a memory storing a set of objects, the game controller configured to:
 - (a) receive (i) at least one object selection instruction from a first player specifying selection of an object from the set of objects, and (ii) an award instruction from a second player specifying an award to be displayed to a first player; and
 - (b) cause a first player display to display an award based on the received award instruction that the first player can accept or reject.
23. A game controller as claimed in claim 22, further

configured to:

- 5 (c) (i) if an acceptance instruction is received specifying that the first player accepts the displayed awards, grant the first player the displayed award or, (ii) if a rejection instruction is received specifying that the first player rejects the displayed award, receive at least one further object selection instruction and a further award instruction from a second player specifying an award to be displayed to a first
10 player; and
repeat processes (a), (b) and (c) until (i) an acceptance instruction is received or (ii) another award condition is met.
- 15 24. A game controller as claimed in claim 23, wherein at least one award condition is that a last object remains that corresponds to a last prize.
- 20 25. A game controller as claimed in claim 23 or claim 24 wherein at least one award condition is that a combination of objects has been selected.
- 25 26. A game controller as claimed in any one of claims 23 to 25, wherein if another award condition has not been met when the first player accepts a displayed award, the game controller continues game play with the second player assuming the role of the first player and the game controller receiving object selections from the second
30 player.
27. A game controller as claimed in claim 26, wherein further displayed awards are specified by the game controller.
- 35 28. A game controller as claimed in claim 18 wherein further displayed awards are specified by award instructions received from another player who assumes the

role of the second player.

29. A game controller claimed in any one of claims 23 to 28, wherein the game controller executes a base game and is configured to receive the at least one object selection subsequent to occurrence of a trigger event in the base game.

30. Computer program code which when executed causes a computer to implement the method of any one of claims 1 to 13.

31. A computer readable medium comprising the computer program code of claim 30.

32. A method of gaming comprising:
 (i) conducting a first selection round by
 (a) displaying a set of objects to a first player;
 (b) receiving at least one object selection from the first player, and
 (c) displaying an award to the first player that the first player can accept or reject; and
 (ii) conducting at least a second selection round if the first player does not accept the displayed award, the second pick round comprising at least one further object selection being made other than by the first player.

33. A method as claimed in claim 32 the further object selection is made by a game controller.

34. A method as claimed in claim 32 wherein the further object selection is made by a second player.

35. A method as claimed in any one of claims 32 to 34 wherein subsequent to the further object selection a

further award is displayed to the second player.

36. A method as claimed in claims 33 or claim 34 comprising continuing play with at least one additional object selection made other than by the second player.

37. A method as claimed in claim 36, wherein the additional selection is made by a third player.

38. A method as claimed in claim 36, wherein the additional selection is made by the first player, and the first and second players continue to alternate selections until an award is accepted.

39. A method as claimed in any one of claims 32 to 38 comprising initially displaying a set of available prizes and making a prize unavailable in response to each object selection.

40. A game controller for a gaming system comprising: a memory for storing a set of objects, the game controller configured to:

(i) conduct a first selection round during which the game controller is configured to:

(a) cause a first player display a set of objects to a first player;

(b) receive at least one object selection instruction from the first player specifying an object of the set of objects and make the object identified by the selection unavailable;

(c) cause the first player display to display an award to the first player that the first player can accept or reject; and

(ii) conduct at least a second selection round if the first player does not accept the displayed award during which at least one further object is selected other than by the first player.

41. A gaming system comprising:
a player interface having an instruction input
mechanism;
5 a first player display for displaying a set of
objects to a first player; and
a game controller, the game controller configured
to:
(i) conduct a first selection round during
10 which the game controller is configured to:
(a) cause a first player display to
display a set of objects to a first player;
(b) receive at least one object selection
instruction from the first player and make the object
15 identified by the selection unavailable;
(c) cause the first player display to
display an award to the first player that the first player
can accept or reject; and
(ii) conduct at least a second round if the
20 first player does not accept the displayed award during
which at least one further object is selected other than
by the first player.
42. Computer program code which when executed causes
25 a computer to implement the method of any one of claims 32
to 39.
43. A computer readable medium comprising the
computer program code of claim 42.
30

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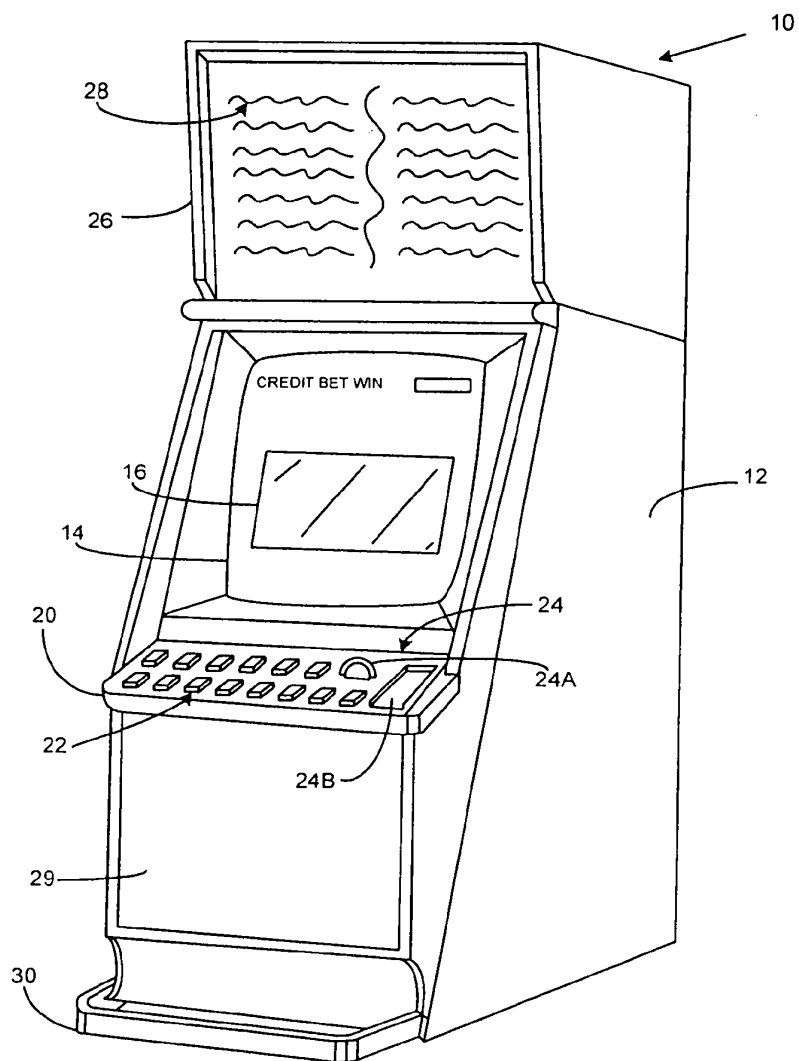
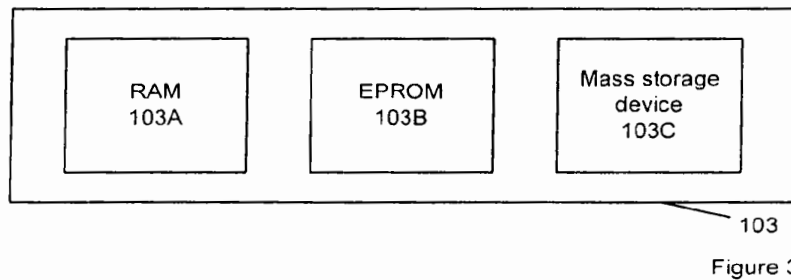
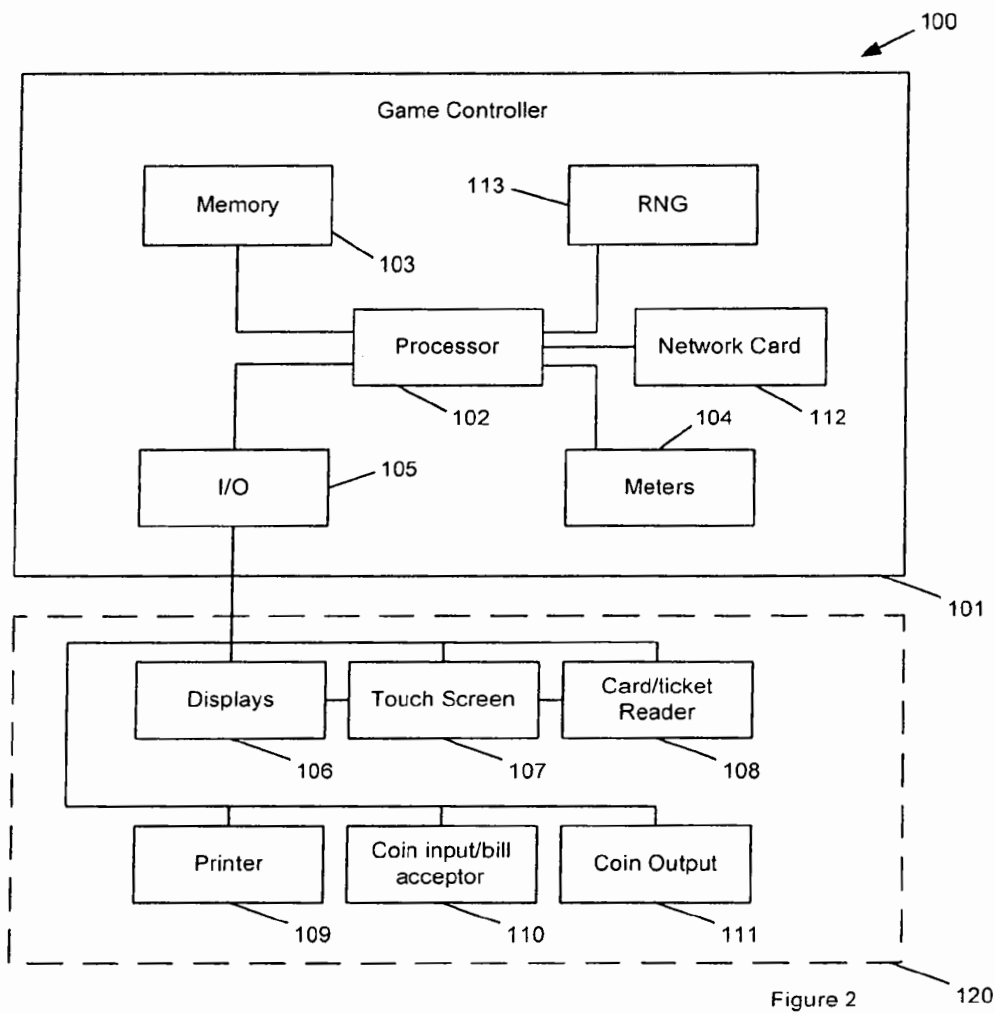


Figure 1



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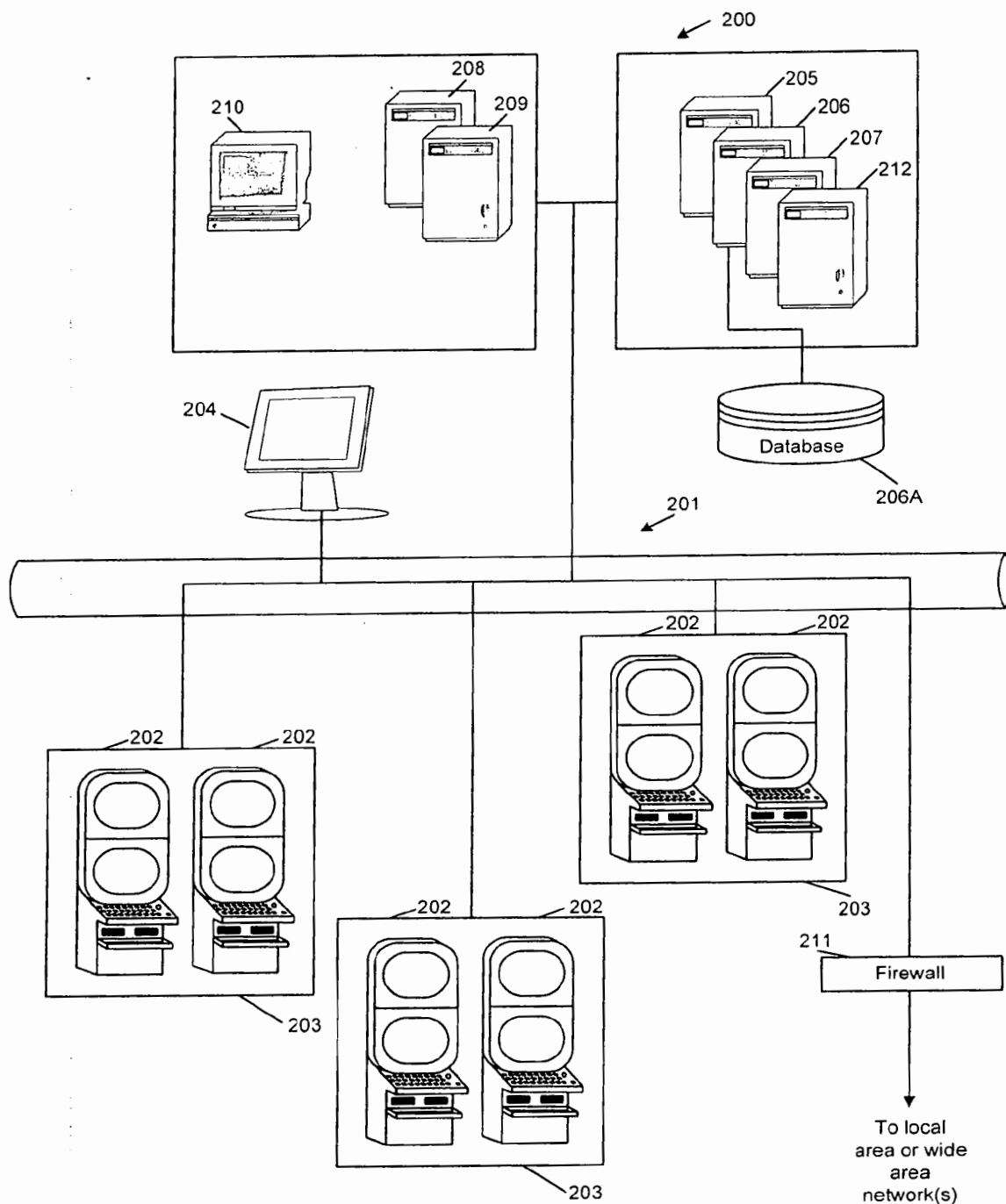


Figure 4

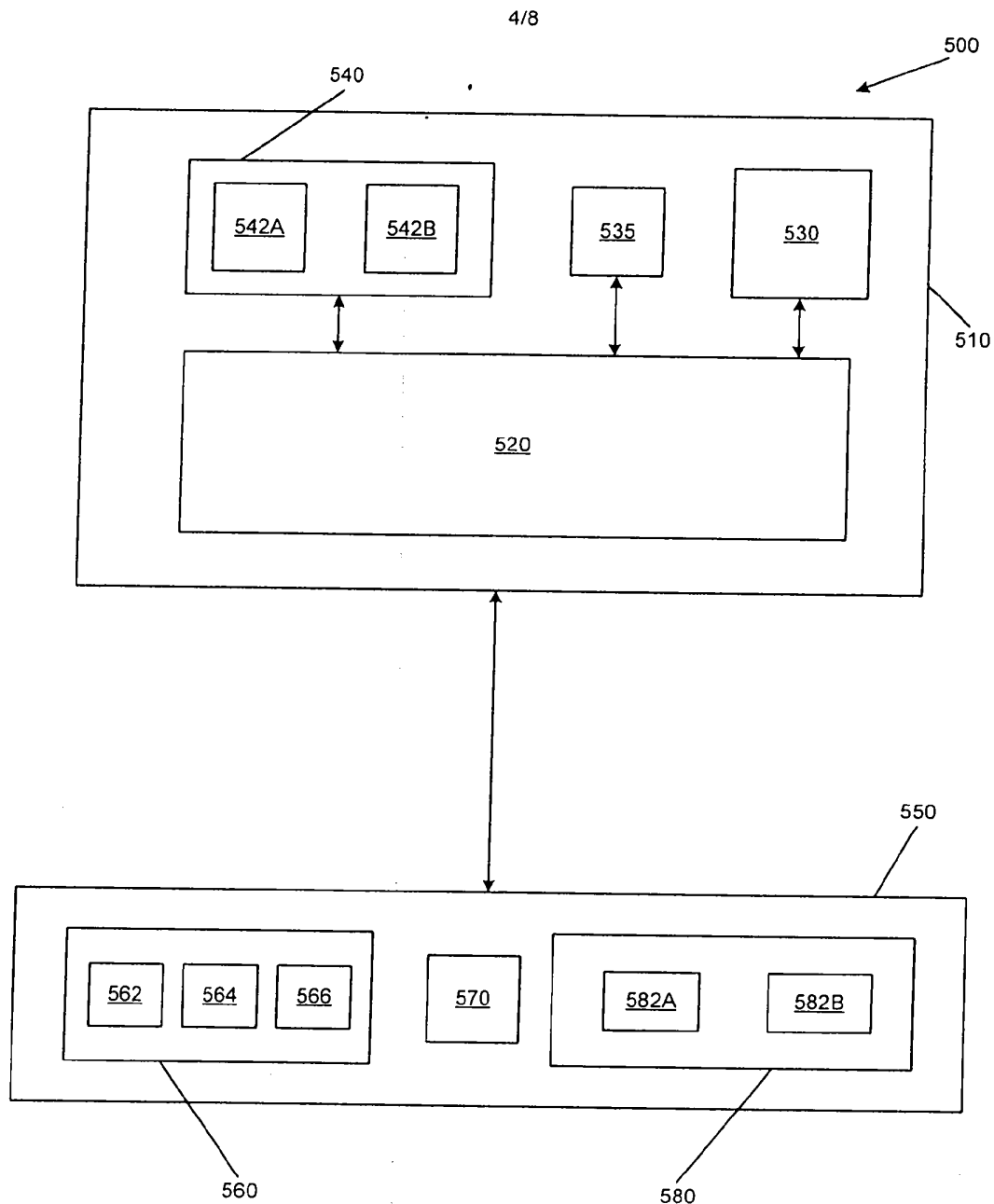


Figure 5

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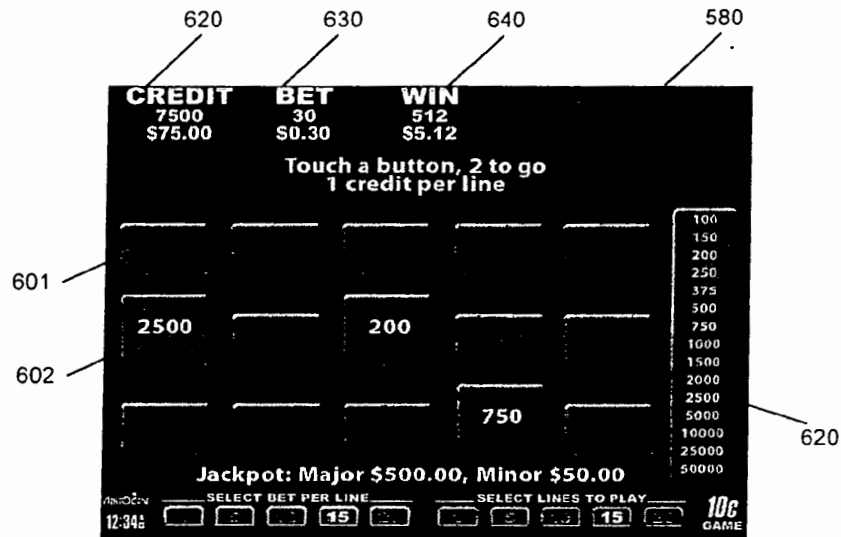


