be formed when the ends have been pop riveted together. The inner face of each strip is preferably plain.

By this method, when formed into a hoop, the side strip (3) would preferentially bend in the trough regions (7), where the strip is weakest (more flexible), this results in a polygonally-shaped hoop (2) being formed (see Fig. 5), the peaks (6) tending to be longitudinally flat and the troughs (7) longitudinally angled. This results in an irregularly shaped ball, as shown by Fig. 6, as can be seen the strip peaks (6) tend to remain flattened after weaving; leaving side-strip peaks (6) not conforming to the shape of the underlying side strip trough (7).

To overcome this irregularity, the side strips have been pre-formed by bending, kinking, the peak regions (6) as shown in Fig. 7, in a separate process prior to weaving. When formed into a hoop (2), these pre-bent peaks (6) compensate for the troughs (7); resulting in the more evenly circular hoop shown in Fig. 8 with the peaks (6) more acutely angled than the troughs (7). The resulting woven ball is shown by Fig. 9 to be more evenly spherical than the ball of Fig. 6 as the result of the peaks being longitudinally angled (of the strip), as opposed to being flattened.

Document WO 95/28206 (26 October 1995 – Satian Industries Co. Ltd.) describes a takraw ball woven from strips of composite material of which one part is of soft material and the other part of woven material; generally component parts are arranged and the strips are so woven that the outer surface of the ball is soft.

Document WO 2006/051248 (18 May 2006 - Satian Industries Co. Ltd.) describes a takraw ball woven from strips of springy material having soft material pads moulded into recesses in a strip outer face.

STATEMENT OF INVENTION

~~A takraw ball side strip in accordance with the present invention and embodiments thereof are set forth in the appended claims.~~

According to an aspect, there is provided a takraw ball side strip comprising an elongate length of plastics material having one side edge of sinusoidally undulating profile having troughs and peaks, wherein the strip is shaped or otherwise constructed to be preferentially flexible in peak regions whereby, when the strip is joined by its ends into a hoop, peak regions will bend more readily than other regions of the strip.

A side strip in accordance with embodiments of the present invention bends more readily in peak regions than in trough regions whereby the hooped side strip is more nearly circular than prior art hooped side strips. A takraw ball woven from side strips in accordance with the present invention is more spherical than prior art balls as the peak regions are rounded, not flattened or angular.

Also, a side strip in accordance with embodiments of the present invention eliminates one manufacturing step, thereby improving economy and providing an improved takraw ball.

In an embodiment, an inner face of the side strip is relieved in the peak region to provide more flexibility.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The above and further features of the present invention are illustrated in the Drawings, wherein: