

Darcy is
voted
Golfer
of the
Year



EAMONN DARCY

By **COLM SMITH**

EAMONN DARCY, the world under 25 champion, has been voted Golfer of the Year by the Irish Golf Writers' Association in their inaugural annual award scheme to honour the leading players in the professional, amateur and lady golfing codes.

Delgany born Darcy, attached to the Erewash Valley Club in Derbyshire, was the leading British and Irish money winner in Europe this year having also won the Sumrie Better ball (with Christy O'Connor Junior) and the Irish Dunlop Championship. He was beaten in a play-off by Neil Coles for the Penfold P.G.A. championship, the biggest money-spinner on the P.G.A. Calendar.

Although only 24, Darcy has been the most successful Irish golfer for the past two seasons and is currently in America with Eddie Polland representing Ireland in the World Cup.

AMATEUR CHOICE

Louth born Declan Branigan (Laytown and Bettystown) was also an obvious choice for the Amateur Award. Branigan won the Irish Close and West of Ireland titles and was runner-up in the East of Ireland championship. He was the first winner of the G.U.I.'s Willie Gill Award as the leading points winner in the five major championships.

Ireland's only Curtis Cup player, **Mary McKenna** (Donabate), was voted the leading lady after a season which saw her finish second in the Irish championship and the British Stroke Play Championship. She was also runner-up in the Irish Foursomes Championship (with Mary Gorry) and was a member of Leinster's winning interprovincial team.

SERVICES AWARD

The Golf Writers' Association has also honoured the services to the game of **Violet Haslett**. She wins the Distinguished Services Award after 30 years as secretary of the Irish Ladies' Golfing Union.

The Awards, sponsored by Sterling Roncraft, will be presented at a banquet in Milltown Golf Club on Monday, January 10, 1977.

DD MONEY DOUBLED

PRIZE money will be doubled for the Skol Lager Individual Tournament at Gleneagles, Perthshire, on August 16-17. The sponsors, Allied Breweries Ltd., have changed the name of the event from the Double Diamond Individual Championship and increased the money from £10,000 to £20,000.

The top award will be £4,000 and £2,500, will go to the runner-up. The Double Diamond World Classic will take place at the same venue on August 18, 19, and 20. The format will remain the same as this year with eight teams of five players from England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, America, Europe, Australasia and the Rest of the World competing in singles for £25,000 in prize money.