Figure 6

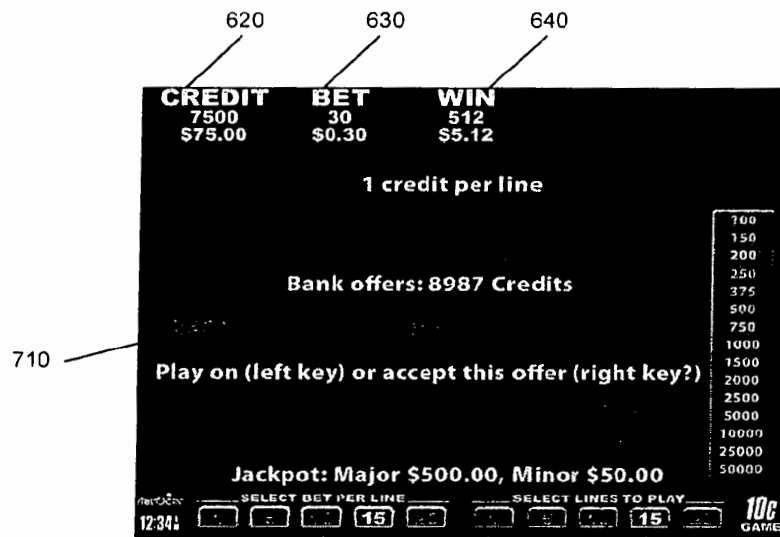


Figure 7

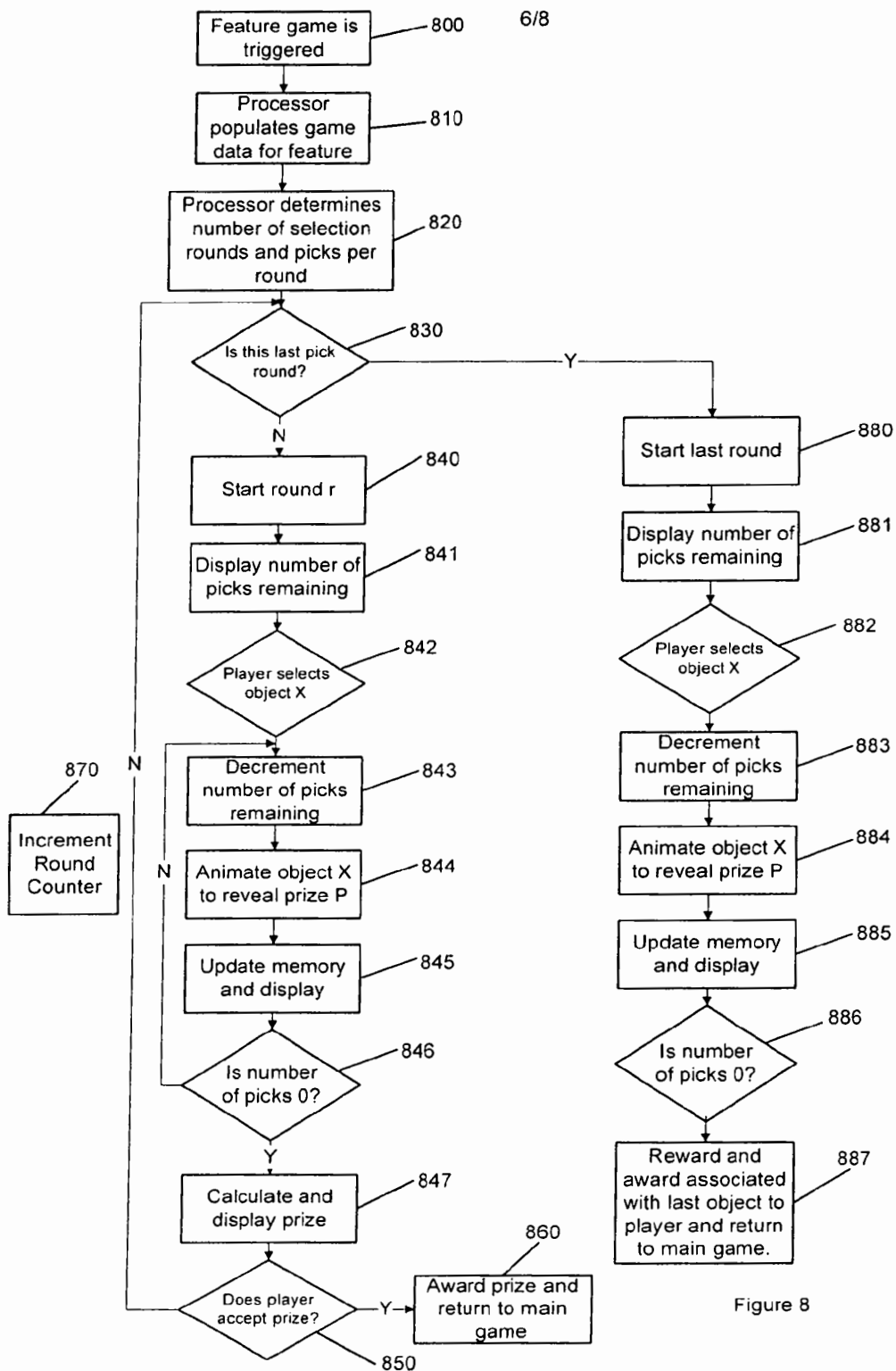


Figure 8

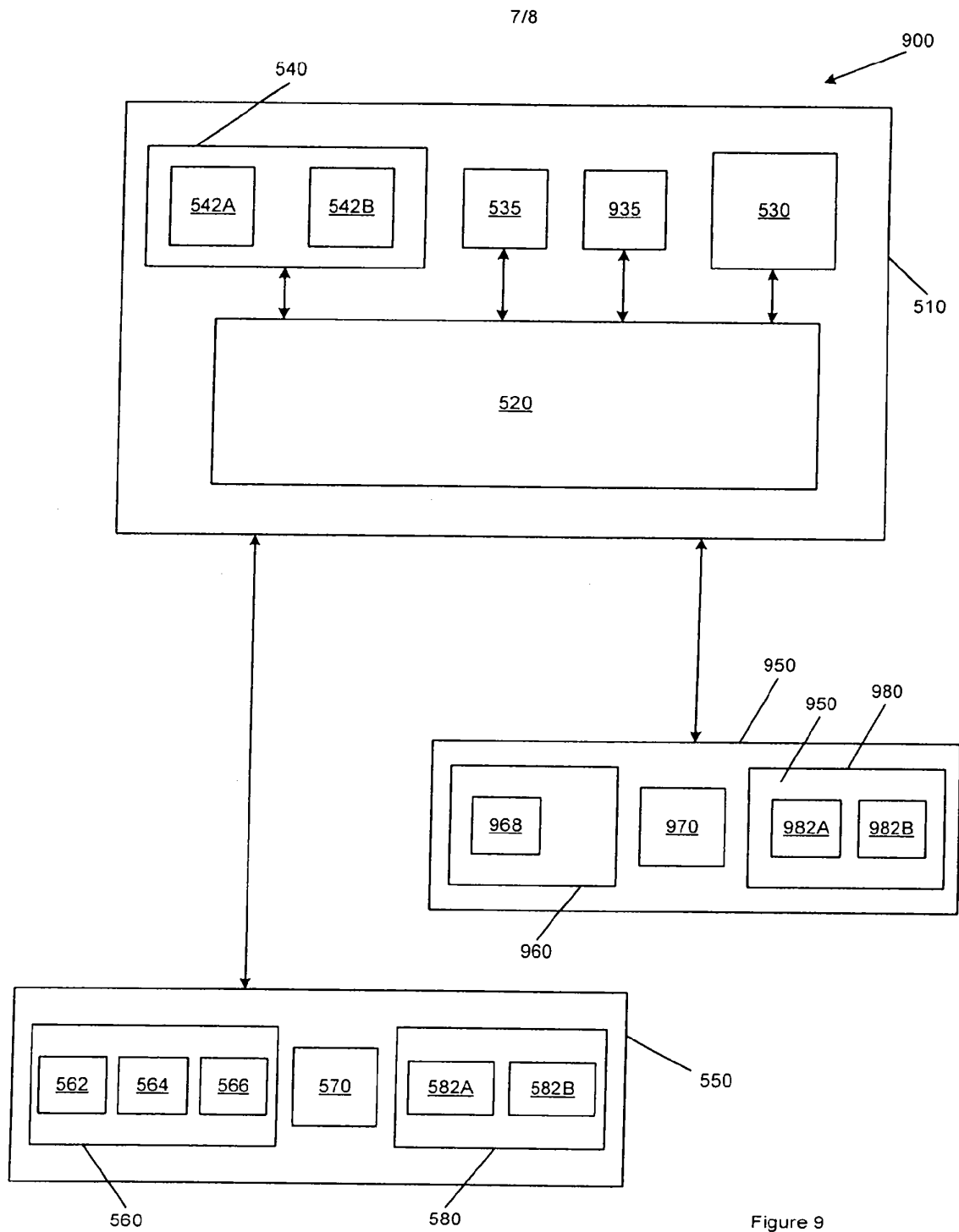


Figure 9

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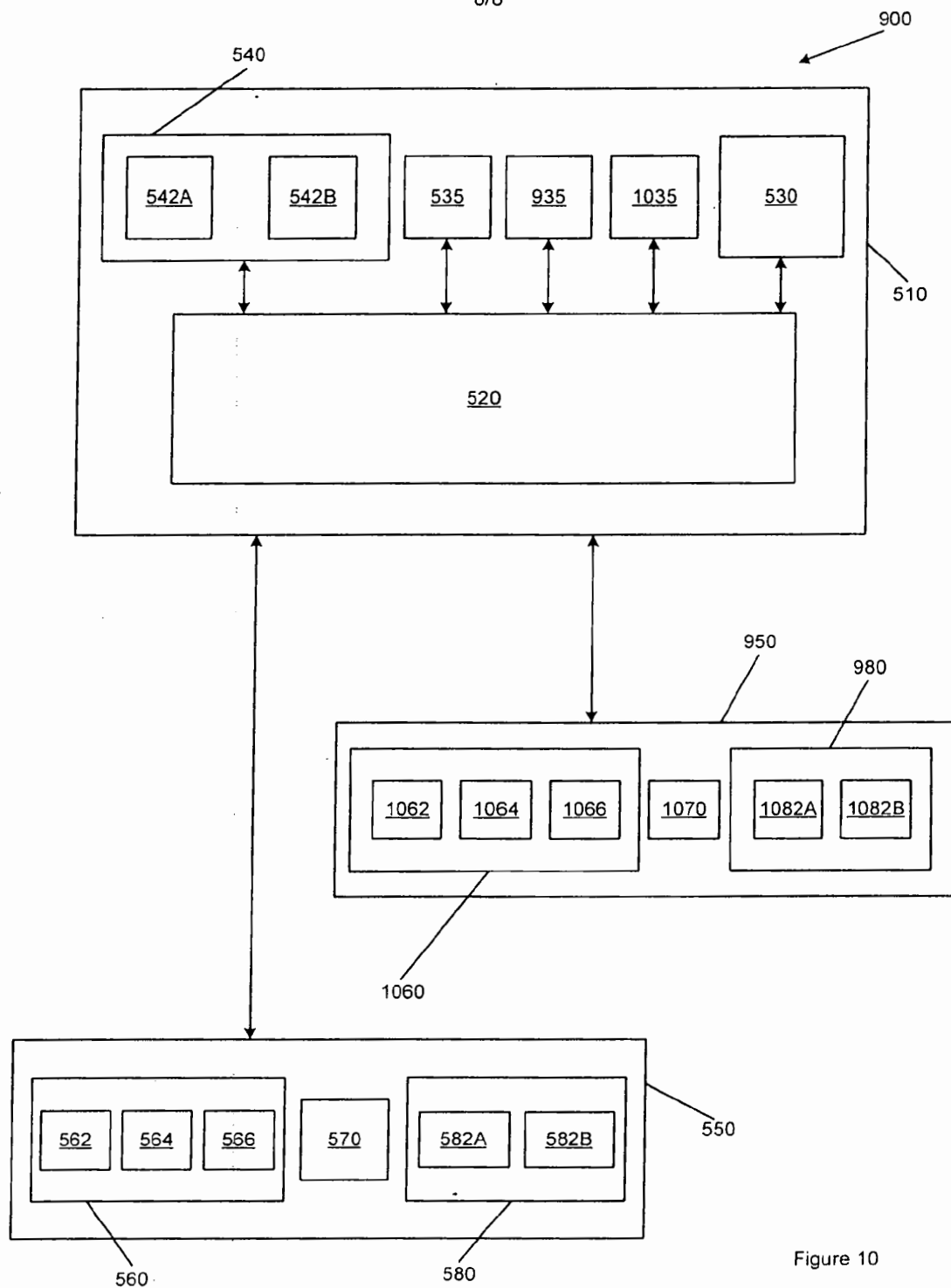


Figure 10

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt	
EFS ID:	23351499
Application Number:	14833572
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	5741
Title of Invention:	WAGERING APPARATUS, METHODS AND SYSTEMS
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Bernard J. Marantelli
Customer Number:	35811
Filer:	Paul A. Taufer/Nancy Nunez
Filer Authorized By:	Paul A. Taufer
Attorney Docket Number:	COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON
Receipt Date:	31-AUG-2015
Filing Date:	
Time Stamp:	09:42:14
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment		no			
File Listing:					
Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1		IDS.pdf	106245	yes	3
			0231bd2e53e8189855c1b26710647b91e7 bc6cd8		

	Multipart Description/PDF files in .zip description								
	Document Description		Start	End					
	Transmittal Letter		1	1					
	Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Form (SB08)		2	3					
Warnings:									
Information:									
2	Foreign Reference	AU2011205028A1.pdf	1498970	no	45				
			7003413f30714e5c778508a494933113e64de81a						
Warnings:									
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Total Files Size (in bytes):			1605215						
This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503. <u>New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111</u> If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application. <u>National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371</u> If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course. <u>New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office</u> If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.									

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Art Unit	:		Customer No.: 035811
Examiner	:		
Serial No.	:	14/833,572	
Filed	:	August 24, 2015	Docket No.: COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON
Inventors	:	Bernard J. Marantelli	Confirmation No.: 5741
Title	:	WAGERING APPARATUS,	
	:	METHODS AND SYSTEMS	Dated: August 31, 2015

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

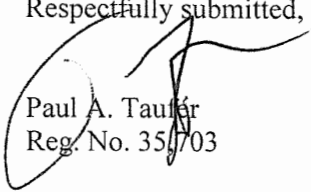
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The Applicant encloses Form PTO-1449 together with a copy of a listed non-US publication. The document is submitted under 37 CFR §1.56 and is believed related to this application.

The Applicant respectfully requests that this Information Disclosure Statement be officially entered into the file and that appropriate notification be made that it was considered by the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,


Paul A. Tauler
Reg. No. 35,703

PAT/nn
(215) 656-3385

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Customer No. 035811

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of

Inventor(s): Bernard J. Marantelli

For: WAGERING APPARATUS, METHODS AND SYSTEMS

We submit herewith:

☒ 44 pages of Specification, 17 pages of Claims, 1 page Abstract, 5 pages of Drawings
☐ Declaration
☒ Application Data Sheet
☒ Power of Attorney by Applicant
☐ Information Disclosure Statement with Form PTO-1449 and copy of ___ publication(s)

The filing fee has been calculated as shown below:

For	Number Filed	Number Extra
Basic Fee (electronically filed)	---	---
Search Fee	---	---
Examination Fee	---	---
Total Claims	75 Minus 20 =	55
Independent Claims	4 Minus 3 =	1
Application Size Fee	If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, the application size fee due is \$400 (\$200 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof.	
Multiple Dependent Claim(s) Present		

SMALL ENTITY	
Rate	Fee
\$70.00	\$ 70.00
\$300.00	\$ 300.00
\$360.00	\$ 360.00
x 40.00 =	\$2,200.00
x 210.00 =	\$ 210.00
\$200.00	\$
\$390.00	\$

OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY	
Rate	Fee
\$280.00	\$
\$600.00	\$
\$720.00	\$
x 80.00 =	\$
x 420.00 =	\$
\$400.00	\$
\$780.00	\$

TOTAL FEE \$3,140.00 OR

\$ _____

☒ Please charge my Deposit Account No. 50-2719 in the amount of \$3,140.00.

☒ In regard to this communication, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional filing fees required under 37 CFR §1.16 and any additional patent application processing fees under 37 CFR §1.17 or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2719.

☒ During the pendency of this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any filing fees for presentation of extra claims under 37 CFR §1.16 and any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR §1.17 or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2719.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul A. Taufer, Reg. No 35,703.

Date: August 24, 2015
PAT/nn
(215) 656-3385

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Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76		Attorney Docket Number	COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON
		Application Number	
Title of Invention	WAGERING APPARATUS, METHODS AND SYSTEMS		
The application data sheet is part of the provisional or nonprovisional application for which it is being submitted. The following form contains the bibliographic data arranged in a format specified by the United States Patent and Trademark Office as outlined in 37 CFR 1.76. This document may be completed electronically and submitted to the Office in electronic format using the Electronic Filing System (EFS) or the document may be printed and included in a paper filed application.			

Secrecy Order 37 CFR 5.2

☐ Portions or all of the application associated with this Application Data Sheet may fall under a Secrecy Order pursuant to 37 CFR 5.2 (Paper filers only. Applications that fall under Secrecy Order may not be filed electronically.)

Inventor Information:

Inventor 1					Remove
Legal Name					
Prefix	Given Name	Middle Name	Family Name	Suffix	
	Bernard	J.	Marantelli		
Residence Information (Select One) ☐ US Residency ☒ Non US Residency ☐ Active US Military Service					
City	London	Country of Residence i	UK		
Mailing Address of Inventor:					
Address 1	89B Fitzjohns Avenue				
Address 2					
City	London	State/Province			
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All Inventors Must Be Listed - Additional Inventor Information blocks may be generated within this form by selecting the Add button.					Add

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☐ An Address is being provided for the correspondence Information of this application.			
Customer Number	35811		
Email Address	pto.phil@dlapiper.com	Add Email	Remove Email

Application Information:

Title of the Invention	WAGERING APPARATUS, METHODS AND SYSTEMS		
Attorney Docket Number	COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON	Small Entity Status Claimed	☐
Application Type	Nonprovisional		
Subject Matter	Utility		
Total Number of Drawing Sheets (if any)	5	Suggested Figure for Publication (if any)	

Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76		Attorney Docket Number	COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON
		Application Number	
Title of Invention	WAGERING APPARATUS, METHODS AND SYSTEMS		

Filing By Reference :

Only complete this section when filing an application by reference under 35 U.S.C. 111(c) and 37 CFR 1.57(a). Do not complete this section if application papers including a specification and any drawings are being filed. Any domestic benefit or foreign priority information must be provided in the appropriate section(s) below (i.e., "Domestic Benefit/National Stage Information" and "Foreign Priority Information").

For the purposes of a filing date under 37 CFR 1.53(b), the description and any drawings of the present application are replaced by this reference to the previously filed application, subject to conditions and requirements of 37 CFR 1.57(a).

Application number of the previously filed application	Filing date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Intellectual Property Authority or Country of origin

Publication Information:

☐ Request Early Publication (Fee required at time of Request 37 CFR 1.219)

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Prior Application Status	Pending	Remove	
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)
	Continuation of	14449541	2014-08-01
Prior Application Status	Pending	Remove	
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)
14449541	Continuation in part of	14275136	2014-05-12

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Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76		Attorney Docket Number		COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON	
		Application Number			
Title of Invention		WAGERING APPARATUS, METHODS AND SYSTEMS			
Prior Application Status		Patented		Remove	
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)
14275136	Continuation of	13958028	2013-08-02	8721439	2014-05-13
Prior Application Status		Patented		Remove	
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)
13958028	Continuation in part of	13605813	2012-09-06	8602884	2013-12-10
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This application (1) claims priority to or the benefit of an application filed before March 16, 2013 and (2) also contains, or contained at any time, a claim to a claimed invention that has an effective filing date on or after March 16, 2013. ☐ NOTE: By providing this statement under 37 CFR 1.55 or 1.78, this application, with a filing date on or after March 16, 2013, will be examined under the first inventor to file provisions of the AIA.
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Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76		Attorney Docket Number	COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON
		Application Number	
Title of Invention	WAGERING APPARATUS, METHODS AND SYSTEMS		

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Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76		Attorney Docket Number	COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON
		Application Number	
Title of Invention	WAGERING APPARATUS, METHODS AND SYSTEMS		

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Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76		Attorney Docket Number	COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON	
		Application Number		
Title of Invention	WAGERING APPARATUS, METHODS AND SYSTEMS			

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Signature	/PAT/			Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2015-08-24
First Name	Paul	Last Name	Taufer	Registration Number	35703
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Please recognize or change the correspondence address for the application identified in the attached Transmittal for Power of Attorney to One or More Registered Practitioners to:

035811

I am the Applicant:

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DIOGENES LIMITED

Date: 02.08.2013

By: [Signature] G. Connolly

Name: M. KERNOWS G. CONNOLLY

Title: DIRECTOR DIRECTOR

EAST\56958906.1

WAGERING APPARATUS, METHODS AND SYSTEMS

BACKGROUND

[0001] There are a range of betting and lottery products in the market. For example, there are pure pool betting products, such as the Pick 6 horse racing product in the United States and the Scoop 6 racing product (among others) in the United Kingdom. There are also sports betting products such as soccer individual games and/or pool wagering products. Pick 6 and Scoop 6 provides a six leg jackpot type bet that may also include a bonus pool and consolation prizes. The product type is relatively successful and provides players with a chance to win a large sum by betting on six races on a given race day. Similar multiple leg pool wagering is allowed for other types of racing events and multiple sports events.

[0002] In the United Kingdom, there also presently exists a free to play game offered by Skybet, the ‘Super 6’ whereby players are allowed to make just one set of soccer correct score selections to try to win a guaranteed payout. The Super 6 also has some similarities to the traditional soccer pools product but is different in that it is not predicting draws and only six selections are necessary. Many countries have similar pool products where players are asked to select winners in six or seven horse or dog races and can win a share of a large pool. In the United States, numerous states have lotteries where players select for example six numbers and purchase a lottery ticket for a specific drawing. There is also a “Mega Millions” game in which several states participate in a pooled jackpot. The correct selection of all six numbers allows the ticket bearer to claim all or a portion of the pooled jackpot, depending on the number of winning tickets.

[0003] The traditional soccer pools products in the United Kingdom offer a large payout if the player can select a large number of matches that result in a draw – particularly a score draw. Within soccer betting, correct score betting is the second most popular market after the central Home/Draw/Away (“H/D/A”) markets. A prominent United Kingdom based betting and gaming company recently reported that 84% of its retail (i.e. in betting shops) soccer bets were coupon based accumulators. Almost 90% of those are on four-fold and above. A four-fold is four selections, so 90% of the bets are on four selections and more. By comparison, in online betting, twice as many bets are singles as is the case in betting shops, and only 55% are four-fold and above.

[0004] Within this market segment, there is a need for new products to generate and maintain consumer interest.

SUMMARY

[0005] The present disclosure is directed to a market gap for the creation of a unique betting product where players make selections in a number of different legs which, as defined below, can include any of a variety of different discrete events (e.g., an auto race), partial events (e.g., an inning of a baseball game, a set in tennis), components of events (e.g., one or more at bats by a particular player in baseball game or numbers selected in a particular position in a lottery drawing), multiple independent events (e.g., two football games that may occur sequentially or concurrently) and/or compilations of events (e.g., a championship series). Those players who correctly select all (or some predefined portion) of the winners of each leg have an opportunity to solely obtain and/or share in the proceeds of the stakes of all the other players, less any applicable deduction to cover operating costs and/or operator profit, and have the opportunity to win a prize. For example, in multi-leg event pools, prizes may include without limit a full or fractional portion of a Jackpot Pool (e.g., for all correct selections), potentially a Bonus Pool (e.g., for one additional outcome the following week, game, or event) and/or a possible Consolation Pool (e.g., for a subset of correct selections, or other pre-defined forms of partial correctness, such as, for example: did a horse place for consolation, rather than win for jackpot). As another example, if the multi-leg event accommodates accumulator or parlay wagering, the players that correctly select the outcomes of each leg (or any other number of designated legs, for instance) have an opportunity to solely obtain and/or share one or more prizes.

[0006] In either case, if no player selects a correct winning combination of results, as one example, the amounts staked available to win may be carried forward until a next betting cycle, for example the next week, and may be available to win by anyone selecting a correct combination of outcomes, or alternatively all or any portion of the amounts staked available to win may be retained by an operator or other designated entity. As should be understood, although not explicitly disclosed herein, there are many other outcome for how the amounts staked available to win may be handled and/or disposed of, and should be considered incorporated herein.

