

DO YOU CHART!

Do you “Chart”? NO! Hope you have a good reason, because if you play on the Florida “Pro” tour the competition is very keen. One shot, a block or a few points decide most matches. I’ve always felt that “charting” would give me a chance to make the one extra shot needed to win and I’ve proved my point! I love it when other players say I don’t chart for whatever feeble reason they use, I know they’ve just given me the advantage. Now, don’t get me wrong, there are a few good reasons not to “chart”. Diana Morison and Glen Peltier can’t see without their glasses and they don’t want to be bothered with digging them out all the time. Glen will chart if you get him in a corner, I remember at the end of last season, when he was in danger of missing the “Masters” for the first time in 18 years, he had the “charts” out and was trying his dandiest to gain an advantage, he made the “Masters”. A few years ago he wanted, in the worst way, to beat Mel Erb and I for a chance at the Florida State Doubles, guess what, out came the “charts”. Joan Cook is by far the most detailed and best “charter” I’ve seen, but anything from a few simple lines showing the drift to detail in inches will give you an advantage IF you look at the chart before you shot. We all think we know only to shoot, miss our shot and then to look at the chart and sure enough we have it marked correctly but we didn’t look!

Earl Ball, June 2004