

THE TREATMENT OF COURT SURFACES

Lou Tuma

It has been suggested that an accepted model method of treating shuffle courts be adopted since it seems that there are as many ways of maintaining shuffle courts as there are clubs.

Not being an engineer and recognizing the efforts and the ability of those who are better qualified after years of experimenting I can only base my remarks on several years of helping to clean, stain, line and seal 97 courts at the St. Pete Club. As the old saying goes "the proof of the pudding is in the eating". Ask any of the top shufflers who played in the Dunbar Masters and Champion of Champions tournaments.

I am convinced that H & C Silicone Acrylic concrete stain should not be used on courts that have been treated with an Epoxy paint or a Mineral Wax. But the H & C stain, I believe, is the only stain or paint to put on a "virgin" court. Also I think this stain should be applied just before the court is lined instead of mixing it into the concrete. By staining the court before lining the sharp "mountains" and "valleys" purposely left, will be partly rounded off and filled in as well as to make a good contrasting background for the white lines. N.B. Before applying lines cut down on the power produced by the compressor. If the metal straight edge of your template is even only slightly wavy and does not make perfect contact with court surface you will have fuzzy lines.

Any shuffle court can be improved by applying a good coat of Nella Seal 2 used without diluting. At Mirror Lake we use nothing but Glass Beads (SPARINGLY).