[0007] However, to ensure that a significant prize is available in the first cycle or first week or after a prize is claimed, in one example it is contemplated that there may be an operator

guaranteed amount available to win each time the games are played, at least until significant reserves have been built up.

[0008] Notably, various implementations may be betting scenarios or alternatively in other implementations players may choose to play just for fun, where no stakes are actually wagered.

[0009] A unique differentiator of the product of the present disclosure may be that at any desired time after initiation of an event (such as at any time after a “ticket” is purchased until completion of an event, after each leg has been completed, between legs, including potentially as a leg is “in-play”, and/or during a designated span of time before, during and/or after any of the legs), any desired number of players who remain eligible for a prize (and potentially those still eligible for bonus and/or consolation prizes) or to win or have correct (win) predictions for each of the events or legs that are completed, may be offered a “buy-out” or an opportunity to sell their tickets (in whole or alternatively may be in part (i.e., a fractional amount) to the game operator or through the game operator (or alternatively directly) to a third party (e.g., one or more system operator(s), business entity or entities such as a merchant(s), one or more other persons, other player(s), etc.). Thus, for example, the game operator (or any other entity) may offer the player a fractional amount of the potential Jackpot Pool to buy the ticket for the still pending game(s) and thereby provide the player the opportunity to cash in and avoid the risk of being eliminated on a later leg or the final event. In other examples, a ticket held by players may be comprised of one or more divisions, and the buy-out offer or sale may involve just certain divisions of the ticket, so that those divisions are sold but the player retains ownership of the remaining divisions of the ticket. In yet another example, a ticket held by a player may include an accumulator or parlay wager, in which case the player may receive (or initiate) a buy-out offer or sale for a fractional amount of a prize (e.g., a jackpot), and which may occur at any time, such as before, during and/or after any of the legs specified by the wager have been completed.

[0010] In addition to the Jackpot Pool or final Jackpot, there are other pools that could form part of the pool game. Part of the amount staked could be reserved to provide one or more Consolation Pool(s) which may be won by those who correctly select a portion of the correct outcomes or another consolation scenario. As an example, a player may be eligible for a Consolation Pool by selecting “any 5” of a Breeder’s Cup Pick 6 pool, 5 of 7 such as V75 (a Swedish multi-leg pool bet based on the sport of ‘trotting’), or every selection “placed” in the event every selection did not win, as is the consolations in the UK scoop6. In addition, another

part of the amount staked could be reserved to provide a Bonus Pool which will be available to winners of the main pool, if they are able to select additional outcomes after they have successfully won the Jackpot Pool. In addition, the players that correctly select the winners of any number of legs can also win one or more interim Jackpots that occurs prior to completion of the event. Thus, the amount staked for the various interim Jackpots would be different than the final Jackpot, which occurs where there is a winner(s) of the last leg that occurs at the end of the event. When either of these pools are offered, any purchaser of a ticket such as the operator discussed above would become the owner of the rights in the ticket with respect to the opportunity to win the Consolation Pool(s), interim Jackpot(s) or Bonus Pool.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0011] FIG. 1 is a schematic representation of a wagering system hardware and network connected to various wagering stations or wagering terminals and other devices which may be used in accordance with an aspect of the present disclosure.

[0012] FIG. 2 is a more detailed schematic representation of the wagering system hardware and network that controls the operation of the system of FIG. 1.

[0013] FIG. 3 is a block diagram of the functional architecture of a program for the wagering system hardware of Fig. 2.

[0014] FIG. 4 is a table depicting goal expectancy for six years across the main soccer leagues and the World Cup.

[0015] FIG. 5 is an exemplary flow chart of the logic of the software subroutine program of the central server system.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0016] The present disclosure is directed to a new betting product developed for a wide range of applications, including any event where betting may be utilized or even scenarios where play is just for fun, such as, and without limitation, any type of actual or virtual sporting event or any type of game; for instance, one implementation may apply to the most globally bet upon sport in the world, soccer and specifically United Kingdom Premier League soccer. The concept, however, has more widespread applications and potential appeal, and thus it may be applied to other types of sporting events (i.e., American football, horse racing, car racing, hockey, baseball, basketball, lacrosse, wrestling, just as a few examples) as well as being expanded to other events such as games (both virtual and real), including but not limited to, virtual and real card games

(e.g., jacks, poker, blackjack, Texas hold 'em, etc.), lotteries, racing, slot machines and other multi-leg/multi-events/multi-outcome or divisible games (such as games or sets in tennis, innings in baseball, etc.), or any combinations of desired events. Further, the betting product of the present disclosure is suitable for "betting for fun," which is betting with no actual stakes at risk.

[0017] As a result, it should be understood that the present disclosure has application to any type of event, including but not limited to, any event where betting may or may not be utilized or where play is just for fun, and further can be applied to any sporting and non-sporting games. Such scope includes, as an example, the fantasy genre, which encompasses a wide array of both sporting and non-sporting events. For purposes of illustration only and without limitation, the fantasy genre covers sports, politics, sales, stocks, celebrity gossip, movies, and reality TV, as just some illustrative examples. Other fantasy genre's not specifically mentioned are also covered by this disclosure. In the sporting area, the fantasy genre covers all types of games, including without limitation, football ("soccer"), American football, Australian rules football, baseball, cricket, basketball, golf, hockey, auto racing, legends, rugby, wrestling, surfing, mixed martial arts, alone or any in any combination, as just a few illustrative examples. For illustrative purposes, a fantasy sport (also known as rotisserie, roto, or owner simulation) is a game where participants act as owners to build a team or collections of players or events, etc. that competes against other fantasy owners based on the statistics generated by the real (or virtual) individual players or teams of a sport or sports. Probably the most common variant converts statistical performance into points that are compiled and totaled according to the roster of players that makes up a fantasy team. In many instances the players making up a fantasy team are selected by each participant (commonly referred to as a fantasy team "manager" or "owner") through a draft. In another variant, each participant may pick teams from a league or leagues instead of players. Other variants are also possible. The point systems are calculated and tracked, such as by a "league commissioner" and/or by use of computer modeling of actual games based on statistical input generated by the sport or other event at issue. The particular statistical performance factors that are utilized and tracked may vary from sport to sport and league to league as may be desired. In fantasy sports there is the ability to draft, trade, cut, and/or sign players, etc. like a real sports owner. There are several different types of fantasy leagues, for example and without limitation, public leagues, private leagues, commissioner leagues, head-to-head leagues, total points leagues, keeper leagues, dynasty keep leagues, developmental dynasty leagues, salary cap

leagues, auction leagues, daily fantasy sports, daily fantasy, playoff fantasy, survivor fantasy leagues, and simulation leagues, etc. A fantasy sport as well as any other fantasy events may be facilitated over any sort of network, including any public and/or private networks, such as the internet, an intranet, an extranet, or any similar manner known or otherwise described herein.

[0018] FIG. 1 is a schematic of an exemplary wagering system hardware and network that will be used herein to describe and illustrate one implementation of the present disclosure. The system includes a network, including a system controller, for example, such as based on a central server system 12 being interconnected through the internet 10 to a plurality of wager input devices such as wagering stations 14, wagering terminals (including self-service wagering terminals) 16, and internet connected computing systems 18, smart phones 20, tablet computers 22 and televisions 24 each of which is representative of a plurality of each type of wager input device (e.g. wagering stations 14A-N). As should be understood the term “system controller” should be broadly construed to comprise any hardware device or devices that includes at least one central processing unit (CPU) or other processing device and associated memory. As will also be discussed below, the concepts herein may also be applied to gaming machines, so gaming machine 26 is depicted as an additional input device to the central server system 12 in Fig. 1. The term “leg” as used herein should be broadly construed and may comprise any desired number of individual components of any type of event, such as any type of game or sporting event. For example, and without limitation, a leg may comprise a sporting event in its entirety, such as a soccer game, American football game, horse race, car race, hockey game, baseball game, basketball game, lacrosse game, wrestling match, etc., any portion of a sporting event, such as an inning of baseball, a half of a soccer game, a single horse race, a quarter of an American football game, a single wrestling match, etc., an occurrence within an event or game, such as a particular player scoring a goal (e.g., in hockey or soccer), a particular player getting a hit in a baseball game, or any other statistical performance factors of a player or players and/or a team that may be tracked with any sporting event(s), such as occurring in fantasy games, or a combination of games or events such as the World Series in baseball or any other sports playoff series. In addition, as an example and without limitation, a leg may comprise any desired number of individual components of any game or a game in its entirety, virtual and real, such as, for instance, and without limitation, keno, jacks, poker, blackjack, Texas hold 'em, racing, video games (including live and online video games, as examples), slot machines, lotteries and fantasy

games, etc. As one example, with respect to slot machines, a separate leg may correspond to each reel (whether virtual or mechanical), or any particular number or designated reels, of the slot machine. As another example, with respect to a lottery, a separate leg may correspond to each item, or any particular number or designated items, used to determine who may have won a given lottery, such as numbered balls. As another example, with respect to a card game (e.g., whether virtual or mechanical, etc.), a separate leg may correspond to each card, or any particular number or designated cards, that are played in a given card game. As another example, with respect to fantasy games, for purposes of illustration only and without limitation, a separate leg may correspond to each or any desired number of fantasy games played by a team in a fantasy league during the fantasy league season, and/or may correspond to any defined number of statistical performance factors that are tracked for any player(s), and/or may be defined as a time period within a game, such as the first quarter or half, etc. As should be understood, however, the amount and nature of the individual components that comprises a leg may vary widely in a given application as may be desired, such as ranging anywhere from one (i.e., an entire event) to a plurality of individual components (i.e., parts of an event, such as reels of a slot machine, numbers in a lottery, cards in a card game, portions of a game or sporting event, particular statistical performance factors or a fantasy team or player, etc.).

[0019] The wager stations 14 and wagering terminals 16 of FIG. 1 are depicted in an exemplary only embodiments, but as known in the art they may include a support structure, housing or cabinet which provides support for a plurality of displays, inputs, controls and other features of a conventional wager terminal. The wagering stations 14 may be configured so that users can be the party placing a wager, while the wagering terminals 16 may be configured for an operator at a commercial location such as a store or betting facility. The wager stations 14 and wagering terminals 16 may be positioned on a base or stand or can be configured as a table-top which a user can operate preferably while sitting. The wagering stations 14 and wagering terminals 16 may further include a device for accepting a monetary value associated with a wager wherein the device may include, for example, a coin collector, a bill collector or a card reader. The wagering stations 14 and wagering terminals 16 may further include one or more of a display, a card reader/writer and/or a ticket and/or voucher printer to visually display, store on a card and/or a player account(s), and/or print wager receipts and potentially vouchers representing cash-out values and successful play awards (e.g., an “award” or “awards” as defined herein shall

be broadly construed and shall include, without limitation, a designated currency, virtual currency, tokens, credits, coupons, services, personal or real property, virtual property, assets, investments, negotiable instruments (such as checks), commodities, food, lodging, entertainment, alleviation of obligations, recognition (such as being named on a leaderboard on a website or other), gaming opportunities, wager enhancement and/or any other benefit(s) or portions thereof that may be provided or otherwise offered to a player). The wagering stations 14 and wagering terminals 16 may also include a ticket or voucher reader and/or a dispenser for dispensing a monetary amount, such as, without limitation, cash, virtual currency and/or tokens, etc. For example, the ticket or voucher reader may be adapted to read and allocate credits or other value associated with a ticket or voucher to one or more players and/or player accounts. The bill collector, ticket or voucher reader and dispenser may be separate or integrated into a single sub-unit.

[0020] The wager stations 14 and wagering terminals 16 preferably include at least one processor, such as a microprocessor, a microcontroller-based platform, a suitable integrated circuit or one or more application-specific integrated circuits (ASIC's). The processor is in communication with or operable to access or to exchange signals with at least one data storage or memory device. The processor and the memory device reside within the cabinet. The memory device stores program code and instructions, executable by the processor, to control the wager stations 14 and wagering terminals 16 and communicate with the central server system 12. The memory device also stores other data such as image data, event data, user input data, ticket tracking assignment generators, pay-table data or information and applicable rules that relate to the operation of the wager stations 14 and wagering terminals 16 and the particular type of buy-out method and process described herein.

[0021] It is also contemplated that an operator or a player can use a computing system 18, such as a desktop computer, a laptop personal computer, a personal digital assistant (PDA) or smartphone 20, portable tablet computing device 22, or other computerized platform or interactive web-enabled television 24 to access the central server system 12 via a network, internet or intranet, so as to initiate a wager and access the collective wagering pool. In this implementation, it is contemplated the users' devices would also receive messages and the buy-out offers discussed below from the pool operator via the central server system 12, so that the

individual user could participate in the wagering system and buy-back option via the user's connected device.

[0022] It is contemplated that the wager stations 14, wager terminals 16 and/or personal computing systems 18, as well as the smart phones 20, tablet computers 22 and televisions 24 disclosed herein may be operable over a wired or wireless network, such as part of a wired or wireless wagering system. In this embodiment, the computing systems 18 may be a hand held device, a mobile device or any other suitable wireless device that enables a user to participate in the pooled wagering system at any suitable location. It is contemplated that the computing systems 18 or at least the server system as disclosed herein may be a device that has obtained approval from a regulatory agency or commission or a device that has not obtained or require approval from a regulatory agency or commission. FIG. 2 is a more detailed schematic representation of the wagering system hardware of the central server system 12 that controls the operation of the system of FIG. 1. The central server system 12 may include one or more rack mounted server computers 120 each with at least one central processing unit (CPU) or other processing device and associated memory. As an example only, the rack mounted server computers 120 of FIG. 2 may be PowerEdge R420 Rack Chassis devices having a 300 GB hard drive, one or two Intel Xeon E5-2450 processors, 24 GB memories with RAID connectivity using a RAID controller card. One or more of the computers 120 may also include an input device, an output device and a driver for a display device. The computers 120 within the central server system 12 are shown as being hardwired to each other and to the internet, but the respective computers or portions of the network may include either wired and/or wireless connectivity to the internet, to an intranet or an alternative networked communication system, such as, for example and without limitation, a cloud-based system, an autonomic system, a client-server based system, a grid based system, a mainframe based system, a utility based system, a peer-to-peer based system, a cloud gaming based system, or any other suitable types of system architectures, topographies or configurations.

[0023] In addition to the respective computers 120, the central server system as depicted in FIG. 2 includes one or more, and in this example, two network switches 122 and two firewall devices 124. The network switches 122 may for example be Hewlett Packard model 2510-48G Switches and the firewall devices 124 may be Cisco Model ASA 5520 firewalls and associated

software. As illustrated, the firewall devices 124 are interconnected to each other and to the internet, and each firewall device 124 is also connected to one of the network switches 122.

[0024] The network switches 122 are connected to the respective computers 120, which as shown may be divided into logical functions to control certain aspects of the operation of the wagering system which may be best understood in connection with the block diagram of the functional architecture of the program for the wagering system illustrated in Fig. 3. In FIG. 2, there may be provided a redundancy for the respective computers 120 such that as shown there are two computers 120 for each of the tasks, and the redundant computers 120 are interconnected.

[0025] As illustrated in FIG. 2, there are five pairs of computers depicted interconnected through a bus, and through the bus to switches 122. The five pairs include computers 120A, associated with the web interface and connectivity, computers 120B associated with the Mid-Tier program, computers 120C for a database, computers 120C for a Tote program and computers 120E providing the management interface for the central server system, all as described in more detail below in connection with Fig. 3. The computers 120E are shown including a workstation 126 including an input device such as a keyboard and an output or display device such as a monitor. Also, the respective computers need not be located in the same facility, thus for example the computers 120D providing the Tote functionality may be remote from the computers 120B providing the Mid-Tier functionality.

[0026] The central server system 12 of FIGS. 1 and 2 may include software programs for wagering software functionality such as registration, deposit taking, withdrawals, account sections that may include current and previous bet histories, fixtures, results, historical data, rules and regulations. These types of software programs having these functionalities are in place in various totalizer facilities and are thus known in the art. However, FIG. 3 is provided to further illustrate the process steps of the program and operation of the central server system 12 associated with the pool wagering system contemplated by the present disclosure. The program for the known functionality of a totalizer facility noted above would be incorporated in the Micro Tote 408 program, as discussed further below.

[0027] FIG. 3 represents an exemplary functional architecture of a program hosted or supported by the central server system 12. The core program is represented by the center block identified as the “Mid Tier” program 402. The Mid Tier program 402 interacts with the

respective customer and website administrator input programs in the left side block identified as the Website program 404, as well as the accounting programs in the right side block identified as the Micro Tote program 408. The Mid Tier program 402 communicates using an “Application Program Interface” hereinafter “API,” allowing bi-directional communication to, and through, the Mid Tier program 402, as represented by the Merchant API 406 as between the Website program 404 and the Mid Tier program 402, and the Tote API 410 as between the Micro Tote program 408 and the Mid Tier program 402, reference lines.

[0028] The Mid Tier program 402, as shown in FIG 3, may include a Merchant API 420 program, a Cash-in 422 program and an Administration 424 program. It is contemplated that the Mid Tier program 402 may be itself a dedicated stand-alone server system and program for hosting the pool based wagering system of the present disclosure, or the subroutines unique to the pool based wagering system of the present disclosure may be added to a server system and program that also hosts other types of wagering pools.

[0029] As depicted in the Merchant API 420 program box, there may be several HTTP POST request sub-routines including a Place Bet POST 430, Ticket Enquiry POST 432, Available offers POST 434, Accept Offer POST 436, Decline Offer POST 438. The Place Bet POST 430 routine is used to place a bet on the Operator system. The Ticket Enquiry POST 432 routine is used to confirm that a ticket has been sold on the Operator system. The Available offers POST 434 routine is used to determine what bet trading offers are currently available to the customer. The Accept Offer POST 436 routine is used to accept an offer. The Decline Offer POST 438 routine is used to decline an offer.

[0030] As depicted in the Merchant API 420 program box, the system may generate several file updates including a Competition Summary FILE 440, a Competition Detail FILE 442, a Pool Change FILE 444, a Fixture Change FILE 446, a Competition Change FILE 448 and a Ticket Payouts FILE 450. The Competition Summary FILE 440 routine holds a summary list of the available competitions. It is updated when new competitions are added, old ones are deleted, or when the status or current fixture changes. The Competition Detail FILE 442 routine holds details about the competition. The Pool Change FILE 444 routine holds details on pool-level information changes on a competition. The Fixture Change FILE 446 routine holds details when fixture-level changes on a competition. The Competition Change FILE 448 routine holds details

when competition-level information changes. The Ticket Payouts FILE 450 routine holds details for each pool as its status becomes official.

[0031] The Mid Tier program 402, as shown in FIG. 3, includes most critically the Cash-In 422 program, which itself may include the Offers Generation 452 routine, the Offers 454 routine and the Tickets 456 routine. The Cash-In 422 program is responsible for determining when an offer to buy-out a ticket holder will be made, and the price that will be offered. Within the Cash-In 422 program, the Offers Generation 452 routine is the trading engine that, when triggered, will generate a set of offers over all of the tickets that are still potential winners and then publish the offers and receive/process the acceptance of these offers via the Merchant API 420. The Offers 454 routine stores all the offer made, accepted and declined. The Tickets 456 routine stores all the tickets for a pool and who the rightful owner is.

[0032] Further, the Mid Tier program 402, as also shown in FIG. 3, may include the Administration 424 program, which itself may include a Create Read Update Delete (CRUD) Merchants 460 routine, Trading Risk Management 462 routine, Stop Trading 464 routine, Reporting 466 routine, Probabilities 468 routine and Random Number Generator (RNG) Logic 470 routine. The Merchants 460 routine is to create, read, update and delete third party Merchant details within the Mid Tier. The Trading Risk Management 462 routine is to allow the control and monitoring of cash-in trading. The Stop Trading 464 routine is to allow cash-in trading to be stopped if required. The Reporting 466 routine is for calculating and reporting on settlement with Merchant systems. The Probabilities 468 routine is for the uploading of probabilities used in the trading calculations. The RNG Logic 470 routine is use for QuickPick bets.

[0033] Traditional quick picks generally allocate selections to people either randomly as prevalent in lotteries (where each number has equal probability of being drawn), or in-line with some estimated probabilities such as horse racing (or other event where outcomes do not have equal probability or prospects). It is intended that quick picks in the initial iterations of these games may or may not be in fact SMART PICKS, in that a quick pick will only be allocated to the client if it has a relatively realistic chance of providing the winning outcome and in a relative sense to the size of the pool (which may be fixed or variable (e.g., based on the public spend) or guarantee. For example, in the seven leg correct score game, some outcomes are less than 1million-to-one, where other outcomes are greater than 1 trillion-to-one. The smart pick will not

allocate a quick pick ticket to a client unless it is within a certain multiple of the pool size, say five times. As such, when the pool is £5 million, all £1 quick picks (smart picks) will only be allocated to clients wanting a quick pick (smart pick), if they are less than 25 million-to-one. The reason for this smart pick adjustment is to ensure that smart pick players are not grossly disadvantaged by being allocated a random ticket with potentially very minimal probability of success, especially in reactions to the pool size.

[0034] In an alternate embodiment, the probability of generating a particular quick picks (smart picks) ticket may be proportional to the probability of each outcome winning in addition to the smart picks caps described above. Other implementations with respect to QuickPicks/SMART PICKS that are commercially known and not described herein may also be utilized as desired.

[0035] Now referring to the left side block of FIG. 3, the Website program 404 may be represented as including subprograms for a user interface 480 representing a dedicated website on which wagers may be entered for example by a customer using a personal computer or alternatively a wagering terminal as discussed above. Once logged into the website, the user interface 480 provides a registration and login routine 482, an account funding routine 484, a player protection routine 486 and a betting interface routine 488. The user interface 480 also provides a routine to allow interconnection with a payment provider 490, for example WORLDPAY®, providing a secure method by which payments for wagers may be submitted. The user interface 480 may also provide routines to provide a customer ledger 492, customer statements 494 and currency exchange rate calculator 496.

[0036] As an alternative to the customer using a dedicated website, it is contemplated that the users could interact with a Merchant Microsite 500, representing for example an established betting house or parlor having its own customer base and methods of collecting wagers and paying disbursements from and to players. These types of Merchant Microsites 500 would be provided with their own Merchant API 406 for communicating with the server hosting the Mid Tier 402 program. The Merchant Microsites 500 include routines for single sign on 502 to the wagering pool and a payment API 504 to assist in the respective accounting functions as between the operator of the Merchant Microsite 500 and the host of the pool wagering system hosted on the central server system 12.

