

Dundonald winners

DUNDONALD Croquet Club recorded a historic victory as the host club in the inaugural All Ayrshire Cup after a series of highly competitive games.

The competition brought players from Auchincruive, Dundonald and Loans clubs together for the first time in a bid to find the cream of croquet in Ayrshire and the opportunity to be the first names engraved on the newly commissioned trophy.

Format was a golf croquet doubles sudden-death competition with team selections being made by respective club captains and top-seeded players were inevitably combined to create the strongest possible teams.

However, the luck of the draw pitted robust teams against each other during the opening rounds so the standard of play was exceptional with all clubs playing well, however Loans became the first victim, failing to make it through the quarter finals.

Auchincruive fought bravely on to the semi-finals before being ejected,



leaving two Dundonald pairs to battle it out in the final — newcomers Ian McKee and Mat Sully v Dundonald founding members Steven Easton and Ronnie Zorget.

An unfortunately-timed heavy shower of rain forced the finalists to quickly adapt their playing style as sitting rainwater exerted a heavy drag on each stroke.

Three points clear and facing the



fifth hoop, Zorget strategically removed McKee's ball to leave Easton clear to smash home victory four points to one.

This triumph for Dundonald coincides with it being recently crowned the largest croquet club in Scotland by the sport's governing body, the SCA, and despite having only been founded as recently as

2002 by four friends in a back garden, the club is now the country's largest with 107 members.

The All Ayrshire success adds another string to the club's bow and sets the tone for the forthcoming 'majors' beginning with the Co-operative Funeralcare Ashes tournament on June 5.