

# LETTERS

Extracts from letter to C. H. Dix from Len Partridge, Head Greenkeeper, Brighton Municipal Golf Course, Victoria, Australia.

308, Dendy Street,  
Brighton,  
VICTORIA, Australia, 3187  
24.3.74

"My good wishes to all the Greenkeepers of the U.K., although I'm on the other side of the globe, so to speak, I take a keen interest in what is going on in the U.K.

I was very sad to hear of the death of Eddie Mac from Hillside.

I have moved from Kingswood Golf Club Centre. I am looking after the needs of Brighton Municipal Council Course. We have a lovely 18-hole course near the beach; you could call it a links, very busy, the average number of players each day would be about 300, as it is a public course. I have six men on the course—the machinery is quite good; I have just taken on a Greens Master 3, TORO and waiting for a **Super Pro**. Most courses have this type of machine now to cut the cost, because as you may know, we have a shortage of labour, believe it or not. So all you young would-be Greenkeepers in the U.K. who want a new life, there is one right here in Aussie land.

The average weekly wage for a Head Greenkeeper is \$100 which is about £50, plus a house, 4 week annual holiday and lots of other things thrown in. Conditions are much the same as the courses in England. As far as working the courses—weather-wise, well it is **mad**. Could be 90° one minute and

within an hour, could be as low as 60°—that is the way it has been this past six months. We are now in late autumn. Although the summer has not been as hot as last year, I have had the sprays working full time on the course during the hours of darkness. No hope of watering during the day, chiefly because of play and always a risk of burning from the sun, the temperature sometimes reaching the high 90 mark. The only break we have from the growth of grass is during the drought, other than that, it grows and grows.

Most of the Tournaments and Club Competitions are played in autumn and winter, you can imagine why. Just imagine playing a competition in the heat, one would never get around.

My son Peter is the Assistant Greenkeeper at the famous Victoria Golf Club. He started work with me at Formby right from school. He is now 24 years old, recently married and has a good future life in the Greenkeeping world.

We have a number of Poms as Greenkeepers, one outstanding being Bill Hunt from Kingston Heath. A Championship Course, about 2 miles from Brighton. He hails from Bolton, Lancs.

I am a member of the Victorian Golf Curators' Association which is something similar to the British counterpart (B.G.G.A.). We have meetings every two months at various Clubs, but as Victoria is a large State, about the size of the U.K. in fact, you can imagine how far we travel to a meeting, sometimes 50 or 60 miles is just 'round the corner'. We have machine demonstrations and play golf—just a good get-together.

President of the Victorian Golf Curators is Leslie Barlow, c/o Woodlands Golf Club, Mordialac, Victoria, Australia. He is very interested in forming a convention with the U.K., seeking ways of visiting the U.K., and

of course, a return visit by a limited number from England. The world is not big these days as far as travel is concerned.

We do, in fact, raise funds here on Open Golf days to make this sort of thing possible—to go to New Zealand and Inter State. With Air Travel the job is simple, it is just a matter of finding funds.

Best wishes to the B.G.G.A., and may the 1974 Season be a good one for all my fellow Greenkeepers.

Kind regards,

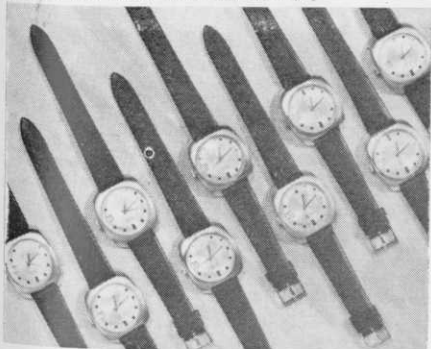
(signed) LEN PARTRIDGE"

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## REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS

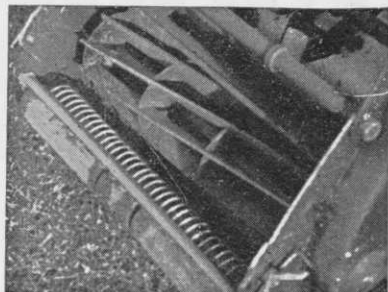
Once again our regional tournaments are under way and our members will be competing in all parts of the country for numerous prizes, perhaps none more coveted than winning one of the Ransomes Watch.

These inscribed prizes are presented each year by the Ipswich Company and we got this shot of some of those that are awarded annually. Are you going to win one in 1974?



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