[0037] As also reflected in the Website program 404, the Administrative (Admin) Console 510 routine is provided to manage the User Interface 480. The Admin Console 510 routine, operated by the website administrator, may include an Account Management 512 routine for managing customer account details, a Payment Reconciliation 514 routine for administration of customer deposits and withdrawals with a payment provider like WORLDPAY®, a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) 516 routine for managing sales, marketing and customer service interactions with customers and a Content Management System (CMS) 518 routine for the creation, editing and publishing on content on the Website 404.

[0038] Now referring to the right side block of FIG. 3, the Micro Tote 408 routine is the program equivalent to a “Totalisator” which receives, calculates and provides a display output for all bets made in a given progressive pool bet system. The Micro Tote 408 routine may thus include a Gateway 520 program, a Memory Grid 522 program, a Central Repository 524 program and an Administration 526 program. The Gateway 520 program includes a routine posting the wagering card 530, summing all of the wagering 532, providing updates 534, and calculating each potential payout 536. The Gateway 520 program also includes a routine for pooling and accumulating all of the Gateway Tickets 538, which is the master routine for each bet that has been placed and accepted in the pool.

[0039] Also within the Micro Tote 408 is a Memory Grid 522 program that includes a Pool Collations 540 routine. The Pool Collations 540 routine calculates and continuously recalculates the odds as each bet is placed and accepted, and as each event result occurs within the pool, so as to determine the odds with respect to each remaining active ticket within the pool bet. The odds and all information calculated by the Pool Collations 540 routine is routed through the Tote API 410 to the Mid-Tier 402, and specifically to the Merchant API 420, Cash-in 422 and Administration 424 routines.

[0040] Also within the Micro Tote 408 is a Central Repository 524 program that includes a Ticket History 542 routine. The Ticket History 542 routine retains a complete record of each bet placed, each respective ticket, all payouts, and all unpaid credits for all of the respective pools. The information within the Ticket History 542 routine may be maintained primarily for the benefit of regulators and/or oversight organizations and taxing agencies.

[0041] Finally, the Micro Tote 408 may also include an Administration 526 program that includes routines for Message Queue 544 which is for inter-process communications within the

Micro Tote, Create Read Update Delete (CRUD) Wager Card 546 is for setting up the event information that will be wagered on, Manual Events 548 is for manually managing updates to events, CRUD Merchants 550 is for create, read, update and delete third party Merchant information on the Micro Tote, reports 552 is for settlement reports for the Micro Tote and Data Feeds 554 is for third party event feeds.

[0042] With respect to the software programs of Fig. 3, and with respect to the respective computers of Fig. 2, computers 120A drive the consumer websites 480, merchant microsites 500 and the website administration console 510, computers 120B host the main Mid-Tier program for driving the merchant API 420, cash-in 422 and mid-tier administration console 424, computers 120C host the program for physically maintaining the Customer Ledger database 492, computers 120D host the program for physically maintaining the Tote 408 that consists of Gateway 520, Memory Grid 522, Central Repository 524 and Tote administration console 526, and computers 120E host the program providing the physical management interface for the entire interrelated system software.

[0043] For the wagering and option buy-out system of the present disclosure, the central server system 12 is programmed to provide to the wager stations 14, wager terminals 16 or personal devices 18, 20, 22 or 24 various options for placing wagers on one or more (e.g. a sequence of and/or separate discrete) sporting events spread over an appropriate interval. The wager stations 14, wager terminals 16 or personal computing systems 18 would allow a player to place a wager on a series of (or separate discrete) sporting events, for example three to eight soccer matches scheduled to occur over a three day period. The player would select the winners, or in some embodiments the particular scores of the matches (or any other variables), for each particular sporting event within a defined cumulated pool or other. The player would receive either a printed ticket or an electronic ticket representing the selections and the amount of the bet. The controller or server system 12 would maintain the pool, assign tracking identifiers to each wager and ticket placed into the pool, and determine any payout requirements from the pooled wagers in the event of a successful selection of all of the events.

[0044] The wager stations 14 and wager terminals 16 may include one or more display devices controlled by the processor. The display devices may be connected to or mounted to the cabinet of the wager terminal. The embodiments as generally illustrated in FIG. 1 may include, as known in the art, a display device which displays the betting options. This display device may

also display any suitable secondary information associated with the pool wagering system. The wager stations 14 and wager terminals 16 may include a credit display which displays a player's current number of credits, cash, account balance or the equivalent. In one embodiment, wager terminal includes a bet display which displays a player's amount wagered. The wager stations 14 and wager terminals 16 may include, without limitation, a monitor, a television display, a plasma display, a liquid crystal display (LCD) a display based on light emitting diodes (LED), a display based on a plurality of organic light-emitting diodes (OLEDs), a display based on polymer light-emitting diodes (PLEDs), a display based on a plurality of surface-conduction electron-emitters (SEDs), a display including a projected and/or reflected image or any other suitable electronic device or display mechanism. In one embodiment, as described in more detail below, the display device includes a touch-screen with an associated touch-screen controller. The display devices may be of any suitable size and configuration, such as a square, a rectangle or an elongated rectangle. The wager stations 14 and wager terminals 16 may be any sort of integrated products or stand alone terminals or devices, such as, for instance and without limitation, one for a casino or betting shop, such as in the nature of a fixed odds betting terminal ("FOBT") or a Best Gaming Technology ("BGT") Self service terminal, as examples. Any other suitable types of products or devices commercially known may also be utilized where desired and in accordance with the needs of a particular implementation.

[0045] The wager stations 14 and wager terminals 16 also may include at least one payment acceptor in communication with the processor. The payment acceptor may include a coin slot and/or a payment, note or bill acceptor, as examples, where the player inserts money, coins or tokens. The player can place coins in the coin slot or paper money (e.g., the coins or paper money may include actual and/or virtual currency), a ticket or voucher into the payment, note or bill acceptor. In other alternatives, devices such as readers or validators for credit cards, debit cards, credit slips or the like may accept payment. A player may insert an identification card into a card reader of the wager stations 14 and wager terminals 16. The identification card may be a smart card having a programmed microchip or a magnetic strip coded with a player's identification, credit totals (or related data) and other relevant information. A player may carry a portable device, such as a cell phone, a radio frequency identification tag or any other suitable wireless device, which communicates a player's identification, credit totals (or related data) and other relevant information to the wager stations 14 and wager terminals 16. Money may be

transferred to a wager station 14 or wager terminal 16 through electronic funds transfer. When a player funds the wager station 14 or wager terminal 16, the processor determines the amount of funds entered and displays the corresponding amount on the credit display or other suitable display. As should be understood, where the term “money” or reference to some form of funds is made herein, both actual currencies and virtual currencies would equally be captured by this term.

[0046] In one embodiment, the wager stations 14 and wager terminals 16 may further be configured to: read the receipt of a purchased ticket, make a buy back offer on the ticket, accept that buy back offer, print a ticket for the cashed-in value, print another ticket, and/or adapt the first ticket so the client has a record his ticket is now partially owned by him.

[0047] The wager stations 14 and wager terminals 16 may include at least one and preferably a plurality of input devices in communication with the processor. The input devices can include any suitable device which enables the player to produce an input signal which is received by the processor. After appropriate funding of the wager station 14 or wager terminal 16 the input device is a game selection device or a game play button which is used by the player to identify the selected outcome of each of the games/matches/legs of the pool wager on the wager station 14 or wager terminal 16.

[0048] As this first embodiment of a pool bet system is premised on betting of sporting events, the server has an input device 26 allowing an operator to enter the results of the sporting events, the winners of the matches or games, the final scores and/or other parameters such as the total score of the game or the point differential. It is contemplated that this information will be entered reasonably promptly following the completion, and if required certification, of the sporting event. With the results of the sporting events for a first sequence of events, the system will make a determination as to whether any individual wagers recorded in the system have correctly selected the winners (or point spread etc.) of the sporting events.

[0049] After some percentage, such as a majority, of the sporting events have occurred, the server system 12 may be configured to identify the remaining potential winning ticket or tickets for the Jackpot Pool, i.e., those tickets that have correctly selected each of the results (win or consolation) of the events of the completed legs, or remain eligible for the consolation prize for selecting a certain percentage of the actual winners (i.e., 6 of the 8 winners). Upon determining the number of remaining potential winners of the Jackpot Pool, the system will determine the

likelihood of each ticket winning the Jackpot Pool (alone or shared with other players, which may be known or modeled), and on that basis make a determination as to the attributed value of the ticket based on its respective probability of winning the Jackpot Pool (and the prize if split multiple ways). The server system 12 then makes the determination of what the appropriate value would be for a ticket in order to make an offer to buy-out to one or more players (as disclosed herein, in other examples one or more other sources may also be used in addition to, or as an alternative to, the server system 12 for determining the appropriate value). In one example, the buy-out offer is for buying an entire ticket from a player (i.e., 100%) for an indicated value. As should be understood, the buy-out offer may be for any desired percentage of a ticket (i.e., any percentage between 0%-100%). The player presented with the buy-out offer may decide if it will sell the ticket at the indicated value, not sell at all and retain 100% of the ticket and/or make a counter offer (i.e., such as a different percentage amount and/or a different value, etc.), as examples. If the buy-out offer is accepted, the player will receive the indicated value (which may occur in a variety of different ways as described herein). In certain examples, when a buy-out offer is accepted, the entity that initiated the buy-out offer will in return obtain legal ownership of the ticket from the player. In certain other examples, the entity that initiated the buy-out offer will not obtain legal ownership of the ticket, but merely obtain an entitlement (e.g., a contract) to obtain all or any portion of any future Jackpots, awards or other prizes, etc. (i.e., depending on the ticket percentage related to the buy-out offer) that may occur in connection with the ticket from the point of purchase moving forward. In certain other examples, the player may also have the option to offer (i.e., counter offer) or sell something different than the original buy-out offer, such as just a portion of a ticket in response to a buy-out offer. As an example, and without limitation, depending on how a desired system is set up, the player may have the option to provide a counter offer for consideration by the entity that initiated the buy-out offer (e.g., something different than the original buy-out offer, such as a different percentage of a ticket and/or a different designated amount for the value, etc.), and with the entity being able to accept the counter offer (or alternatively where set up in this manner, to otherwise deny or provide yet another counter offer back to the player, etc.). Similarly, where desired, rather than the entity providing the acceptance, the entity may merely provide an indication to the player that is agreeable to the terms and/or provide to the player a new buy-out offer along the lines of the counter offer, which may then be accepted by the player. However, it should be understood that

this is merely a matter of logistics for how acceptance is to be made to a counter offer (either by the entity or player), but both approaches will accomplish the same objectives and may be utilized where desired. In addition to, or alternatively, depending on how a system is structured, the player may have the ability to sell something different directly in response to a buy-out offer, such as a different percentage of a ticket. As an example, and without limitation, in response to a buy-out offer for 100% of a ticket, a player may sell only 50% rather than 100% of a ticket, and the amount paid to the player would then be similarly reduced, such as being reduced proportionately by 50%, or alternatively reduced less than 50% if a premium was associated with the 100% buy-out offer, or any other desired amount depending on how a system is desired to be structured. As should be understood, and without limitation, a player may offer or sell in response to a buy-out offer any different percentage of the ticket in return for a percentage of the indicated value. The percentage of the indicated value may also vary as may be desired based on the percentage of the ticket offered or sold. For example, in certain situations, partial cash-in of a ticket may be proportionate to the ticket's full value, while in other situations partial cash-in of the ticket may not be proportionate with the ticket's full value, as the operator may want to incentivize certain behaviors around cash-in, according to particular preferences of the operator. In one example, sale of 50% of a ticket may correspond to 50% of the indicated value of a ticket. In another example, a certain defined "premium" may also be allocated against the player for a sale of less than 100% ownership of a ticket; for instance, sale of 50% of a ticket may correspond to payment of only 45% of the indicated value (with the premium corresponding to 5%), although as should be understood, the amount of the premium can vary and/or may also be adjusted based on the amount of the ticket sold, as may be desired (i.e., a lower premium the greater the amount of the ticket sold and the higher the premium the lower the percentage of the ticket sold). The premium may also vary, on the value sold or the proximity to the end of the game, as examples, and it would be expected that large sums and closer to the end of the game tickets would attract the biggest premium, as users should be less price sensitive.

[0050] In yet another example, where a player sells 100% of a ticket, they would receive in return the indicated value together with a "bonus" for selling 100% ownership of the ticket, and that bonus may be set at any desired value, such as a certain percentage of the indicated value of the ticket. In yet other examples, the buy-out offer may be for buying all or a portion of a ticket from a player. In another example, a player may receive a bonus for a partial-cash in, should

there be a desire to incentivize a player to sell less than 100% of a ticket. Other variations are also possible according to the preferences at issue. In various examples, the buy-out offer may be initiated from any type of entity. For example, the entity could correspond to one or more parties of any type. This may include, for example, a private party or parties working in collaboration and/or a government or quasi-governmental party, etc. For instance, and without limitation, the party or parties may be the operator(s) of the network or just user(s) of the network.

[0051] By way of example, upon presentation of the ticket to one of the wager stations 14 or wager terminals 16, the ticket will be verified and the system will present the offer to purchase the whole ticket will be displayed on the display devices, and the player will have the option to accept or reject the offer via an input to the wager station 14 or wager terminal 16. The player can also respond, or alternatively be presented with the option, to sell any fraction of a ticket he/she wishes to sell through the wager station 14 or wager terminal 16. The player may also be able to respond, or offered the option of, selling different fractions of the ticket at different stages or after respective legs of the pool event. For example the player may sell 10% after fourth leg, another 20% after the fifth leg and 30% after the sixth leg, thereby still retaining 40% of the original ticket to the conclusion of the game after the seventh leg.

[0052] As another example, if after 5 matches (or legs) of a 6 match pool there are 3 remaining tickets that have correctly identified the outcomes of the first five matches (or legs), and all having an equal chance of winning the \$1 million Jackpot Pool, then the server system 12 may calculate that each ticket has an actual value of \$100,000. This would be the case if each person held an outcome in isolation of the other two tickets, and then the probability of each of the three owned outcomes was 10% or a price of 10.0 in decimal terms. Upon application of a risk factor and/or margin discount, the server system 12 would establish an attributed value and then communicate an offer to purchase the respective tickets to each of the ticket holders, at a price of for example \$80,000 for each ticket, representing a 20% margin for the purchaser. The offered amount would represent a substantial return on a \$2 ticket, and removing significant volatility for the player, that was one step from winning \$1,000,000 but also one step from winning nothing. The offer may be for 100% of the ticket, or alternatively could be for a partial portion of the ticket, for example an equal fifty percent share, at \$40,000. In this option, it is contemplated that various percentage offers could be made, for example any 10% interval from 10% to 90%, at an appropriate monetary amount. Thus, the player in the above example could

sell 10% of the ticket for \$8,000 and retain the potential of receiving 90% of the \$1,000,000 Jackpot Pool.

[0053] It is also contemplated that the server system 12 will have the ability to receive additional data via the input device 26, for example various odds on respective wagers concerning the sporting match or event, that may impact the attributed value calculated for any given ticket. That additional information could be used to calculate with greater precision the potential odds, and attributed value, of the remaining tickets after each round or leg of the pool. Thus, in the example above, if one of the remaining 3 potentially winning tickets has predicted the final score of the final soccer match as 2-1, while another has selected the final score as being 1-10, then the more likely score of 2-1 will have a higher attributed value than the ticket having selected 1-10. In that event, the ticket holder of the 2-1 score match may be offered more, as that ticket's attributed value (or expected value in mathematical probability terms) will be higher.

[0054] To further explain the example, the outcome probability factor (OPF) and the Expected Value (EV) of two respective tickets with the following score predictions may be set as:

2-1 price (OPF?)= 10.0, and

1-10 price (OPF?)= 1000 (as it is an unrealistic score but useful for this example), with
 $EV = 1,000,000 \text{ (POOL)} / \text{Price of outcome/number of tickets holding that outcome}.$

[0055] Therefore, the ticket with the score of the final leg being 2-1 will have an estimated value in a \$1,000,000 pool calculated as $1000000/10/1 = \$100,000$ while the ticket with the score of the final leg being 1-10 will have an estimated value in a \$1,000,000 pool calculated as $1000000/1000/1 = \$1000$. Therefore the person having the ticket predicting the 2-1 outcome will be offered in the region of 100 times more for his ticket as his ticket is 100 times more likely (than the ticket with the 1-10 score) to win the \$1,000,000 jackpot.

[0056] This mathematical calculation of EV for fair value can be extended to the entire range of tickets that exist and extended backwards to the tickets remaining after the very first leg if appropriate. The ticket holders could be offered "cash in" values at any time, such as from as soon as is acceptable and viable. In certain examples, it is envisaged that cash in circumstances will increase later in the game when the potential values begin to rise significantly. In addition, in certain examples, games may include a Consolation Pool and/or a Bonus Pool in addition to a jackpot. Also, in certain examples, the ticket cash-in or buy back may include the purchase of the

rights to other pools. As merely an example and without limitation, in games where there is a Consolation Pool and/or a Bonus Pool in addition to the jackpot, the ticket cash-in or buy back may include the purchase of the rights to the other pools, and the price offered will include the EV/FV/theoretical value of the bonus ticket (and any potential dividends from the Consolation Pool) given the live tickets remaining. As should be understood, in other examples, the ticket cash-in or buy back may still include the purchase of the rights to other pools even where no Consolation Pool and/or a Bonus Pool is provided.

[0057] As another option in the system, the buy-back or cash-in offer may be staged as an iterative bidding process. Thus, even after a first offer is made and rejected, the operator may elect to make another higher offer upon a subsequent presentation of a ticket. However, the holder of the ticket will not necessarily be given a second offer once the first offer is rejected so that the ticket holder will be unaware of whether a greater offer will follow or if they will be locked into the “hold” position until the conclusion of the next match or leg of the game.

[0058] An output device such as televisions 24 may also be coupled with the central server system 12 computers 120 and configured, for example, to display the pool of betting combinations and a representation of the tickets or wagers that are active in the system resulting from the bettor-selected game predictions and the results of the respective games or events that have been completed which form part or all of the pool events. Such an output device 24 may also include, for example, a visual display and/or a printing device. Additionally, such an output device 24 may be configured to display the results of an event taking place at a remote venue, such as the event forming the next leg of the pool. Thus, a betting parlor may have a series of televisions and monitors broadcasting the event (i.e., a soccer match), while also displaying streaming data concerning for example the number of tickets that remain in the pool, alerts when a goal is scored that eliminates tickets from the pool, and potentially the offers to buy outstanding tickets.

[0059] The wagering stations 14A and wager terminals 16A may be located at a first venue, while other wagering stations 14B-14N and wager terminals 16B – 16N may be located at other remotely located venues. Thus, the network formed of the plurality of wagering stations 14A-14N and wager terminals 16A – 16N may enable wagering on, and monitoring of, events at multiple venues substantially simultaneously if so desired. Accordingly, it is contemplated that the operator could have wagering stations 14A-14N and/or wager terminals 16A – 16N in

multiple locations within a city, or multiple locations within a state, country or region, so as to allow pooling of bets in the game across a significant population to drive the amounts of the Jackpot Pool to substantial values for each individual game, series of events/matches.

[0060] In another embodiment, the wagering stations 14A-14N may be located in a single venue such as a race track where, for example, a first wagering station 14A acts as a server for all of the other wagering stations 14B-14N networked to it for conducting the pool wagering activity, with wagering stations 14B-14N acting as terminals coupled with the server of first wagering station 14A.

[0061] It may be appreciated that the wagering activity and buy-out option according to the present disclosure may be effected in a specific environment at a specific location on a stand-alone (or closed) system or may be electronically linked to include play in a plurality of environments or at a plurality of locations. For example, the wagering stations 14A-14N and wager terminals 16A – 16N may be distributed throughout a variety of wagering venues including race tracks, off-track betting facilities, retail establishments (where legal), casinos, lotteries, and on the Internet. Further, such wagering activity and evaluation thereof may provide automatic and immediate performance feedback (individual and team performance, leader boards or other indicia of participant standings, contest time remaining, account balances, etc.) to participants via text messaging, cellular telephones, PDAs, interactive television, email, Internet browsers or other applications. Here again, the wide distribution of available outlets and devices for entering into the game is intended to allow pooling of bets in the game across a significant population to drive the amounts of the Jackpot Pool to substantial values for each individual game, series of events/matches.

[0062] In a sports or event based wagering environment, the product concept can be applied to a number of different sports and markets. For convenience, the first implementation of the product will be described with respect to a series of soccer correct score and “Home/Draw/Away (“H/D/A”) markets pooled and bet on a weekly basis. The system operator will select multiple game (three, four, five, six or seven or more games) that will occur over the following days or a weekend. For example, the system operator may select three games on a Saturday, two games on a Sunday and the final one or two games on a Monday. Players will be challenged to select the correct score for each of the games. To win the Jackpot Pool, the player

must select the correct score of each of the six or seven games. The cash in function described herein may be applied even on low leg games such as a pick 3.

[0063] Accordingly, the system operator may offer several different multi-leg outcomes. For an exemplary description, a version of the pool wagering system will be described using a six leg correct score game run over six soccer matches. However, it should be readily apparent that the pool wagering system may be adapted to a PICK-n correct score model. In this example, it is assumed that the most likely result in any soccer match will have a high score of three for either team, as shown in FIG. 4 which shows the total goal expectancy over six years for six premier leagues and the world cup. In the six leg pool wagering system, each leg may consist of seventeen outcomes, these being 1-0, 2-0, 2-1, 3-0, 3-2, 3-2 and “AOH” (any other home win) then 0-0, 1-1, and “AOD” (any other draw) and the reciprocal away results, to allow each leg to consist of 17 outcomes. The inclusion of terminal group scores “AOH, AOD, AOA ensure better user experience and manageable number of probable selections. Such group could easily be extended to point spreads in games like basketball or any others, where the selections might be minus 25 points (-25), minus 24 points (-24), minus 20 points (-20)...plus 20 points.(+20), plus 24 points (+24), plus 25 points (+25), etc.

