used is no longer used and is replaced. This makes it impossible to identify the shuffled playing card set that is currently being used at the game table since the shuffled playing card set is often replaced with a new one. For this reason, in case of any problem with the card shoe apparatus or if any irregular card has been inserted, it is difficult to investigate the cause thereof or to take countermeasures therefor, which is a problem.

[0005]

Embodiments of the present invention seek to provide a table game system that may be capable of identifying the shuffled playing card set that is currently being used at a game table, and also capable of, if any problem occurs with a card shoe apparatus or if the insertion of any irregular card is found, identifying the shuffled playing card set that has been used at the time of the occurrence thereof, thereby enabling an investigation of the cause thereof or the taking of countermeasures therefor.

[0006]

[Solution to Problem]

An aspect of the present invention provides a table game system comprising a set of shuffled playing cards composed of playing cards composed of a plurality of decks shuffled so as to have a unique arrangement order, wherein a shuffled card ID capable of being identified uniquely as an ID code is given to the set of shuffled playing cards, a means capable of identifying the shuffled card ID; a card shoe apparatus in which the set of shuffled playing cards are housed so that cards which compose the set of shuffled playing cards are manually handed out one by one on a game table; and a database accessibly connected to the card shoe apparatus. The card shoe apparatus comprises a card housing unit for housing the set of shuffled playing cards; an opening part for extracting the cards one by one from the card housing unit; a card reading unit to read, from the card extracted on the game table from the card housing unit, information relating to a rank included in the card; a controller to store a rule of a card game, and have a win/lose determiner to determine win/lose of the card game based on the information relating to the rank of the card read by the card reading unit; and a display unit to output a win/lose result determined by the win/lose determiner. The controller has a function to store the shuffled card ID capable of being identified uniquely. The controller identifies the present set of shuffled playing cards used in the present game by means of the

shuffled card ID. The database stores game table information indicating one of game tables where the identified present set of shuffled playing cards is used. The database stores (1) a start time of each game among a plurality of games executed by using the identified set of shuffled playing card; (2) an end time of each game among a plurality of games executed by using the identified set of shuffled playing card; and (3) a time when a next game is started using a new set of shuffled playing cards. The database determines a time when a set of shuffled playing cards was used in the table game system by using at least one of above information (1) and above information (2).

There is also disclosed a table game system including:

shuffled playing cards composed of playing cards made up of a plurality of number of decks shuffled to have a unique arrangement order, a uniquely identifiable shuffled card ID being attached to the shuffled playing cards as an ID code; and

a card shoe apparatus that includes a barcode reader or an input means capable of identifying the shuffled card ID, and houses the shuffled playing cards such that the housed shuffled playing cards are manually dealt one by one onto a game table,

the card shoe apparatus including:

a card housing unit for housing the shuffled playing cards;

a lid that enables the entry/removal of the shuffled playing cards;

an opening for drawing cards from the card housing unit one by one;

a card reading unit that reads from a card drawn from the card housing unit onto the game table information contained in the said card on a rank thereof;

a control unit that stores rules of a card game and includes a winner/loser determination unit that determines the winner/loser of the card

game based on the information on the ranks of the cards read by the card reading unit; and

a display unit that outputs a result of the winner/loser determined by the winner/loser determination unit,

wherein the control unit has a function of storing the uniquely identifiable shuffled card ID read by the barcode reader or the input means, identifying the shuffled playing cards as the card set to be used in a current game in connection with the shuffled card ID, and storing each specified event that occurs during the use of said identified shuffled playing cards at a game table, and

the items of the specified events stored in connection with the shuffled card ID include at least one of the following:

(1) a reading error in the card reading unit of a card in the identified shuffled playing cards;

(2) an end of a game due to an operation of an end button to end the use of the shuffled playing cards currently set in the card shoe apparatus, or the drawing of a cut card from the shuffled playing cards currently set in the card shoe apparatus;

(3) an attempt to draw a card when no card should be drawn according to the rules of the card game;

(4) an attempt to move or insert a card in a direction opposite to a drawing direction of a card at the opening; and

(5) an occurrence of a preset irregular operation to be determined to be irregular by the card shoe apparatus.

[0007]

[Advantageous Effects]

As disclosed, it is possible to provide a table game system that may be capable of, if any problem occurs with a card shoe apparatus or if the insertion of any irregular card is found, identifying the shuffled playing card set being used at the time of the occurrence thereof, and thereby enables the investigation of the cause thereof or the taking of countermeasures therefor by identifying the shuffled playing card set being used at the time of occurrence thereof.

[0008]

[Brief Description of Drawings]

[Fig. 1] Fig. 1 is a perspective view schematically showing the entirety of a