

ORLEY AND BARB WRIGHT'S NEW SHUFFLEBOARD COURT

Zephyrhills Shuffleboard Club members, Orley and Barb Wright are from Pennfield, New Brunswick, Canada. They winter in Forest Lake Estates. They started shuffling in the "Eight Park League" in 2006 and joined the Club in 2009. Both were definitely bit by the shuffleboard bug, so much so, that Orley decided to construct a full sized court after returning home that spring. He worked on constructing the court every summer since 2009 and completed this August.



Orley was a welder and millwright by trade and was able to assemble the $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 8' sections of plate steel pan on a 6" iron frame. Rebar was installed to hold the 8 yards of concrete needed on top of 2" high density Styrofoam to prevent freezing in the winter months. Orley made an aluminum template for painting the lines on the court. After the concrete was set, the court was stained, lines were painted, and a layer of imbedded beads were applied. In August, Orley and Barb declared the court ready for play. Orley said the court runs great, has a very slight drift, which makes the court interesting. Drift can be adjusted by using hydraulic jacks and metal shims.



A scoreboard and benches were installed and Orley and Barb are now in the process of landscaping and installing a handicap ramp.

Orley stated that the court and his story has been featured in their local newspaper and many people in the area are becoming interested in shuffleboard. Is there possibly another shuffleboard club in the making?

I have been following the progress and inquiring about Orley's project over the past few summers and today I received this letter explaining how this project started. Job well done, Orley

Chuck Moulton

The project came about as a result of Barb and me spending the winter of 2006 at Forest Lake Estates in Zephyrhills, Florida, when we were invited to join the club by Club President Rolland Clark. After some instructional lessons by Dave and Glenna Earle, we started to play in the Eight Park League during 2008. It was at our first tournament at Hillside Park, however, that we met the tournament director Chuck Moulton and his assistant, Vivian Frizzle. These two people were a great encouragement to us as we were just learning the game, and we have become close friends.

Incidentally, in 2009, Chuck invited us to join the Zephyrhills shuffleboard club, where we met some people who helped us to further learn the game and to play at a higher level. It was during our first game, played with Pete Lothrop, where great advice was garnered on game-winning strategy. Thanks, Pete.

Barb and I soon met Hall of Fame shuffler George Darwin. I told George that we would like to build a court at our home in Canada. George provided us with all of the information that we needed to construct the court, from pouring the concrete to applying primer, stain, glass beads and sealer. From a construction standpoint, the court sits on a steel frame that rests on five concrete footings. With lots of rebar reinforcement, the concrete has not cracked anywhere, and the surface plays fast and well. Additional advice on template construction for use in painting resulted in scoring lines that were nice and sharp, and the court turned out fine as the pictures indicate. Thank you, George

In closing, I would like to thank all those who helped make this project possible, especially our son Steven Wright, who painted the scoring area of the court.

I would also like to acknowledge Ron Mclin and Terry Rainwater for their advice and for providing us with some nice used discs from the Betmar club. We are having a great time playing on our new court with our family and friends, and our goal is to promote this fun game in our own area. Barb and I hope to see everyone in Zephyrhills this December.

Orley Wright