[0064] It should be understood that the foregoing is exemplary and the potential outcomes can be varied and may not be consistent over various leagues where the number of goals scored may be higher on average. The alternative anticipated scores for such a league may only influence the distribution, but not the applicability of the game, which will have a set of probabilities for each respective outcome that may be league dependent.

[0065] It is contemplated that the operator may provide that the minimum amount of the “Jackpot Pool” is guaranteed at a set level, and most of the other bets offered could be guaranteed to insure first day retail popularity. Those players who correctly select scores and winners of each leg will share the maximum of either the guarantee, or the stakes of all the others (less any applicable deductions) and also gain entry into a bonus pool. The Bonus Pool may be won or shared by any individuals that successfully choose one or more correct score(s) the following week, or a nominated time or similar.

[0066] A Consolation Pool may be shared by those who select all the correct outcomes (H/D/A) or another subset of the correct score game, or on other variations based on, for example, any five of six or six of seven. The player in this example will not need to nominate

H/D/A but his correct score prediction 'Home 2-0' will naturally be allocated to a "Home" outcome in the H/D/A determination of the Consolation Pool. As such on a correct score pick 7, 7 correct H/D/A results in-line with a player's CS selections will mean the player "wins" the consolation prize. In racing terms, the consolation will frequently be based on the horse, dog, race car driver, etc. placing as opposed to winning.

[0067] As each match is played – and each goal is scored – player bets represented by their respective tickets will gradually be eliminated from the remaining tickets that can still win the Jackpot Pool. Those that remain will be able to anticipate that the value of their tickets increases as they see the results of each game. The central server system 12 may be configured to allow the display of the tickets that remain active for the Jackpot Pool on each of the wagering terminals or alternatively a display board at distributed wagering locations as commonly provided in present establishments for example to display soccer matches, racing events and available wagering events and odds. While the flagship of the pool play will be the Jackpot Pool for correctly selecting the six or seven correct scores, other games such as pick three could also be offered to be completed within a single day or short time period.

[0068] Between legs, and preferably after several of the games or matches have been completed, but potentially also during the course of an event for example at the half-time of a match or event, players with "live" tickets may be offered the option of selling all or a portion of their tickets back to the system operator (or alternatively, directly or indirectly through the system operator, or directly to, any designated third party, such as, without limitation, one or more third party operator(s), business entity or entities such as a merchant(s), one or more other persons, etc.) or to retain their tickets and see whether their correct score predictions will unfold for the remaining games. As should be understood, any reference to system operator herein should be construed to apply equally to any third party as an alternative, even if not specifically mentioned. The buy-out option will preferably be communicated through the wagering station 14, wagering terminal 16, or internet connected computing devices 18 -24 from which the respective wager was placed and ticket purchased. However, as the wagering stations 14 wagering terminals 16 may not be accessible to the player, it is further contemplated that at the point in time that the player places a wager in the pool play of the present disclosure they will provide contact information to allow communication with their computing system 18 that is linked on the central server system 12 to the particular ticket. Thus, the central server system 12

will be able to send a message to the ticket holder's computing system 18, smart phone 20, or tablet computer 22, providing details of the buy-out offer. If the ticket holder decides to cash in the ticket in response to the offer, the ticket holder may communicate the acceptance via the computing system 18, smart phone 20, or tablet computer 22, to the central server system 12. Alternatively, the ticket holder would present the ticket to one of the wagering stations 14 or wagering terminals 16 which in turn communicate the acceptance to the central server system 12, and upon verification, provide the ticket bearer with a payout in the form of cash, a voucher or check. If necessary or appropriate in the respective jurisdiction, the amount of the payout may be reduced in an amount required to be withheld for tax purposes.

[0069] It is anticipated that for the pool wagering system with the buy-back option of the present disclosure that there will be an initial guarantee by the operator of the Jackpot Pool in an amount sufficient to create initial interest, for example \$1 million. Thereby, Jackpot Pool winners will always be guaranteed to win all or a share of a Jackpot Pool equal or in excess of \$1 million. In a first embodiment of the system and product, with respect to each ticket purchased the split following the takeout (e.g., set at 25%) may be as follows: 75% to fund the Jackpot Pool, 15% to fund the Bonus Pool, and 10% to fund the Consolation Pool(s). Other splits may be desirable and are expressly contemplated. Therefore if \$250,000 (i.e. $125,000 \times \$2$ per ticket) was bet into the pool in the first week, the Jackpot Pool would stand at \$140,625 (i.e. $\$250,000 \times 0.75 \times 0.75 = \$140,625$), but any winners would share in the \$1 million guaranteed Jackpot Pool. Any winners of the Consolation Pool (i.e. those selecting five out of six of the correct scores accurately) will split a share of \$25,000 between them less deductions (i.e. $\$25,000 \times 0.75$). The following week, winners would get the opportunity to select a correct score (for each successful ticket) from a featured match to be in with a chance of winning the Bonus Pool. Anyone who correctly predicts that correct score would therefore net a share of the Bonus Pool.

[0070] Should the Jackpot Pool and Bonus Pool not be won for a few weeks, then those pools may build up to very significant amounts. For example, if players bet a total of \$3,000,000 into the Jackpot Pool (over a period) but fail to win the main Jackpot Pool prize, then a total win/jackpot payout of \$2,250,000 will have built up and any winners the following week Jackpot Pool winners will get a share of that amount plus a share of the amounts staked in that week. Therefore, if another \$3,000,000 is bet into the Jackpot Pool then the potential winnings will stand at \$4,500,000. Should three people win the game, then they will split \$4,500,000, giving

them \$1,500,000 winnings each (less their price of purchase and/or deductions other than the takeout, if applicable). The Consolation Pool will have been won previously – in all likelihood – and will for example stand at about \$300,000 from the current week's stakes. If 30 players select five out of six correct scores that week, then they will win \$7,500 each. The Bonus Pool will not have been won (yet) and will stand at \$900,000. The three winners will have the chance to win the Bonus Pool in the next week, each getting one selection.

[0071] As the matches or games for each of the respective tickets are preferably staggered over 2, 3 or even 4 days (typically 3 days Saturday to Monday), the system operator will have the ability to communicate to the respective wagering outlets or through an online interface to offer players the ability to sell back any tickets which are still 'live' after one but preferably several of the matches as discussed above. In other circumstances, such as in tennis as an example, buy-back of tickets may be enacted intra leg (between sets or games), or in later legs. In football, for example, buy back may occur during live play.

[0072] To further illustrate, if a player has a ticket where the first three matches/ games on a Saturday were predicted correctly, he/she will have the facility to sell back to the system operator the same ticket and close out their position before Sunday's matches. The buyback value will be calculated by the server, potentially under the control of the system operator or the business partner, based on the number of match legs the ticket has already correctly predicted plus the remaining predictions for the subsequent games. When a ticket is cashed in (i.e. bought back by the system operator), the ticket and all the rights of the ticket will vest in the system operator. In addition, this buy-out facility will include a margin for the system operator, anticipated to be around 15%.

[0073] For example, if, going into the Monday night games, a player has two tickets which are still in play, and their predictions for the final two matches are 2-3 and 1-0 on one ticket and 2-2 and 1-0 on the other ticket, they will have the option to cash in either or both of their tickets. The server system under the direction and control of the system operator will calculate the estimated odds of winning the pool (and pay-out) with either ticket and will offer a buyback value to the player. The mechanism will be clearly explained to players who can opt to either exercise the opportunity to sell back their position or stay in the game until the end. While as noted above the central server system 12 may have the ability to provide information on the number of tickets that are still in play after each leg or match in the pool, it is also contemplated

that the information may or may not be communicated to the respective ticket holders who receive the buy-out offer. Thus, the ticket holder may not be aware that there are only a few as opposed to dozens of still viable tickets in a given pool when the buy-out offer is communicated. If the player is given some information for transparency, it may or may not be leg by leg information, and as such he might know how many tickets remain but he cannot know if he owns the exact permutations he owns unless the game is in the final leg. It may however be beneficial to communicate with the holders of every remaining live ticket the exact number of outstanding live tickets, and the scores those tickets have allocated in each leg. The only time the disclosures may not be communicated will be during concurrent games. The information, if given leg by leg, gives 100% clarity on the potential to split the jackpot once published for the final leg. Individual permutations and their ownership level may or may not be given, but they potentially could be.

[0074] It is also envisioned that cash-in buy back may also operate during live play and offer continuous cash-in ability as soon as it is technically possible, for example at the half-time of a match or during the running of a match when possible. It is also contemplated that a ticket could be purchased with two or more potential outcomes selected for the final legs or events, for example by paying twice as much the player could have one selection in each of the first five legs and then have two different selections for the sixth leg. In such an event, the system may offer to buy both outcomes, or each outcome and thereby divide the ticket as between the original player and the system operator. This type of fragmentation of the tickets could be extended to any leg of the event.

[0075] The ticket buy back process may include an interactive process that bids the ticket holder in a sequence of events for the ticket. For example, the system operator might originally offer the client \$100,000 for a ticket that has 5 correct scores, if the client declines to sell the ticket, the system operator might revert to offer \$105,000. At each step the ticket holder may not be aware if that is the final buy-out offer or a better buy-out offer will occur. In certain examples, there may also be only a limited number of buy-out offers made and/or capable of being accepted with respect to a particular game or games, (i.e., made to/accepted by players participating in a particular game), so the greater the number of buy-out offers declined by a player and/or longer the time period before a player accepts an outstanding buy-out offer, the greater the risk may be that no additional buy-out offers will be made to that player or an outstanding buy-out offer made to a given player may be withdrawn (i.e., once the maximum

limit is reached). Furthermore, the ticket holder may have the period between the offer and the start of the next leg of the bet in which to make up their minds. Once the next leg has started, buy-out offers may be automatically withdrawn. It is further contemplated that the ability to trade or sell tickets back to the system operator may be continuous, and also in these circumstances, the bid may be extremely time sensitive. Additionally, as discussed above, the player or ticket holder may have the option to sell a fraction of their ticket to the system operator or other third party. In the first instance, this facility may be limited where desired, such as to 10% fractions. A player that sells a portion of his ticket back to the system operator may then only get paid in respect of the remaining fraction of the bet should the ticket be successful. The system operator may pay the other portion to itself (or the third party ticket purchaser) if that ticket was successful.

[0076] If a player retains a portion of a ticket that is successful and thus entitles him to play a bonus game, in certain examples, the player will be allowed one selection (or other desired selection amount(s)), but will only win the fraction of the Bonus Pool that he holds in the winning ticket. In other examples, a player may be allowed to decouple a ticket, such that a player may accept a full or partial buy-out of only certain parts of a ticket (i.e., for a given Jackpot, or only certain events listed on a ticket, such as particular games) and with the remaining parts of the ticket being unaffected, so that the player retains the entirety of these remaining parts of the ticket (i.e., such as a bonus and/or consolation pool, or any other events listed on a ticket, such as remaining games). As mentioned above, when a ticket is cashed in (i.e. bought back by the system operator), the ticket and all the rights of the ticket will vest in the system operator. As such, the system operator would hold the other portion of the ticket and be entitled to select an outcome in the bonus leg and win the portion (or whole) bonus. It is contemplated that where the system operator holds a whole or part of a bonus ticket, they will need to nominate their selection earlier than the remaining players, for example, the system operator must nominate their selection 2 hours prior the start of the bonus game, and members of the public will only need to offer their selection 1 hour before. This rule would help ensure that the system operator's selection cannot be made with the prior knowledge of the public selection. As a default, any player having a valid qualifying ticket that does not make a selection in the Bonus Pool for their bonus ticket will be allocated a selection having a high probability, for example a 1-1 draw. This may be provided in the terms and conditions ("T&Cs") of the game.

[0077] In the context of a lottery game, in certain implementations any player having a valid qualifying ticket that is not present or found in time for the cash-in phase will be deemed not to sell. In the context of slot games, in certain implementations if a timer expires, the player will have been deemed not to have sold. Thus, generally speaking, if a player does not give input or is not present to make a decision as to what he/she wants to do, the game will proceed as if player does not want to sell.

[0078] In a first implementation it is anticipated that only the system operator will be able to offer the buy-out option to the active tickets holders using the central server system 12 to communicate the offers. However, it is also contemplated that the system operator may use the central server system 12 to solicit offers from third parties that would be communicated to the active ticket holder. In this embodiment, the central server system 12 could communicate the details of the outstanding active tickets through all or a select number of wagering terminals 16 and allow bids for the outstanding active tickets to be submitted via the wagering terminals 16. As another alternative embodiment, it is contemplated that the system operator could facilitate the ability of members of the public to buy and sell active tickets like in the manner of a person to person betting exchange, such as, without limitation, of the type offered by Betfair. Thus, it is also contemplated that the central server system 12 could allow the posting of available buy-back options so that the public could place buy-back offers for example through the wagering terminals 14 and the ticket holder could select the buy-back bid of his or her choosing.

[0079] With the foregoing description of the implementation, it may be appreciated that during the course of an exemplary wagering event (e.g., such as a pool, a parlay, an accumulator, etc.), the central server system 12 may go through certain of the following process steps, and in one or more rounds as may be required to complete a particular wagering event, as shown in FIG. 5, comprising:

- a) receiving information on the results of the events/matches from the input device;
- b) interrogating the ticket base, to count live or active tickets that have correctly predicted each game outcome to date following each outcome;
- c) price the active tickets based on the number of active tickets that will hold a particular outcome;
- d) price the active ticket on the probability of the selected outcome;
- e) price the active ticket as against the scope of the Jackpot Pool;

- f) determine an attributed price ((pool size/number of ticket that hold that outcome)* probability of that outcome – margin) and offer price for the active ticket(s);
- g) communicate the offer price to the active ticket holder for all or a portion of the active ticket;
- h) receive confirmation of acceptance of the offer from the active ticket holder;
- i) complete the buy-out transaction;
- j) receive input on the completion of the final events / legs of the pool;
- k) distribute the Jackpot Pool to holders of the winning active ticket(s).

[0080] Further, the concept and system disclosed herein can be adapted for other multi-outcome wagering scenarios and may include any desired manner of wagering, including but not limited to those that accommodate accumulator or parlay wagering, as an illustration. For purposes of this disclosure, a parlay or accumulator wager comprises a single wager that links together two or more discrete events and in any combination (e.g., legs or divisible portion thereof) and is dependent on correctly selecting the outcome of the two or more discrete events. For instance, a parlay or accumulator wager as referenced herein may include a double, treble or any other type of multiple wager as may be known in the art. As one example, an accumulator or parlay may have much higher payoffs than wagers placed on individual discrete events since the difficulty of hitting it (i.e., correctly selecting all event outcomes) is much higher. If any of the discrete events in the accumulator or parlay lose (i.e., the selected outcome is incorrect) the entire accumulator or parlay loses. In certain other examples, where the parlay or accumulator wager includes combinations of discrete events, and one or more of those combinations lose, the player may be still eligible to win some portion of a jackpot, a consolation, or some other award as may be desired. Thus, in the context of the present disclosure, an accumulator or parlay wager may be placed on a multi-leg event (either in the entirety or a designated portion or portions of legs, etc.), such that the outcome of each leg corresponding to the accumulator/parlay wager must be correctly selected for the accumulator/parlay wager to be eligible for a designated prize or award (e.g., a jackpot) or portion thereof. In certain examples, the parlay or accumulator wager may be selectable by at least one of a player, a third party, the wagering system or some other manner as may be desired. Notably, for example and without limitation, the terms wagers, wagering, bets and betting as referenced herein may include, without limitation and for illustration purposes only, single wagers, multiple wagers, full cover wagers, full cover wagers

with singles, 'Any to Come' (ATC) or 'if cash' wagers, specialty wagers, forecasts, fixed, variable, guaranteed, parimutuel wagering, fixed-odds wagering, and any other variations known in the art, etc., alone and in any desired combinations. For example, multiple wagers may include a parlay or accumulator wager.

[0081] As another example, a multi-outcome wagering scenario may include slot machines. In this alternative, the system could be incorporated into any type of slot machine game, such as a progressive jackpot played for example on a slot machine 26 as depicted in FIG. 1. In this example, each reel or defined number of reels of the slot machine 26 may correspond to a different leg of a multi-outcome wagering event. As noted above, each reel may be a virtual reel (as in a video or electronic slot machine, for example) or a mechanical reel as in conventional slot machines. Further, any of the type of wager input devices described above in connection with fig. 1 may be used, or alternatively a conventional slot machine may operate as the wager input device. In addition, there may be a plurality of slot machines 26 provided for participation by multiple participants, and each of the slot machines being in communication with a server system controller. Currently, slot machine based games have an outcome which is determined almost immediately even though the machine may take a few seconds to display the results. Even in the present systems, the game is complete before a person has the chance to realize that they are getting closer and closer to the premier prize. In most examples the reels stop one by one, with only 1 second or so between each reel. However, the display of each reel stopping is primarily for effect as the outcome of the game is determined by the random number generator in the game controller shortly after the play is initiated.

[0082] The present disclosure may be implemented in various configurations for gaming machines or wager terminals known in the art, including but not limited to a dedicated gaming machine or wager terminal, wherein the computerized instructions for controlling any games (which are provided by the gaming machine or wager terminal) are provided with the gaming machine or wager terminal prior to delivery to a gaming establishment, and a changeable gaming machine or wager terminal, where the computerized instructions for controlling any games (which are provided by the gaming machine or wager terminal) are downloadable to the gaming machine or wager terminal through a data network when the gaming machine or wager terminal is in a gaming establishment. These types of gaming machines and their respective operation in

both stand alone and pool or progressive games are disclosed in detail in U.S. patent no. 8,105,149, incorporated herein by reference.

[0083] By incorporating the concept of the present disclosure, the slot machine could be programmed such that once a first level of jackpot indicators appear in a winning sequence according to a first random number generation, the selection and display of the remaining indicator or indicators is paused and an offer to buy-out the player is presented. For example, a person with four "\$" on the first four reels and the last reel spinning is one step from a jackpot, (e.g. \$2,000,000) and if the machine has a 20/1 odds to get the last reel on a "\$" then the operator could offer to buy-the spin for \$100,000, or any fraction of it for the proportionate amount. If the player accepted the buyout, the machine would print a cash-out ticket for the buyout amount. The player either accepts the offer, in full or in part, or rejects the offer whereupon the random number for the remaining wheel is generated and the spin is completed. If the buyout was accepted and the final indicator selection results in a win, then the operator banks the amount of the jackpot. If the player sells only a fraction of the potential jackpot, then the player receives credits, either on the machine or in a ticket print, of the fractional remainder and the operator banks the balance.

[0084] It is anticipated that the concept will provide great drama and a limited period for it to be resolved, and allow players to trade and control their fate. From an operator standpoint, there may be a limit on the duration of the buyout offer, for example thirty seconds or one minute. This may be counted down for the player on the display, so that the player is forced to make a decision or simply allow the time to expire and the last indicator to be selected. While in theory the system could be used as soon as a single indicator is selected, it is believed that the system is more practically implemented when there are several indicators that must align before extending the final spin to provide the buyout or trade-in option. Thus, it is contemplated that the option would not be provided until the bet/selection has been 70-90% resolved or else the value of the buyout option is not sufficient to entice the player to cash-out and the progress and rate of play may be unacceptably slowed down.

[0085] The slot machine based system provides additional benefits to the house or casino in which the machine is located. First, for an in-house only progressive or pool game system, the buy-back option allows the house to bid on and potentially receive (if the bid is accepted) the accumulated jackpot pool. In addition, in the event that the jackpot pool is a progressive or pool

game distributed over a number of properties, so that the jackpot pool will grow faster or in the event that a gaming machine manufacturer licenses the use of the machines across various properties, the casino hosting the game (or the gaming machine OEM) may offer the buy-out of the jackpot pool option at the termination of any spin, including the first spin and, again if the bid is accepted, the casino making the offer would receive the jackpot pool as if it were the player who had won. In this situation, the host casino would generate revenues from the game play contributed to the jackpot pool that occurred in other casinos. They can also make money by buying back at less than actual value, i.e., charging margin on the sold ticket or fraction of a ticket

[0086] In accordance with the buy-out pool option of the present disclosure, the cash out button of the gaming machine 26 may be illuminated when the first sequence of the display for example the first three of four reels align such that the player may be on track to win the Jackpot Pool. In that event, the central server system 12 or the wager terminal itself causes the display to present a buy-out offer to the player. If the player elects to cash-out, the player may push the cash out button and cash out to receive a cash payment or other suitable form of payment corresponding to the offer presented on the display, whereupon the remaining random selection is made to determine if the Jackpot Pool is won.

[0087] In one embodiment, the player may be offered the option of cashing out a percentage of the potential Jackpot Pool, for example by depressing the cash out button the players sells 10% or 25% of the potential Jackpot Pool for the amount offered on the display. If the player for example sells 50% of the Jackpot Pool opportunity for \$50,000, the player will be issued a credit for the \$50,000 and then the remaining wheel spin or leg is completed. If the result is a win of the Jackpot Pool, then the player will receive credits for 50% of the Jackpot Pool, while the operator or house retains the remainder.

[0088] When the player decides to end the game play, he can select the cash out button at which time the player may receive cash or other payout mechanisms such as tickets or credit slips redeemable by a cashier (or other suitable redemption system) or funding to the player's electronically recordable identification card or the player's online account.

[0089] It is further contemplated that the jackpot buyout option and the concept and system disclosed herein can be adapted for a variety of other 'multi leg,' multi-outcome wagering scenarios, such as, for example, keno, poker, racing, video games (including live and online

video games, as examples) and lotteries, including but not limited to private, public, state, national, international, social (e.g., health care or social lottery types) or any other type of lottery systems, etc. For example, in a lottery system, after the periodic ticket purchase interval, the lottery operator may draw a defined number of items, such as numbered balls. As should be understood any indicators other than numbers may also be utilized where desired, such as symbols, colors, pictures, etc. In addition, the game may comprise items other than randomly drawn balls where desired, or pre-printed numbered tickets, that then may be selected by balls or random numbers or other process. Any of the type of wager input devices described above in connection with Fig. 1 may be used, or alternatively a conventional lottery machine may be utilized for input of player handpicked numbers, for providing electronically generated numbers, such as quick pick or smart pick numbers, and providing a record of the lottery numbers for the player, such as by printing of a ticket. In addition, a plurality of wager input devices or lottery machines may be utilized and each in communication with a server system controller. The total amount of numbered balls making up the lottery system may be any desired number.

