

EZRA WYETH - Beverly Hills (CA) - 1999

Ezra Wyeth won the United States Champion Singles in 1965, and the Pairs title twice, in 1972 and 1974, both times with partner Neil McInnes. He also won the National Open Singles crown in 1964 and 1971, and was named "Bowler of the Year" in 1971. In 1966, Ezra captained the United States team that competed in Australia at the first World Bowls Championships. From the moment of its inception, Ezra was a key member of BOWLS magazine's editorial staff and wrote a regular column on bowling technique. He also authored several books on lawn bowls. After his appointment as ALBA's National Coach, he built a rink at his San Fernando Valley home to further research and develop both practical and scientific approaches to the various aspects of bowls. Usually at his own expense, Ezra traveled America organizing "Wyeth's Fundamentals" teaching clinics, and certifying national umpire candidates. For quite a few years, he held bowls clinics for the handicapped throughout Southern California and conducted classes for Beverly Hills High School students. In 1970, Ezra was principally responsible for instituting the Walt Disney Masters Singles Tournament, the only U.S. invitational event accorded sanction by the (then) International Bowling Board. Born in Toowang, Australia. Ezra was an international cricket star before taking up bowls in 1941. A member of several clubs, he represented Queensland and Victoria in interstate competitions. In 1961, he became a U.S. citizen, a professor at California State University Northridge, and joined the Beverly Hills LBC.