



## **JIMMY DEE IS 1977 AMATEUR PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

Jimmy Dee, the 1977 New Jersey State Amateur Champion, is this year's recipient of the MGA's Amateur Player of the Year Award.

Inaugurated last year, the Award honors the New York-area amateur who compiles the best record in selected local, national and international events in one season. A Point Ranking System is used whereby players accumulate points based on their performances in the designated tournaments.

Unlike last year's winner, Dick Siderowf, Dee earned the bulk of his points in local competitions. In addition to the New Jersey Amateur title, Jimmy was low amateur in the New Jersey Open, advanced to the final 16 in the Met Amateur, and survived to the second round of the U.S. Amateur. The Ridge-wood, N.J. native also tied for first in the rain-abbreviated Hochster Memorial.

Based on his Point Ranking, Jimmy earned 518 points. Finishing second was Jerry Courville of Norwalk, Ct. with 334 points. Jerry's season was highlighted by runner-up finishes in the Met Amateur and Travis Memorial, and by a third-place showing in the Ike. Next, in order of finish, were Met Amateur Champion, Dave Ferrell (295 points), Westchester Amateur titlist, David Van Muraskin (259 points), and former Met Amateur winner, Bill Britton (245 points).

Jimmy Dee will be honored at the MGA's Annual Meeting and Dinner, December 7th, at the Biltmore Hotel in New York.

## **USGA REVISES HANDICAP ALLOWANCES FOR MULTI-BALL COMPETITIONS**

In a move that will affect a large percentage of all golf played at the club level, the USGA has announced new handicap allowances for multi-ball events — four-ball (better ball) and best-ball-of-four competitions — effective January 1, 1978.

The allowances are as follows:

Type of Competition	New Allowances	1976-77 Allowances
Four-ball match play	100%	80%
Four-ball stroke play	90%	80%
Best-ball-of-four, stroke play	80%	70%
First-and-second-best-balls-of-four	90%	none

The reason for the revisions was basic: the multi-ball allowances used in 1976 and 1977 proved to be too severe on the higher handicapped player, and were being attacked and/or ignored by too many of the nation's golfers.

It was the USGA Executive Committee's understanding of this problem that led them, in August of 1976, to authorize a study of the existing eight-month-old allowances. Doctors Francis Scheid of Boston University and Clyne Soley of San Jose, California were commissioned to do the independent research. At the same time, the USGA Handicap Procedure Committee, through a series of surveys, asked the country's state and district golf associations to contribute to the research program, based upon their "grass roots" experience with member clubs. Early returns from these associations clearly established a lack of acceptance and growing criticism of the 70% and 80% allowances (for best-ball-of-four and four-ball respectively) for two reasons: (1) these allowances more than wiped out the benefit poorer players received when the differential for handicap computation was raised from 85% to 96%; and (2) the allowances were too complicated for every-day play at clubs. The bottom line observation as far as these evaluations were concerned was the realization that the majority of clubs across the United States were not using the 70% and 80% allowances.

Of course, the main thrust of the research effort had to be carried by the professional scientists. Dr. Scheid's approach was to develop allowance percentages that would most nearly equalize the performance of better-ball teams of varying ability with that of scratch teams. To realize this goal, he simulated well over a million better-ball rounds from a huge computer bank of hole-by-hole scores at 70%, 80% 90%, and 100%. Dr. Soley's studies were based on actual play — working with 5,406 score cards from 31 different clubs across the country.

All the pieces were brought together on May 16, 1977 when the USGA Handicap Procedure Committee met in Chicago. In approving the new allowances, the USGA opted for percentages that would give all teams reasonably equal odds of finishing in the best 30 per cent of the field in stroke-play competition thus resulting in a more even distribution of handicap levels at the finish with no overbalance of any type of handicappers at either the bottom or top of the field.

Because the USGA "bonus for excellence" is reflected in the new allowances, over the long run low handicappers will win slightly over 50 per cent of the time in four-ball match play, and in most four-ball and best-ball stroke play events the average net score of the lower handicap teams will be slightly better than the average of the higher handicappers.

Recognizing and respecting each club's prerogative to set the ground rules for its own competitions, the USGA strongly urges all clubs to use the 1978 allowances. The USGA cautions that all deviations from these percentages will result in giving an unfair advantage to golfers of certain handicap levels.