[0090] In addition, the lottery system may be comprised of different legs by having one or more balls drawn at any given time that make up each leg. In this example, each of the balls may be selected in any desired manner, such as being hand selected from a container or selected via conventional lottery machines, such as gravity pick machines, air mix machines, or via computerized random number generators, as examples. The lottery system could also be set up in any desired manner for how players may win. For example, it could be an all or nothing arrangement where a player must win all legs to win a final Jackpot, or win a defined number of legs to win one or more interim Jackpots before all legs are completed, etc.

[0091] In addition, a buy-out offer (or partial buy-out offer) may be made at any time after a ticket is obtained until completion of the event, including (without limitation) after a predetermined number of numbers have been drawn, to a player and the player may sell all or a portion of their ticket. The buy-out offer may also come from a single party or multiple parties; for instance, multiple parties operating in collaboration or multiple parties that may not be operating in collaboration (for example, where the lottery system may “bring” certain parties together for purposes of accumulating adequate resources for purposes of a buy-out offer being made). In certain examples, the party or parties buying all or part of the ticket in response to an accepted buy-out offer will obtain legal ownership of the ticket (100% ownership or a fractional

ownership share where only a part is sold, i.e., where both the buyer and seller will end up with part ownership), and will be entitled to win at least a portion of any future Jackpots or other prizes that may occur from the point of purchase moving forward (or even share in the proceeds of prior Jackpots or prizes if set up in that manner). In certain other examples, the party or parties buying all or part of the ticket in response to an accepted buy-out offer will not obtain legal ownership of the ticket, but merely obtain an entitlement (e.g., a contract) to win at least a portion or all of any future Jackpots or other prizes that may occur from the point of purchase moving forward.

[0092] As should be understood, wherever the term “party” is used throughout this disclosure it should be broadly construed to comprise a single entity or plurality of entities. Also, it should be understood that both the player or ticket owner as well as the party making the buy-out offer may be comprised of a single entity or a plurality of entities.

[0093] The value or price of the buy-out offer and/or ticket sold may be variable as may be desired. For instance, the value or price of the buy-out offer can be set by various sources, and be based on any objective and/or subjective standards, such as an auction, a calculated probability (e.g., of winning one or more legs of a multi-outcome wagering event), random-number-generated probabilities, a lottery system similar to server system 12 discussed above, a party or parties initiating the buy-out offer, an independent third party/parties or resource(s), such as the system operator, the seller of the ticket, and/or it may be the byproduct of negotiations or a barter between the buyer and seller to arrive at an acceptable price, etc. In addition, the value or price can also be affected by the number of parties receiving a buy-out offer; for example, an amount X where there is one party and X divided by 3 where there are 3 parties, etc. As for timing, the buy-out offer could be made prior to any legs occurring or at any time prior to completion of the event, such as between any of the defined number of legs, and may be made just to winners or to any other parties, such as partial winners or to players who have not won at all, but who still have an active ticket, such as before any legs have been completed or a ticket that has separate divisions, etc. In addition, the value or price relating to a particular buy-out offer (or ticket sold) may be represented, conveyed or otherwise characterized in any desired manner, such as, and without limitation, as a jackpot or portion thereof (e.g., as at least a portion of at least one jackpot; for example, a designated jackpot that may be smaller (i.e. in value and/or price) than a larger jackpot that may be available to a winner/winners of a multi-outcome wagering event and

set by any of the various sources above), as a prize, a payment, an award (e.g. monetary and/or nonmonetary awards, such as those described above), or any other suitable manner. Separate and apart from buy-out offers, tickets may be exchanged or transferred from one player to another or to any other party or entity type and at any desired time, and with legal ownership also being transferred at the same time. In some circumstances there may be merely an exchange of tickets and no other value or payment made from one party to another. In other circumstances there may be a value or payment made from one party to another, which can comprise anything the parties may agree to, such as some form of monetary payment or credit, or some other form of "value", such as, without limitation, any goods or services or incentives, etc.

[0094] In one example of a lottery system, the first x number of balls would be drawn at one or more predetermined times, such as from one "barrel", which would correspond to one or more legs, and after a delay of a certain interval, such as one week, the last leg or bonus ball would be drawn. For instance, 5 balls would be drawn on a weekend day and make up the first leg, although any other day may be utilized as well, or even a shorter or longer interval, such as within minutes or hours, or a desired number of days, weeks, months or years. Also, as should be understood, the number of balls drawn making up the first leg may vary as well, such as fewer or more numbered balls. A determination would then be made as to the number of tickets having the correct numbers. This may be accomplished electronically via the server system controller. In certain examples, the determination may involve identifying tickets having all 5 numbers correct. However, in other examples, the determination may involve identifying those tickets that have some designated number of balls correct less than 5, such as 4 out of 5, or 3 out of 5, or 2 out of 5 or 1 out of 5, etc. In addition, in certain examples the particular order or sequence of numbers on a ticket are required to correspond to the order of the balls drawn to be considered correct. In certain other examples, the order or sequence of numbers on a ticket do not need to correspond to the order of the balls drawn; so long as the ticket contains the requisite number of balls that were drawn somewhere on the ticket (irrespective of the order drawn). Any number of the holders of tickets having the correct numbers may be provided with a buy-out offer, conducted as a fixed price offer (that may not be consistent to each player, if some players hold the same terminal number as others and as such are only eligible to share the jackpot), or as part of an auction system where a limited number of "buy outs" may be offered, as examples, followed by a drawing or drawings to determine the winners from the remaining ticket holders that did not

accept the buyout offer. In addition, with respect to those examples where a ticket having less than all balls correct would qualify, the particular buy-out offer may be relevant to the number of balls that are correct, for example, a larger buyout offer the more correct numbers on a ticket, and/or entitlement to a larger or better prize or a bonus the more correct numbers on a ticket, etc. Alternatively, any of the players having winning tickets (or those having a certain amount of correct numbers) may qualify for a supplemental lottery drawing, which could be the final leg(s) of the lottery or a bonus round, as examples. For instance, the qualified players may select or obtain one or more additional number or numbers on a new ticket for purposes of the supplemental drawing. For example, the supplemental drawing could be in the form of a bonus ball, and the winner or winners matching the bonus ball would win or share in the Jackpot or a bonus Jackpot.

[0095] For instance, in this example, each of the holders of tickets having the correct numbers (or any other desired number of ticket holders) may be offered to attend the draw of the remaining number or numbers in an organized event, such as via a live event attended by all holders in person at a defined location, or attended by a communications medium from an offsite location, such via a video conference or web interface, such as Skype or ooVoo, as examples (perhaps the following week or other desired time). In addition, the live event could be made accessible for viewing by the public, such as an in person audience, or more generally viewed over any mass communications medium, such as broadcast over television, cable, satellite, the internet, radio, mobile communication device (e.g., mobile phones, tablets, computers, PDA (personal digital assistant), etc.), social media or any other desired medium. As an example, the lottery system may be set as a reality show that is viewed live or pre-recorded and broadcast over television or other medium to the viewing public. In addition, in this example, before the remaining number(s) are selected, the lottery operator may provide remaining ticket holders with a buyout option, available to a limited number of players or all of them on occasion. Further, in this illustration, a bidding process may be included as an option, which would have the effect to add drama to the conclusion of the game. For instance, the buyout bid could potentially be provided to all the people at the same amount for their ticket and let them rush to accept, and with the bidding process closed once a certain percentage have "sold" their ticket in response to the buyout offer, and then the last ball or balls would be drawn. As an alternative, for example to maximize interest and tension for television purposes, the bonus ball (or last leg or alternatively

any other leg) may be determined by a multi-step process of elimination, resulting in one or more remaining numbered balls that are then used to compare against the players tickets to determine if there are any winners (i.e., removing one or more balls in each leg, and including a plurality of legs so that more and more balls are removed over time, until just a certain number of balls remain, such as one ball), rather than a process of selecting one or more balls in one action that are used to compare against the players tickets, but either process may be used as desired. Additionally it may be possible that between each elimination process or leg (or fewer than each but between specified legs) the individuals still eligible for a prize may or may not be offered an additional chance to "cash in their ticket" with a subsequent buy-out offer or offers, and the buy-out offers may also be increasing in value as their probability of winning increases as the event proceeds toward the last leg or bonus ball. Alternatively, the buyout offer could be provided to less than all players, at different times, at different amounts, and/or having a defined period of time for players to accept the buyout bid. It should be understood that the multi-step process of elimination may be used in any manner in connection with a lottery system, such as, including for either or both of any initial lottery drawings or any bonus drawings.

[0096] Further, the percentage of players required in order to trigger the close of the bidding process may be established at any desired value, for instance, ranging all the way up to 100% of the players that have accepted the buyout offer. The lottery operator may assume the ownership of the ticket from the players that have accepted the buyout offer. Any winners after the final number(s) are drawn would receive or share in the jackpot. If there is no winner, in one implementation the jackpot may be rolled into another game or event. Alternatively, players may also be allowed to sell a fraction of their tickets in response to a buy-out offer, to ensure the game is not 100% binary as an option, and with the proportion being any desired amount, such as being subject to commercial considerations of drama, and interaction of players.

[0097] Similar to that described above, with respect to a fantasy example, such as with any fantasy events, for instance, any fantasy games, a full and/or a partial buy-out/cash-in offer (and any desired number of full and/or partial buy-out/cash-in offers) may be made at any time and to any number of participants, for example and without limitation, until a designated action occurs or until a particular time period is met, such as completion of a fantasy league season, or any other desired criteria is met, including sub elements of a game such as time period or quarter or half, etc.. As should be understood, the terms buy-out and cash-in as used herein have the same

intended meaning. All other features and aspects as described above apply to a fantasy example in the same manner. For example, buy-out/cash-in offers may be made by any entity, including but not limited to any game operator(s) or through the game operator (or alternatively directly) from any third party or parties (e.g., one or more system operator(s), business entity or entities such as a merchant(s), one or more other persons, other player(s), anonymously, etc.). As should be understood, the buy-out/cash-in offers can thus come from any source, and also can be utilized in a variety of different implementations, including, as an example and without limitation, games that are organized specifically to have buy-out/cash-in as a feature (e.g., as arranged by a system operator), as well as games that are not originally organized to have buy-out/cash-in as a feature (e.g., where a system operator did not arrange for a game to include a buy-out/cash-in feature, but a third party, such as a competitor operator, makes a buy-out/cash-in offer to one or more of the game participants, and in this manner introduces the buy-out/cash-in feature into the game). Also, there can be any desired number of buy-out/cash-in offers that are made and/or accepted in connection with any event, such as any fantasy game(s), and between any desired number of entities, without limitation. In addition, the value or price of any full and/or partial buy-out/cash-in offers that are made may be based on a variety of factors, such as including the “performance” of a fantasy team, for instance, based on the ranking or total number of points accumulated by the fantasy team, or any other factors, including those described elsewhere herein as well as others that may not be described but suitable for use and implementation herein. In addition, as an example, a wager or similar may be placed by participants (i.e., via input devices similar to the wager input devices described above) and a prize, payment and/or an award may be paid out to any winner/winners. For illustration and without limitation, a wager and a prize, payment and/or an award may come in any desired form. As should be understood, for this example and elsewhere with other examples herein, the terms prize, payment and similar terminology as used herein should be construed broadly; as an illustrative example, such terms should be construed at least as broad to encompass each of the terms under the broad definition of award set forth herein. In addition, as should be understood, the value or price of any full and/or partial buy-out/cash-in offers and acceptances, as well as the form in which they may be made, should be broadly construed; for instance, the form may at least encompass each of the terms under the broad definition of award as well as other variations set forth herein or otherwise not described, but which may be suitable. For example, buy-

out/cash-in offers and acceptances may cover a broad range of items that may be provided from one (1) party to another or others, or exchanged between two (2) or more parties that are involved in a transaction. As an illustration and without limitation, a buy-out/cash-in offer/acceptance may involve any monetary or nonmonetary value or item, etc. transferred from Party A to Party B in return for Party B's "ticket"; for instance, a payment, a new bet, property, etc. In addition, in certain implementations, it may also be possible for a transaction to involve Party B, in addition to providing their "ticket" to Party A, to also provide any monetary or nonmonetary value or item, etc. to Party A as well in connection with a buy-out/cash-in transaction. It is also possible to have multiple exchanges between parties in connection with a transaction or a series of buy-out/cash-in offers/acceptance to occur between parties, as may be desired and implemented. As another illustrative example, as described elsewhere herein, an award paid out to a winner/winners may also, where desired, be fixed (e.g. payout determined in advance and independent of the number of players participating or amounts paid in by participants), variable (e.g., payout determined by the amount paid in by participants) and/or guaranteed (e.g., payout determined in advance and takes into consideration amounts paid in by participants, and with a "host" being responsible for any overlay or shortage required to be paid to arrive at the guaranteed amount). As should be understood, any other suitable type of awards now known or to become known at some future time should all be construed to be covered under the present disclosure. For example, an award should also be construed broad enough to encompass a trading scenario, including but not limited to scenarios analogous to trades in commodities or derivatives that place a value on a particular commodity, derivative or portfolio, such as a fund; for instance, for purposes of executing trades between parties. Similarly, an award should be construed broad enough to encompass scenarios analogous to "remortgaging" or refinancing, such as may occur with any property, such as real estate, that allocates a particular value to property at issue, and at times with the objective to use the property as collateral. In the context of the present disclosure, a particular value may be determined and allocated in connection with any participant/player's game, position, wager(s), wagering, bets, betting, etc., and at any particular time, such as for purposes of determining the appropriate amount or award to be allocated to any winner(s) and/or in connection with any full and/or partial buy-out/cash-in offers that may be made and/or accepted. In addition, for this example and elsewhere herein with other examples, the terms wager, wagers, wagering, bets and betting as referenced herein

should be broadly construed; for instance, in certain examples such terms may encompass anything that may be designated or otherwise required or optionally to be provided by a player in order to participate in an event, such as any type of payment, or anything else that may be provided, including but not limited to any monetary and/or nonmonetary items, which should be construed broadly so as to at least encompass each of the terms under the broad definition of award as described above (herein referred to as an “entrance fee”). In some examples, the entrance fee may not require any payments or any other monetary or nonmonetary item required from a player desiring to participate in any event; for example, this may be implemented in any manner as desired and for any reason, such as without limitation, for marketing reasons or trial reasons in order to attract users or in connection with free to play scenarios, as just some nonlimiting illustrative examples. Also, as another illustrative example, in connection with the entrance fee, players may also be required, or optionally may provide, other information, such as, without limitation, identifying information (e.g., certain personal information to sign up as a user), account information, redemption code(s) (e.g., to redeem coupons or credit vouchers or free play awards, etc.), payment information, such as a credit or debit card, or any other type of payment mechanism, etc. Other examples may also include “incentives” that are offered to players in return for providing certain information, such as membership privileges, vouchers, free play, etc. As should be understood, the entrance fee as described herein is not limited and can also correspond to any of the wager, wagers, wagering, bets and/or betting aspects and features as set forth and described elsewhere in this disclosure. A winner of a fantasy event may be based on any desired factors or criteria, such as the participant or participants with the highest point totals, such as based on the cumulative statistical performance parameters of the “players” on an individual’s fantasy team. Other factors may also be utilized to determine the winner/winners of a fantasy event. Bonus and/or consolation awards/prizes may also be provided, similar to discussed above. In addition, similar to that described above, a participant’s game, team, players, ticket, position and/or anything else of value or in the possession of a participant and/or providing “ownership” to a participant in connection with a fantasy game may be transferred from person to person or otherwise.

[0098] It should be understood that various changes and modifications to the presently preferred embodiments and examples described herein will be apparent to those skilled in the art. For instance, each of the features and aspects described in connection with any of the various

presently preferred embodiments and examples can also be used in connection with any or all of the other of the presently preferred embodiments and examples alone or in combination, even though not explicitly described therein. Further it should be understood that all of the features and aspects described herein may be provided through use of any suitable hardware, software or combination of both, as may be desired and in any manner. In addition, for example, the gaming system disclosed herein may provide the awards to winning players in any suitable manner, such as through a suitable bonus or secondary game or event determined by the implementer or operator of the gaming system, and may include, without limitation:

- 1) Dividing any multi (betting/dealing/trading) outcome into its sub components.
- 2) Allow change of ticket ownership or ticket exchange between players or other entities at any time, including at any point after a ticket is obtained or an event is initiated up through completion of the event, after each stage of the game being resolved, or at any other desired time. The recipient of the ticket that has changed ownership or been exchanged would assume the same position as the original owner; in effect stepping into the shoes of the original owner, and legally supersede the original owner with all rights associated with the ticket. For example, a change of ticket ownership can occur via a buy-out, and the party acquiring the ticket would have all the rights as the original owner, including being entitled to win any award or jackpot that may relate to the ticket in connection with any wagering event. In other examples, legal ownership of the ticket would remain with a player, but the entitlement to any award or jackpot is what would reside with another party where a “ticket change” has occurred, such as through a buy-out, or trading or giving a ticket to another player, etc.

[0099] Similarly, a party purchasing a partial buy-out of a ticket (i.e., less than 100% of the rights associated with the ticket) would be entitled to win any award or jackpot for which the ticket is redeemable in proportion to the interest purchased via the partial buy-out. Thus, if the party purchased a 30% interest in the ticket, the party would be entitled to 30% of the winnings for which the ticket is redeemable. As with full buy-outs, partial buy-outs can occur prior to or at any stage of a wagering event.

[0100] In an illustrative example of a ticket exchange, a pool may be “seeded” (i.e. a operator may place £3000 worth of bets into the pool) 4-5-6 hours in advance of a particular wagering event. As the public play into a pool becomes significant, rather than continuing to grow the pool (i.e., continuing to add money from bets) and have the operator’s commitment to

keep the prices inline escalate, the operator can transfer some of the existing seed money or investment to a player buying a tote ticket. Notably, the tote ticket may change ownership in whole or in part, before the pool is closed, or after the pool has closed but before completion of the wagering event.

3) Calculate the odds specifically, allow market forces to determine a sale price, use other particular subjective and/or objective factors, and/or use any desired combination of the foregoing.

4) Allow the ownership of remaining tickets or number to be transparently displayed to the player and or audience, to help cash in or buy-back offers or process.

5) Transact, with or without a bidding process or joint bidding process, or auction the ticket exchange. The implementer or operator of the gaming system disclosed herein may also designate the number of awards, the time at which those awards are provided to each winning player, the number of rounds in the bonus event, the number of designated outcomes in each round and/or the number of available outcomes in each round to suitable values.

[0101] Such changes and modifications can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the present disclosure and without diminishing its intended advantages. For example, any of the concepts and features described in connection with any example, embodiment or variation herein may also apply and be utilized in connection with any other example, embodiment or variation described herein alone or in combination. In addition, any of the concepts and features disclosed herein may be provided by appropriate hardware, software and/or combination of both hardware and software where desired and deemed appropriate. It is therefore intended that such changes and modifications be covered by the appended claims.

CLAIMS

1. A method of conducting a multi-outcome wagering event for one or more players, wherein the wagering event comprises a defined number of legs, and wherein a player is presented with at least one of a buy-out offer and a partial buy-out offer prior to completion of all of the defined number of legs, the method comprising the steps of:

providing one or more wagering input devices in communication with a system controller through which one or more players may participate in a multi-outcome wagering event, said system controller being adapted for:

initiating the multi-outcome wagering event for one or more players, said multi-outcome wagering event comprised of a defined number of legs, wherein one or more jackpots, or a portion thereof, is awarded at least where a particular number of the defined number of legs are completed;

receiving a wager via the one or more wagering input devices in response to input from a player desiring to participate in the multi-outcome wagering event, wherein the wager coincides with each of the defined number of legs;

generating a record reflecting the wager associated with the player at the system controller;

receiving input of an outcome of each of the defined number of legs corresponding to the multi-outcome wager event;

generating and causing display via the one or more wagering input devices the outcome of each of the defined number of legs to a player;

identifying one or more players eligible to win each of the defined number of legs based on the wager from among players participating in the multi-outcome wagering event,

determining any players eligible to win at least one jackpot or a portion thereof based on the potential outcome of each of the defined number of legs in comparison against the record reflecting the wager from among players participating in the multi-outcome wagering event, wherein players eligible to win at least one leg are eligible to win at least one jackpot or a portion thereof;

initiating and causing display of at least one of a buy-out offer and partial buy-out offer via the one or more wagering input devices to any number of the one or more players that are eligible to win at least one jackpot for at least a portion of said at least one jackpot, said buy-

out offer or partial buy-out offer being initiated at any time before the multi-outcome wagering event has been completed;

receiving an acceptance of the buy-out offer or partial buy-out offer via the one or more wagering input devices in response to input from a particular number of the players eligible to win at least one jackpot that have accepted the buy-out offer or partial buy-out offer, each of the players accepting the buy-out offer will no longer be eligible to exclusively win the at least one jackpot, wherein each of the players not accepting the buy-out offer will remain eligible to win the at least one jackpot, and wherein each of the players accepting a partial buy-out offer remains eligible to win at least a portion of the at least one jackpot;

issuing a credit, tokens, currency or an award to the one or more players accepting the buy-out offer or partial buy-out offer;

completing the remainder of the defined number of legs to finish the multi-outcome wagering event;

determining if any of the players have won the at least one jackpot or portion thereof;

notifying the players that have won the jackpot or portion thereof; and

issuing a credit, tokens, currency or an award to the players that have won the jackpot or portion thereof.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the multi-outcome wagering event comprises one or more wagering events, the defined number of legs comprises one or more legs, and wherein each of the defined number of legs comprises at least one of an entire wagering event, a partial wagering event, a divisible component of a wagering event, multiple independent wagering events occurring sequentially or concurrently, and a compilation of related wagering events, wherein the one or more wagering events comprises one or more selected from the group consisting of sporting events, eSports, e-sports, competitive gaming, electronic sports, fantasy events, real games, virtual games, and fantasy games, and wherein the wager comprises a potential outcome for each of the legs.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the wager is one or more of selectable by being handpicked by the player, provided electronically on request of the player through communication between the one or more wagering input devices and the system controller,

provided via a random number generator associated with the system controller, a quick pick or a smart pick.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the games comprise one or more selected from the group consisting of slot machines, keno, poker, video games, football ("soccer"), American football, Australian rules football, baseball, cricket, basketball, golf, hockey, auto racing, legends, rugby, wrestling, surfing, mixed martial arts, racing, lotteries, live events, pre-recorded events, online events, broadcast events, card games, politics, sales, stocks, celebrity gossip, movies, and reality TV.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein accepting a partial buy-out offer comprises a player accepting less than the buy-out offer amount, said acceptance resulting in the player remaining eligible to win at least a portion of at least one jackpot.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the buy-out offer is initiated on behalf of at least one of a third party and a player, and when a buy-out offer is accepted, the third party becomes eligible for winning at least a portion of the jackpot.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the system controller is further programmed to award the jackpot, or any fractional portion thereof, upon the completion of the multi-outcome event pool.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the multi-outcome wagering event comprises one or more virtual games, said method further comprising:
initiating the buy-out offer prior to completion of the one or more virtual games, but after an outcome of the one or more virtual games has been determined,
said buy-out offer including a price that is at least partially based on random-number generated probabilities.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising initiating a bidding process among a designated number of players interested in accepting at least one of a buy-out offer and partial buy-out offer, and closing the bidding process after a certain span of time or after a certain number of the buy-out and partial buy-out offers have been accepted.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein one or more interim jackpots are awarded where a particular number of the defined number of legs are completed prior to completion of the multi-outcome wagering event.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising awarding at least one consolation jackpot where a consolation scenario is won.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein said consolation scenario comprising at least one of winning a predetermined subset of the defined number of legs and selecting a predetermined number of non-winning legs that each finishes within a predetermined position of a corresponding winning leg.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein there is a span of time before at least one final leg of the multi-outcome event is completed, and the at least one final leg is completed in a live or pre-recorded event attended by the players eligible to win a jackpot, a portion thereof, or a bonus prize.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising initiating a buy-back offer, prior to the at least one final leg, to at least one player eligible to win the jackpot, the portion thereof, or the bonus, said buy-back offer being for a portion of an entirety of said jackpot, said portion thereof, or said bonus prize.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein the live or pre-recorded event is a reality show that is broadcast over a mass communications medium.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the mass communications medium comprises at least one of television, satellite, cable, the Internet, mobile communication device, social media and radio.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more wagering input devices are adapted for generating a wager for a player reflecting one or more predicted outcomes of the multi-outcome wagering event.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein ownership or partial ownership of the wager may be changed from player to player at any time before or during the course of the multi-outcome wagering event.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the system controller is further adapted for identifying the ownership status of the wager.

