

SHUFFLEBOARD COURTS - 1982

I played shuffleboard for over 30 years. We used to heat mineral spirits and mix paraffin to make a fast running court. At that time they were troweled smooth when made. The courts were extra fast until wind blew dust on them and they slowed down. Liquid wax was used and that was better. Sand was used a lot, that worked good on smooth courts. When they made rougher courts wax worked better. Mr. Chris Branda, Daytona Beach, was the first to use glass beads. He was the one who got me interested in trying to make better finish on courts. Today, mineral spirits, paraffin and sand are no longer used. Glass beads and wax are still used. Hard wax on discs. Silica sand is used a lot to finish a court, not so good. I have been working for 11 years to get a better court finish. I want a court that is better than the best in Florida. I spent a lot of money and made a lot of bad court finishes,

but now I have a court finish I've tried to get for years. Come to Avon Park and try 17 court — damp or dry — no wax — no loose beads.

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Shuffleboard was banned in England in the 1500s. King Henry VIII thought his subjects were spending too much time on the game — called "shovegroat" at that time — and were neglecting their archery practice, which was necessary for protection.

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