


On Test: Poraflex		
Test Venue:	Private Court, Wadhurst, Kent	
Test Date:	10 th October 2005	
Test Players:	James Davidson	
TECHNICAL DATA:		
What is it?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard porous macadam court construction • A dense and strong Regupol shock pad (available in thicknesses ranging from 4ml to 6ml) • laid in multiple rolls bonded to a suitable macadam surface • 2 applications of acrylic coating combined with fine silica sand. 	
Classification:	"Porous Cushioned Acrylic"	
HISTORY:		
Suppliers:	Matt Waddington First Service Sports Ltd 8 Home Park Oxted Surrey RH8 0JU 01883 723908 info@poraflex.com www.poraflex.com	Duncan Wilson Sports Coatings The Maltings Fordham Road Newmarket Suffolk, CB8 7AA Tel: 01638 664241 d.wilson@sportscoatings.co.uk www.sportscoatings.com
Installations:	This product is new to the UK market with installations at various private courts in the South of England	
How much does it cost? (guideline costs only)	6ml shock pad; approx £17,000 to install on a suitable macadam sub-base 4ml shock pad; approx £16,000 to install on a suitable macadam sub-base For new build add £20,000 for macadam sub-base	
Maintenance (contact supplier for full details)	Court care as per impervious acrylic	
Lifecycle (information provided by suppliers)	Recoat as porous macadam 3-5 years The mat will last indefinitely. Signs of colour fade should be dealt with to avoid playing directly on the mat.	

What they say?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “This is cushioned porous acrylic”. • “The aim is to provide optimum cushioning. • “Cushioning and pace can be varied”.
PERFORMANCE	
First Impressions/ESP:	It feels like a soft hard court and would definitely suit older players

PLAYING CHARACTERISTICS		
Ball-surface interface:		
	Dry	Impervious Acrylic (10 layer cushioned)
Speed of court:	Medium – Med / Fast (can be varied)	Medium (can be varied)
Height of ball bounce:	Medium	Medium
Trueness of bounce:	True	True
(Spin): Rating 0/10 = very poor : 10/10 excellent)		
Topspin	Good. Very similar (slightly less kick) to impervious acrylic	
Slice	4. Comes through but doesn't stop as much as a hard court	5
Flat	6	5
Player-surface:		
	Dry	
Footing:	Very grippy	Good
Sliding:	No	Yes (advanced players)
Shock Absorption:	Very good	Good

Selective Shots:		
Serve:		Impervious Acrylic (10 layer cushioned)
Kick	Good	Good
Slice	4	5
Flat	7. Good. Comes through fast.	Good
Drop shot	Good. Sits up well	Good
Ball wear	Good	Good
Player comment:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I like the feel underfoot • It will be good on the joints • It doesn't feel as harsh as a hard court • The ball felt slightly less reactive to spin and has slightly less bite than an impervious acrylic court • Aesthetically good although the joint lines are visible • The court feels slightly sticky but this may be attributed to the court being newly installed • To feel confident and have the freedom of movement i.e. tearing across the court of an impervious cushioned acrylic court I would need to try Poraflex when it is more worn. 	
Final Verdict:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This would be a good club surface catering to the whole membership spectrum • The playing characteristics are similar to a hard court (impervious acrylic) for juniors • Good on the joints for seniors • Good for the coach and coaching programmes • It doesn't quite "bite" like a hard court • The cushioning absorbs some of the spin but the underfoot feel more than makes up for it. • The court on test was newly installed and may account for being "sticky". Will it be more forgiving as the court wears? • The suppliers have produced a comfortable medium paced, cushioned surface which is porous 	
Other:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This surface has been tested independently by the Centre for Sports Technology (CST) in accordance with the Initial ITF Study on Performance Standard for Tennis Court Surfaces. • For further information contact the supplier. 	



- This test has been carried out by independent players / LTA licensed coaches for information purposes only and is not intended in any form for use as promotional or advertising purposes.
- The comments expressed in this test are solely intended to provide clubs with a preliminary idea of the surface playing characteristics.
- It is recommended that club's considering this surface carry out their own test in dry and wet conditions with a cross section of club members and coaches.
- The LTA does not approve or endorse any independent contractors or products.
- For further information on choosing a surface see A7 - LTA Court Surface Guidelines on www.totaltennis.net

Contacts:

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The Sports and Play Construction Association – www.sapca.org.uk