20. The method of claim 1, wherein the wager further comprises a list that is at least one of printed on a ticket, printed on a voucher, and displayed via the one or more wagering input devices.

21. The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more wagering devices comprise at least one of a wagering terminal, a wagering workstation, a personal computer, a smart phone, a tablet computing device, a gaming machine, a slot machine, and a lottery machine.

22. The method of claim 1, wherein the multi-outcome wagering event comprises a pool or is progressive, wherein said pool is at least one of fixed, variable and guaranteed.

23. The method of claim 1, wherein where there are no winners of at least one jackpot, said at least one jackpot is rolled into another multi-outcome wagering event or at least partially awarded to an operator of the multi-outcome wagering event.

24. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the one or more jackpots comprises a monetary award provided to the player in the form of at least one of currency, tokens and credit.

25. The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more jackpots, the portion thereof, or the award comprises one or more selected from the group consisting of monetary awards, nonmonetary awards, a prize, a payment, a designated currency, virtual currency, tokens, credits, coupons, services, personal property, real property, virtual property, assets, investments, negotiable instruments, commodities, food, lodging, entertainment, alleviation of obligations, gaming opportunities and wager enhancement.

26. The method of claim 1, wherein the multi-outcome wagering event comprises at least one of a bonus leg and a consolation leg, wherein designated players who have one a defined number of legs qualify for the bonus leg and designated players who have lost a defined number of legs qualify for the consolation leg, and wherein correctly predicting an outcome of the bonus leg qualifies at least one designated player for at least a portion of a bonus prize and correctly predicting an outcome of the consolation leg qualifies at least one designated player for at least a portion of a consolation prize.

27. The method of claim 1 wherein the wagering event and wager comprises one or more of fixed odds single wagers, multiple wagers, full cover wagers, full cover wagers with singles, 'Any to Come' (ATC) or 'if cash' wagers, specialty wagers, forecasts, fixed, variable, guaranteed, parimutuel wagering, fixed-odds wagering, accumulator or parlay wagering, fixed odds, a pool, progressive, fixed pool, variable pool or guaranteed pool.

28. The method of claim 1, wherein upon acceptance of the buy-out offer or partial buy-out offer by a player, the method further comprises at least one or more of:

transferring an entitlement of the player to at least one third party or another player, so that the at least one third party or another player becomes eligible to win the at least one jackpot or portion thereof;

transferring ownership or partial ownership of the player, in at least a portion of the player's wager, to at least one third party or another player, so that the at least one third party or another player obtains ownership or partial ownership and becomes eligible to win the at least one jackpot or portion thereof;

relinquishing rights of the player, in at least a portion of the player's wager corresponding to the buy-out offer or partial buy-out offer, before the multi-outcome wagering event has been completed; and

initiating and causing display of at least a portion of the player's wager corresponding to the accepted buy-out offer or partial buy-out offer for at least one of bidding and selection by one or more third parties.

29. The method of claim 1, further comprising a cash out option, the system controller further configured to:

receive a selection of the cash out option from any of the one or more players that desire to fully or partially end the wager, wherein the selection of the cash out option from any of the one or more players is provided via one or more of the one or more wagering input devices, a hand held device, a mobile device, a wireless device, a computing system, a smart phone, a telephone, a tablet computer, text messaging, a PDA, an interactive television, email, Internet browser or a cashier;

wherein any of the one or more players selecting the cash out option to fully end the wager no longer participates in the multi-outcome wagering event, and any of the one or more players selecting the cash out option to partially end the wager continues to participate in the multi-outcome wagering event; and

issue to the one or more players that selected the cash out option one or more of cash, tickets or credit slips redeemable by the player, funding of a player's electronically recordable identification card or online account, or an award.

30. The method of claim 1, wherein initiate and cause display of at least one of a buy-out offer and a partial buy-out offer comprises initiate and cause display of a partial buy-out offer.

31. The method of claim 1, wherein initiate and cause display of at least one of a buy-out offer and a partial buy-out offer comprises initiate and cause display of a buy-out offer.

32. The method of claim 1, wherein the buy-out offer comprises a cash in offer or a cash out offer, and wherein the partial buy-out offer comprises a partial cash in offer or a partial cash out offer.

33. The method of claim 1, wherein the buy-out offer and partial buy-out offer comprises a full cash out on a single.

34. The method of claim 1, wherein the buy-out offer and partial buy-out offer comprises a partial cash out on a single.

35. The method of claim 1, wherein the buy-out offer and partial buy-out offer comprises a full cash out on a multiple, accumulator, parlay or pool.

36. The method of claim 1, wherein the buy-out offer and partial buy-out offer comprises a partial cash out on a multiple, accumulator, parlay or pool.

37. A wagering system including one or more wagering input devices for allowing the placement of a wager on a multi-outcome wagering event comprising one or more wagering events, the wagering system comprising:
a system controller configured to communicate with the one or more wagering input devices, said system controller configured to:

initiate the multi-outcome wagering event for one or more players, said multi-outcome wagering event comprised of a defined number of legs comprising one or more legs, wherein one or more jackpots, or a portion thereof, is awarded at least where a particular number of the defined number of legs are completed;

receive a wager via the one or more wagering input devices in response to input from a player desiring to participate in the multi-outcome wagering event, wherein the wager coincides with each of the defined number of legs;

generate a record reflecting the wager associated with the player at the system controller;

receive input of an outcome of each of the defined number of legs corresponding to the multi-outcome wager event;

generate and cause display via the one or more wagering input devices the outcome received of each of the defined number of legs to a player;

identify one or more players eligible to win each of the defined number of legs based on the wager from among players participating in the multi-outcome wagering event,

determine any players eligible to win at least one jackpot or a portion thereof based on the potential outcome of each of the defined number of legs in comparison against the record reflecting the wager from among players participating in the multi-outcome wagering event, wherein players eligible to win at least one leg remain eligible to win at least one jackpot or a portion thereof;

initiate and cause display of at least one of a buy-out offer and a partial buy-out offer via the one or more wagering input devices to any number of the one or more players that remain eligible to win at least one jackpot, or portion thereof, for at least a portion of said at least one jackpot, said buy-out offer or partial buy-out offer being initiated before the multi-outcome wagering event has been completed;

receive an acceptance of at least one of the buy-out offer and partial buy-out offer via the one or more wagering input devices in response to input from a particular number of the one or more players eligible to win the at least one jackpot or portion thereof that have accepted the buy-out offer or partial buy-out offer, wherein each of the one or more players accepting the buy-out offer will no longer be eligible to exclusively win the at least one jackpot, wherein each of the one or more players not accepting the buy-out offer will remain eligible to win the at least one jackpot, and wherein each of the one or more players accepting a partial buy-out offer remains eligible to win at least a portion of the at least one jackpot;

issue a credit, tokens, currency or an award to the one or more players accepting the buy-out offer or partial buy-out offer;

complete the remainder of the defined number of legs to finish the multi-outcome wagering event;

determine if any of the players have won the jackpot or portion thereof;

notify the players that have won the jackpot or portion thereof; and

issue a credit, tokens, currency or an award to the players that have won the jackpot or portion thereof .

38. The wagering system of claim 37, wherein the multi-outcome wagering event comprises a plurality of legs, each comprising at least one of an entire sporting event, a partial

sporting event, a divisible component of a sporting event, multiple independent sporting events occurring sequentially or concurrently, and a compilation of related sporting events.

39. The wagering system of claim 38, wherein the system controller is further configured to:

initiate one or more buy-out offers or partial buy-out offers for any combination of the plurality of legs at any time prior to completion of the multi-outcome wagering event; and receive an acceptance of said one or more buy-out offers or partial buy-out offers.

40. The wagering system of claim 37, wherein the multi-outcome wagering event comprises at least one of a bonus leg and a consolation leg,

wherein designated players who have won a defined number of legs qualify for the bonus leg and designated players who have lost a defined number of legs qualify for the consolation leg, and

wherein correctly predicting an outcome of the bonus leg qualifies at least one designated player for at least a portion of a bonus prize and correctly predicting an outcome of the consolation leg qualifies at least one designated player for at least a portion of a consolation prize.

41. The wagering system of claim 37, wherein the wager comprises at least one of an accumulator, parlay, fixed odds single or fixed odds multiple wager comprising at least one or more combinations of at least a portion of the defined number of legs, wherein the one or more combinations are selectable by at least one of a player, a third party, and the wagering system, and wherein at any time before all legs included in the wager have been completed, at least one partial buy-out offer is initiated to any number of the one or more players remaining eligible to win at least one of a jackpot, a portion of a jackpot or an award.

42. The wagering system of claim 37, wherein the one or more jackpots, the portion thereof, or the award comprises one or more selected from the group consisting of monetary awards, nonmonetary awards, a prize, a payment, a designated currency, virtual currency, tokens, credits, coupons, services, personal property, real property, virtual property, assets, investments, negotiable instruments, commodities, food, lodging, entertainment, alleviation of obligations, gaming opportunities and wager enhancement.

43. The wagering system of claim 37 wherein the wagering event and wager comprises one or more of fixed odds single wagers, multiple wagers, full cover wagers, full

cover wagers with singles, 'Any to Come' (ATC) or 'if cash' wagers, specialty wagers, forecasts, fixed, variable, guaranteed, parimutuel wagering, fixed-odds wagering, accumulator or parlay wagering, fixed odds, a pool, progressive, fixed pool, variable pool or guaranteed pool.

44. The wagering system of claim 37, wherein upon acceptance of the buy-out offer or partial buy-out offer by a player, the system further comprises at least one or more of:

transferring an entitlement of the player to at least one third party or another player, so that the at least one third party or another player becomes eligible to win the at least one jackpot or portion thereof;

transferring ownership or partial ownership of the player, in at least a portion of the player's wager, to at least one third party or another player, so that the at least one third party or another player obtains ownership or partial ownership and becomes eligible to win the at least one jackpot or portion thereof;

relinquishing rights of the player, in at least a portion of the player's wager corresponding to the buy-out offer or partial buy-out offer, before the multi-outcome wagering event has been completed; and

initiating and causing display of at least a portion of the player's wager corresponding to the accepted buy-out offer or partial buy-out offer for at least one of bidding and selection by one or more third parties.

45. The wagering system of claim 37, further comprising a cash out option, the system controller further configured to:

receive a selection of the cash out option from any of the one or more players that desire to fully or partially end the wager, wherein the selection of the cash out option from any of the one or more players is provided via one or more of the one or more wagering input devices, a hand held device, a mobile device, a wireless device, a computing system, a smart phone, a telephone, a tablet computer, text messaging, a PDA, an interactive television, email, Internet browser or a cashier;

wherein any of the one or more players selecting the cash out option to fully end the wager no longer participates in the multi-outcome wagering event, and any of the one or more players selecting the cash out option to partially end the wager continues to participate in the multi-outcome wagering event; and

issue to the one or more players that selected the cash out option one or more of cash, tickets or credit slips redeemable by the player, funding of a player's electronically recordable identification card or online account, or an award.

46. The wagering system of claim 37, wherein initiate and cause display of at least one of a buy-out offer and a partial buy-out offer comprises initiate and cause display of a partial buy-out offer.

47. The wagering system of claim 37, wherein initiate and cause display of at least one of a buy-out offer and a partial buy-out offer comprises initiate and cause display of a buy-out offer.

48. The wagering system of claim 37, wherein the buy-out offer comprises a cash in offer or a cash out offer, and wherein the partial buy-out offer comprises a partial cash in offer or a partial cash out offer.

49. The wagering system of claim 37, wherein the buy-out offer and partial buy-out offer comprises a full cash out on a single.

50. The wagering system of claim 37, wherein the buy-out offer and partial buy-out offer comprises a partial cash out on a single.

51. The wagering system of claim 37, wherein the buy-out offer and partial buy-out offer comprises a full cash out on a multiple, accumulator, parlay or pool.

52. The wagering system of claim 37, wherein the buy-out offer and partial buy-out offer comprises a partial cash out on a multiple, accumulator, parlay or pool.

53. The wagering system of claim 37, wherein the wagering events comprise one or more selected from the group consisting of slot machines, keno, poker, video games, racing, sporting events, eSports, e-sports, competitive gaming, electronic sports, lotteries, real games, virtual games, fantasy events, fantasy games, live events, pre-recorded events, online events, broadcast events, card games, politics, sales, stocks, celebrity gossip, movies, reality TV, football ("soccer"), American football, Australian rules football, baseball, cricket, basketball, golf, hockey, auto racing, legends, rugby, wrestling, surfing, mixed and martial arts.

54. A wagering system including one or more wagering input devices for allowing the placement of a wager on one or more wagering events, the wagering system comprising:

a system controller configured to communicate with the one or more wagering input devices, said system controller configured to:

initiate the one or more wagering events for one or more players;
receive a wager via the one or more wagering input devices in response to input from a player desiring to participate in the one or more wagering events;
generate a record reflecting the wager associated with the player at the system controller;
receive input of an outcome of the one or more wagering events;
generate and cause display via the one or more wagering input devices the outcome of the one or more wagering events to a player;
identify one or more players eligible to win the one or more wagering events based on the wager from among players participating in the one or more wagering events;
determine any winners of the one or more wagering events based on the outcome of one or more wagering events in comparison against the record reflecting the wager from among players participating in the one or more wagering events;
initiate and cause display of at least one of a buy-out offer and a partial buy-out offer via the one or more wagering input devices to any number of the one or more players eligible to win before the one or more wagering events have been completed, wherein one or more additional buy-out offers or partial buy-out offers may be initiated and displayed via the one or more wagering input devices to any number of the one or more players that have not accepted a buy-out offer or a partial buy-out offer;
receive any acceptances of the at least one of the buy-out offer and partial buy-out offer via the one or more wagering input devices in response to input from a particular number of the one or more players that have accepted the buy-out offer or partial buy-out offer; and
issue a credit, tokens, currency or an award to the one or more players accepting the buy-out offer or partial buy-out offer.

55. The wagering system of claim 54, wherein the one or more players are eligible to win an award and the system controller is further configured to determine if any of the one or more players have won the award.

56. The wagering system of claim 54, wherein the award comprises one or more selected from the group consisting of monetary awards, nonmonetary awards, a prize, a payment, a designated currency, virtual currency, tokens, credits, coupons, services, personal property, real

property, virtual property, assets, investments, negotiable instruments, commodities, food, lodging, entertainment, alleviation of obligations, gaming opportunities and wager enhancement.

57. The wagering system of claim 54, wherein the wagering event comprises at least one of an entire wagering event, a partial wagering event, a divisible component of a wagering event, multiple independent wagering events occurring sequentially or concurrently, and a compilation of related wagering events, wherein the wagering event comprises one or more selected from the group consisting of sporting events, eSports, e-sports, competitive gaming, electronic sports, lotteries, real games, virtual games, fantasy events, fantasy games, live events, pre-recorded events, online events, broadcast events, slot machines, card games, keno, video games, racing, poker, politics, sales, stocks, celebrity gossip, movies, and reality TV, wherein the sporting events comprise at least one or more of any sport, including any sport selected from the group consisting of football ("soccer"), American football, Australian rules football, baseball, cricket, basketball, golf, hockey, auto racing, legends, rugby, wrestling, surfing, mixed martial arts.

58. The wagering system of claim 54 wherein the wagering event and wager comprises one or more of fixed odds single wagers, multiple wagers, full cover wagers, full cover wagers with singles, 'Any to Come' (ATC) or 'if cash' wagers, specialty wagers, forecasts, fixed, variable, guaranteed, parimutuel wagering, fixed-odds wagering, accumulator or parlay wagering, fixed odds, a pool, progressive, fixed pool, variable pool or guaranteed pool.

59. The wagering system of claim 54, wherein upon acceptance of the buy-out offer or partial buy-out offer by a player, the system further comprises at least one or more of:

transferring an entitlement of the player to at least one third party or another player, so that the at least one third party or another player becomes eligible to win the at least one jackpot or portion thereof;

transferring ownership or partial ownership of the player, in at least a portion of the player's wager, to at least one third party or another player, so that the at least one third party or another player obtains ownership or partial ownership and becomes eligible to win the at least one jackpot or portion thereof;

relinquishing rights of the player, in at least a portion of the player's wager corresponding to the buy-out offer or partial buy-out offer, before the wagering event has been completed; and

initiating and causing display of at least a portion of the player's wager corresponding to the accepted buy-out offer or partial buy-out offer for at least one of bidding and selection by one or more third parties.

60. The wagering system of claim 54, further comprising a cash out option, the system controller further configured to:

receive a selection of the cash out option from any of the one or more players that desire to fully or partially end the wager, wherein the selection of the cash out option from any of the one or more players is provided via one or more of the one or more wagering input devices, a hand held device, a mobile device, a wireless device, a computing system, a smart phone, a telephone, a tablet computer, text messaging, a PDA, an interactive television, email, Internet browser or a cashier;

wherein any of the one or more players selecting the cash out option to fully end the wager no longer participates in the one or more wagering events, and any of the one or more players selecting the cash out option to partially end the wager continues to participate in the one or more wagering events; and

issue to the one or more players that selected the cash out option one or more of cash, tickets or credit slips redeemable by the player, funding of a player's electronically recordable identification card or online account, or an award.

61. The wagering system of claim 54, wherein initiate and cause display of at least one of a buy-out offer and a partial buy-out offer comprises initiate and cause display of a partial buy-out offer.

62. The wagering system of claim 54, wherein initiate and cause display of at least one of a buy-out offer and a partial buy-out offer comprises initiate and cause display of a buy-out offer.

63. The wagering system of claim 54, wherein the buy-out offer comprises a cash in offer or a cash out offer, and wherein the partial buy-out offer comprises a partial cash in offer or a partial cash out offer.

64. The wagering system of claim 54, wherein the buy-out offer and partial buy-out offer comprises a full cash out on a single.

65. The wagering system of claim 54, wherein the buy-out offer and partial buy-out offer comprises a partial cash out on a single.

66. The wagering system of claim 54, wherein the buy-out offer and partial buy-out offer comprises a full cash out on a multiple, accumulator, parlay or pool.

67. The wagering system of claim 54, wherein the buy-out offer and partial buy-out offer comprises a partial cash out on a multiple, accumulator, parlay or pool.

68. A wagering apparatus operative with one or more wagering devices for allowing a placement of a wager on an event comprised of one or more legs, the wagering apparatus comprising:

- a server system controller configured to communicate with one or more wagering devices, said server system controller programmed to cause the wagering devices to:

- display one or more wagering events;

- select, in response to input from one or more players, one or more wagering events upon which at least one wager is accepted, wherein the at least one wager associated with the selection, of the one or more wagering events, has an associated jackpot;

- generate a ticket and associated record within a database reflecting the wagering event selections from the one or more players;

- receive input of an outcome of the wagering events;

- determine whether one or more tickets have the potential to correctly select the outcome of at least one wagering event, thereby qualifying any of the one or more players to win the jackpot or a portion thereof;

- generate and cause display of a cash out option to fully or partially end the wager to any of the one or more players that are qualified to win the jackpot or a portion thereof;

- receive a selection of the cash out option from any of the one or more players that desire to fully or partially end the wager; and

- issue one or more of a credit, tokens, currency, coupon, voucher, credit slip, or prize, or funding of a player's electronically recordable identification card or online account to any of the one or more players selecting the cash out option.

69. The wagering apparatus of claim 68, wherein the selection of the cash out option is provided via one or more of the one or more wagering devices, a hand held device, a mobile device, a wireless device, a computing system, a smart phone, a telephone, a tablet computer, text messaging, a PDA, an interactive television, email, Internet browser or a cashier.

70. The wagering apparatus of claim 68, wherein any of the one or more players selecting the cash out option to fully end the wager no longer participates in the multi-outcome wagering event, and any of the one or more players selecting the cash out option to partially end the wager continues to participate in the multi-outcome wagering event.

71. The wagering apparatus of claim 68, wherein the system controller is further programmed to cause the one or more wagering devices to:

generate and cause display of at least one proposal to fully or partially buyout any number of the one or more players that are qualified to win the jackpot or a portion thereof; and
issue a credit, tokens, currency, coupon, voucher or prize to any of the one or more players accepting the at least one proposal.

72. The wagering apparatus of claim 71, wherein the system controller is further programmed to cause the one or more wagering devices to:

generate and cause display of one or more additional proposals to fully or partially buyout to any number of the one or more players that have not accepted the at least one proposal to fully or partially buyout; and

issue a credit, tokens, currency, coupon, voucher or prize to any of the one or more players accepting the one or more additional proposals.

73. The wagering apparatus of claim 68, wherein the system controller is further programmed to cause the one or more wagering devices to:

complete the one or more legs to finish the event;
determine if any of the players have won a jackpot or portion thereof;
notify the players that have won a jackpot or portion thereof; and
issue a credit, tokens, currency coupon, voucher or prize to the one or more players that have won a jackpot or portion thereof.

74. The wagering apparatus of claim 68 wherein at least one of the event and wager comprises one or more of fixed odds single wagers, multiple wagers, full cover wagers, full cover wagers with singles, 'Any to Come' (ATC) or 'if cash' wagers, specialty wagers, forecasts, fixed, variable, guaranteed, parimutuel wagering, fixed-odds wagering, accumulator or parlay wagering, fixed odds, a pool, progressive, fixed pool, variable pool or guaranteed pool.

75. The wagering apparatus of claim 68, wherein the event comprises at least one of an entire event, a partial event, a divisible component of an event, multiple independent events

occurring sequentially or concurrently, and a compilation of related events, wherein the event comprises one or more selected from the group consisting of sporting events, eSports, e-sports, competitive gaming, electronic sports, lotteries, real games, virtual games, fantasy events, fantasy games, live events, pre-recorded events, online events, broadcast events, slot machines, card games, keno, video games, racing, poker, politics, sales, stocks, celebrity gossip, movies, and reality TV, wherein the sporting events comprise at least one or more of any sport, including any sport selected from the group consisting of football ("soccer"), American football, Australian rules football, baseball, cricket, basketball, golf, hockey, auto racing, legends, rugby, wrestling, surfing, mixed martial arts.

ABSTRACT

A system, method and apparatus provides a unique betting product where players make selections in one or more different events. Players who are in contention to win may be offered an opportunity to sell their tickets, in whole or in part, in response to a full or partial buy-out offer made at any time prior to completion of a wagering event.

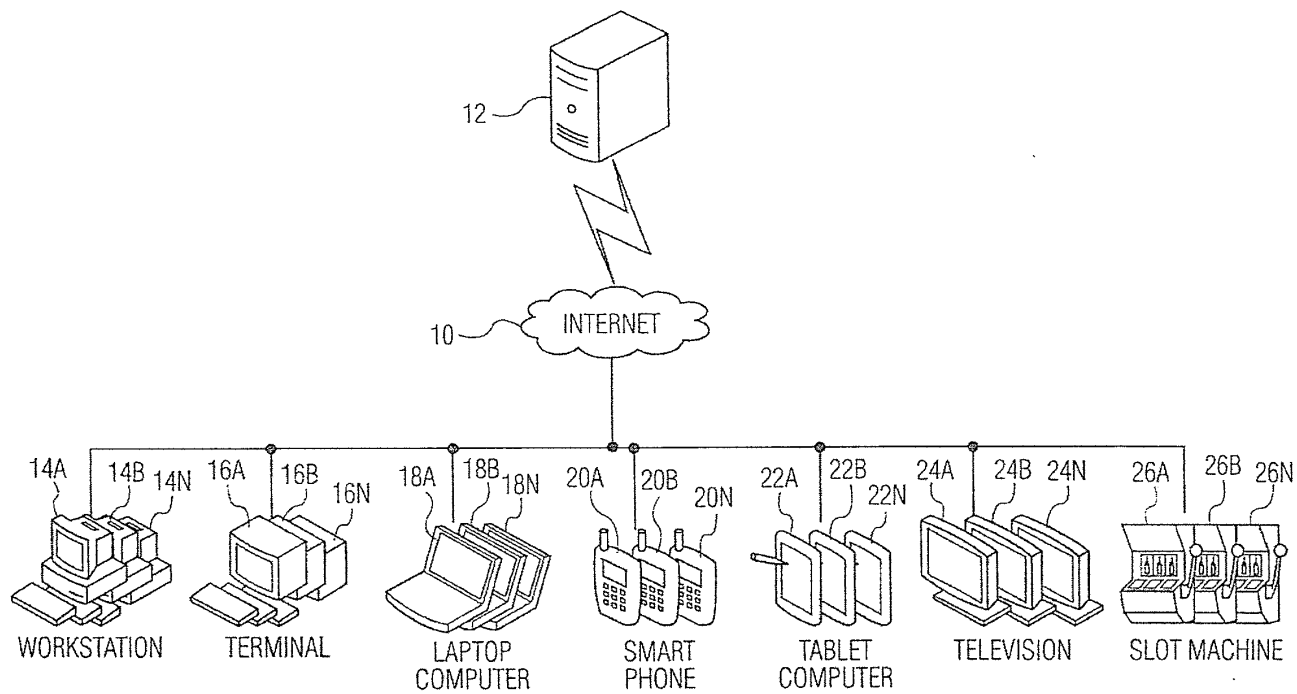


FIG. 1

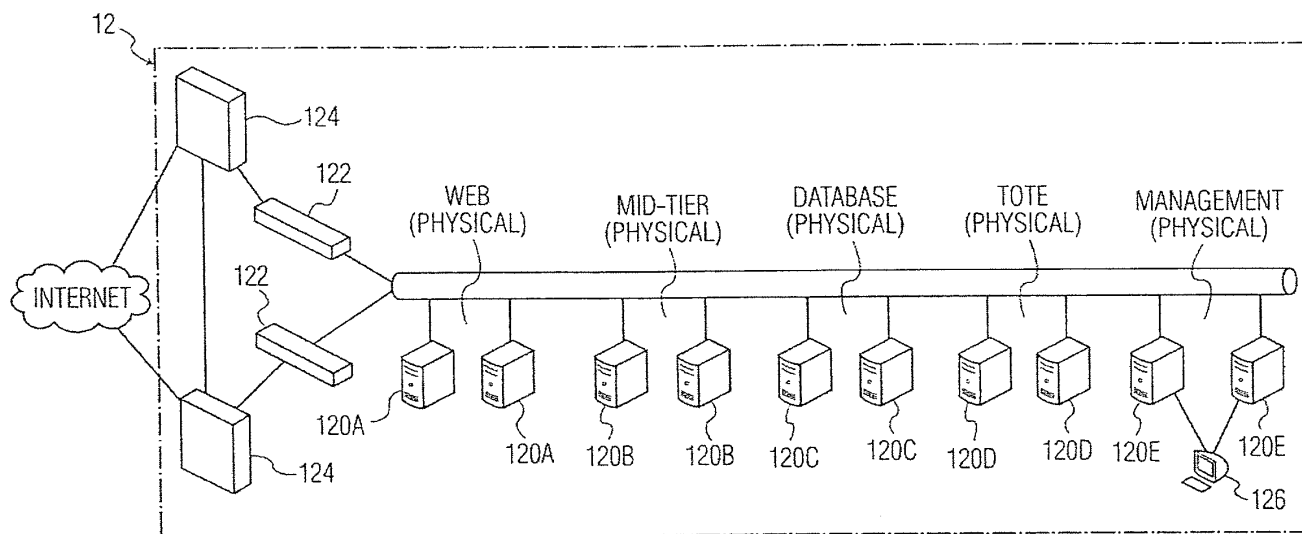


FIG. 2

FIGURE 3

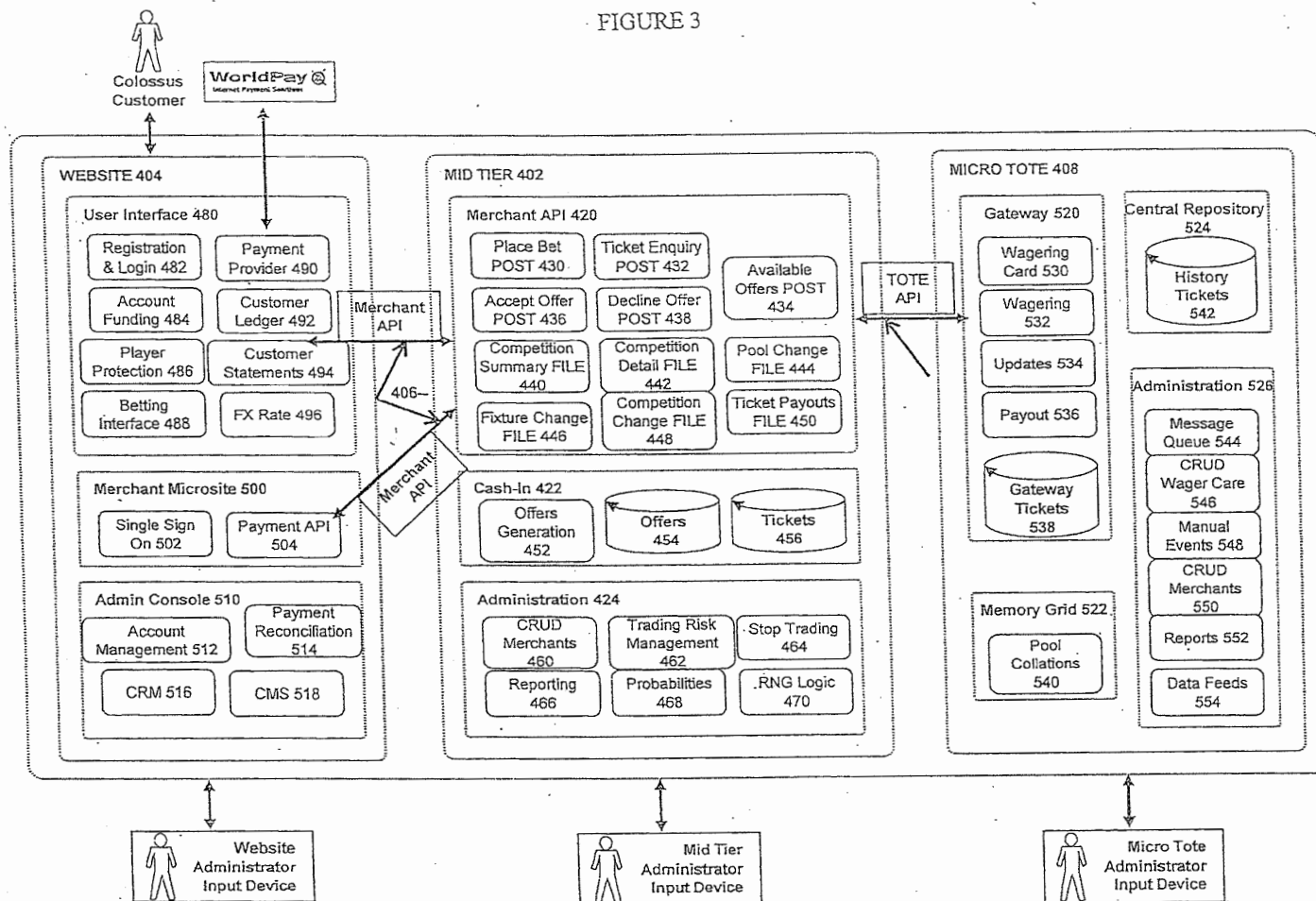
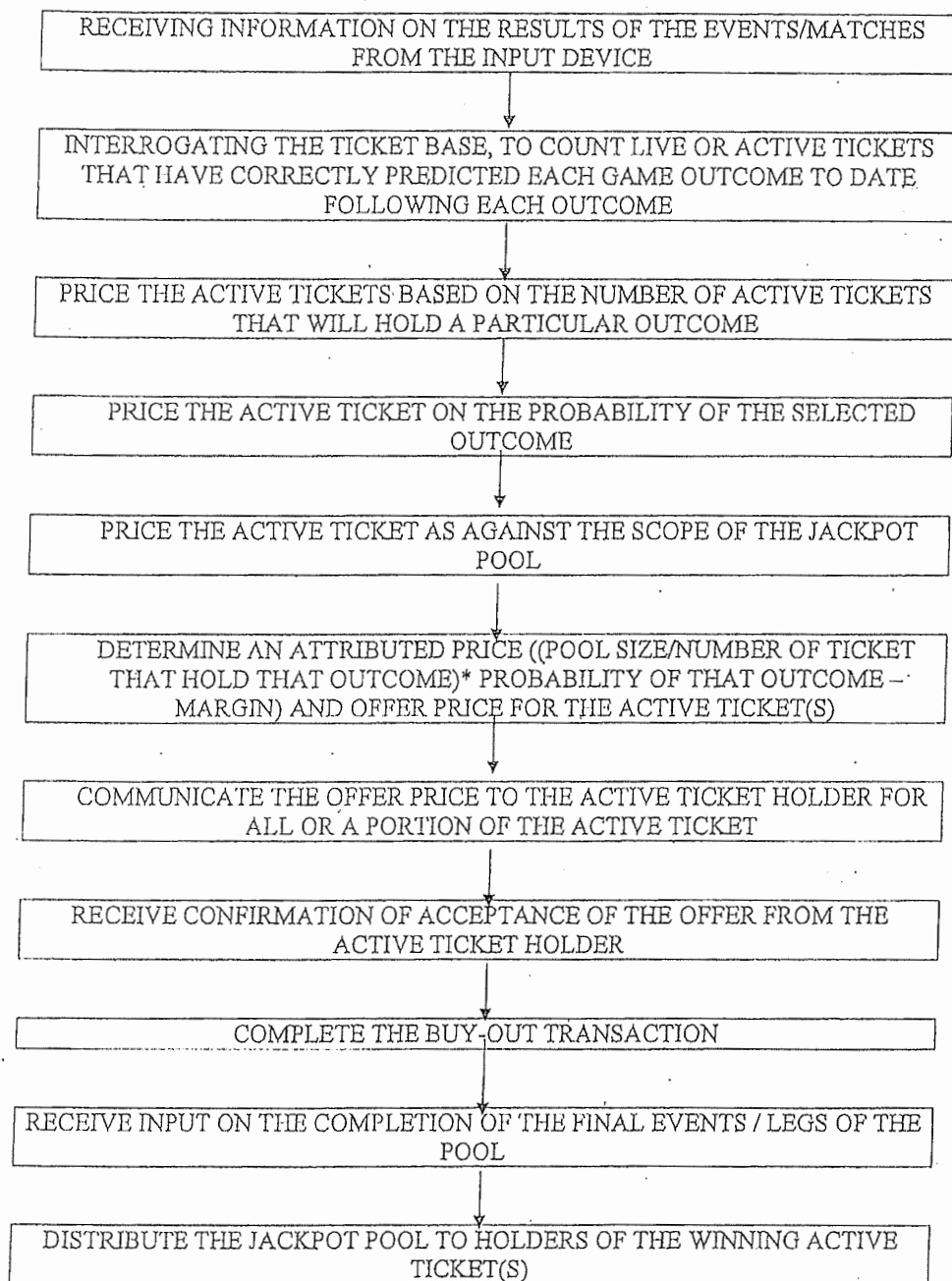


FIGURE 4

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	5 Year Ave
ENG PREMIER LEAGUE	2.45	2.64	2.48	2.77	2.8	2.8	2.66
ESP LA LIGA	2.48	2.69	2.9	2.71	2.74	2.77	2.72
ITA SERIE A	2.55	2.55	2.6	2.61	2.51	2.56	2.56
GER BUNDESLIGA	2.74	2.81	2.92	2.83	2.92	2.87	2.85
FRA LIGUE 1	2.25	2.28	2.26	2.41	2.34	2.47	2.34
EUR CHAMPIONS LEAGUE	2.49	2.64	2.63	2.54	2.84	2.77	2.65
WORLD CUP	2.21	2.71	2.67	2.52	2.3	2.27	2.45

FIGURE 5



Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal				
Application Number:				
Filing Date:				
Title of Invention:		WAGGERING APPARATUS, METHODS AND SYSTEMS		
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:		Bernard J. Marantelli		
Filer:		Paul A. Taufer/Nancy Nunez		
Attorney Docket Number:		COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON		
Filed as Small Entity				
Filing Fees for Utility under 35 USC 111(a)				
Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Basic Filing:				
Utility filing Fee (Electronic filing)	4011	1	70	70
Utility Search Fee	2111	1	300	300
Utility Examination Fee	2311	1	360	360
Pages:				
Claims:				
Claims in excess of 20	2202	55	40	2200
Independent Claims in Excess of 3	2201	1	210	210
Miscellaneous-Filing:				

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Extension-of-Time:				
Miscellaneous:				
Total in USD (\$)				3140

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt	
EFS ID:	23291367
Application Number:	14833572
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	5741
Title of Invention:	WAGGERING APPARATUS, METHODS AND SYSTEMS
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Bernard J. Marantelli
Customer Number:	35811
Filer:	Paul A. Taufer/Nancy Nunez
Filer Authorized By:	Paul A. Taufer
Attorney Docket Number:	COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON
Receipt Date:	24-AUG-2015
Filing Date:	
Time Stamp:	15:03:18
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	Deposit Account
Payment was successfully received in RAM	\$ 3140
RAM confirmation Number	1794
Deposit Account	502719
Authorized User	DLA PIPER US LL
The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows: Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.16 (National application filing, search, and examination fees) Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.17 (Patent application and reexamination processing fees)	

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.19 (Document supply fees)					
Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.20 (Post Issuance fees)					
Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.21 (Miscellaneous fees and charges)					
File Listing:					
Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
1	Transmittal of New Application	ATL.pdf	336932	no	1
			73fcd9e27dc87b6f46896919571a1d407ec2f4c		
Warnings:					
Information:					
2	Application Data Sheet	ADS.pdf	1561655	no	7
			6a6aca1b96de95104c1a151dc62a0381f330756d		
Warnings:					
Information:					
3	Power of Attorney	POA.pdf	30991	no	1
			2f9ad3aa5e6036cb441d4b0681bb07777a697bc4		
Warnings:					
Information:					
4		ApplicationWithDrawings.pdf	3343575	yes	67
			9cb553c86525ba6d440bcb7fccc112375a005380		
	Multipart Description/PDF files in .zip description				
	Document Description		Start	End	
	Specification		1	44	
	Claims		45	61	
	Abstract		62	62	
	Drawings-only black and white line drawings		63	67	
Warnings:					
Information:					
5	Fee Worksheet (SB06)	fee-info.pdf	38372	no	2
			f2025ae26c9060877010453a097a463ccc62b754		
Warnings:					
Information:					
Total Files Size (in bytes):			5311525		

This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office

If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

PATENT ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEET

Electronic Version v1.1
Stylesheet Version v1.2

EPAS ID: PAT3495450

SUBMISSION TYPE:	NEW ASSIGNMENT
NATURE OF CONVEYANCE:	ASSIGNMENT
CONVEYING PARTY DATA	
Name	Execution Date
BERNARD J. MARANTELLI	08/01/2014
RECEIVING PARTY DATA	
Name:	DIOGENES LIMITED
Street Address:	PO BOX 227, CLINCH'S HOUSE, LORD STREET
City:	DOUGLAS, ISLE OF MAN
State/Country:	ISLE OF MAN
Postal Code:	99 1RZ
PROPERTY NUMBERS Total: 1	
Property Type	Number
Application Number:	14833572
CORRESPONDENCE DATA	
Fax Number:	(215)656-2498
<i>Correspondence will be sent to the e-mail address first; if that is unsuccessful, it will be sent using a fax number, if provided; if that is unsuccessful, it will be sent via US Mail.</i>	
Phone:	215-656-3381
Email:	pto.phil@dlapiper.com
Correspondent Name:	IP GROUP OF DLA PIPER LLP (US)
Address Line 1:	ONE LIBERTY PLACE
Address Line 2:	1650 MARKET ST, SUITE 4900
Address Line 4:	PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19103
ATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER:	COB-13-1044CIP3-C-C-CON
NAME OF SUBMITTER:	NANCY NUNEZ
SIGNATURE:	/NN/
DATE SIGNED:	08/24/2015
This document serves as an Oath/Declaration (37 CFR 1.63).	
Total Attachments: 1 source=DECAssignment#page1.tif	

COMBINED DECLARATION/ASSIGNMENT

WHEREAS, I

Bernard J. Marantelli of London, UK

(hereinafter referred to as "the undersigned"), have made an invention entitled WAGERING APPARATUS, METHODS AND SYSTEMS, identified in US Application No. 14/449,541,

the above-identified application was made or authorized to be made by the person executing this Declaration;

I believe that I am the original inventor of the claimed invention in the application;

I hereby acknowledge that any willful false statement made in this Declaration is punishable under 18 USC §1001 by fine or imprisonment of not more than five (5) years, or both.

WHEREAS, Diogenes Limited, with offices at PO Box 227, Clinch's House, Lord Street, Douglas, Isle of Man, IM 99 1RZ (hereinafter referred to as "assignee"), is desirous of acquiring the entire right, title and interest in said invention, said US application and all letters patent issuing for said invention,

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of One Dollar (\$1.00) and of other good and valuable consideration, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the undersigned, intending to be legally bound, does hereby sell, assign and transfer to the assignee the entire right, title and interest, for the United States of America, its territories and possessions, and for all foreign countries, in said invention, including said US application, all divisions and continuations thereof, all rights to claim priority based thereon, all rights to file foreign applications on said invention, and all letters patent and reissues thereof, issuing for said invention in the United States of America and in any and all foreign countries.

It is agreed that the undersigned shall be legally bound, upon request of the assignee, or its successors or assigns or a legal representative thereof, to supply all information and evidence of which the undersigned has knowledge or possession, relating to the making and practice of said invention, to testify in any legal proceeding relating thereto, to execute all instruments proper to patent the invention in the United States of America and foreign countries in the name of the assignee, and to execute all instruments proper to carry out the intent of this instrument. If the undersigned includes more than one individual, these obligations shall apply to all of the undersigned both individually and collectively.

The rights and property herein conveyed by the undersigned are free and clear of any encumbrance.

EXECUTED on the dates set forth below.

Date

EAST/79525586.1

B. Marantelli
Bernard J. Marantelli