



**KING OF THE CASTLE:** Ian McKee of Castle Landscapes (centre) presents winners Ian Shedden (left) and Steven Easton (right).

# Castle gets new King

IAN Shedden and Steven Easton paved their way to glory at the Dundonald Croquet Club to become Kings of the Castle Landscapes Cup last Saturday.

The club's new sponsor, Ian McKee of Castle Landscapes narrowly missed out on winning his own trophy as he and 2010 Player of The Season Ronnie Zorget turfed it out in a harrowing final.

A fine day graced the lawn at Newfield Mains for the opening match of the 2011 Croquet season. Coupled with a strong turnout, the day was hailed a great success for the club now in its tenth year. As the first tournament kicked off, past captain Dave Farrow presented 2011 captain Billy Smith with the captain's cap and wished him every success during the upcoming season.

First to play in the group stages were Douglas Shedden and Margaret Kuczynski versus Kirsty Finlayson and George Steele with the latter coming out on top to start raking in the points. With a new seeding system in place for season 2011, every game counts as players are now battling to climb the rankings and qualify for the Croquet Masters later this year.

Angie Boyd and Partner David Malcolmson seemed to have a nightmare start to their season as they suffered two successive whitewashes, to go crashing out in the group stages. It would appear to be a case of 'back to the drawing board' for the disap-

pointed pair. Croquet Junior, Robbie Hunter, won the 'hoop in 1 competition' with a precision shot to hoop 4.

As the day wore on, it appeared team McKee/Zorget had brought their landscaping skills to the lawn, the pair having built an impenetrable wall that no-one could get past.

Sporting full Croquet Club Regalia and a new ultra modern mallet that would not look out of place in a NASA space station, 2007 treble winner Jamie Shedden and his partner George Imrie narrowly missed out on the knockout stages having been beaten by Jamie's mother Catherine Shedden and partner Craig McQuiston.

The final was played out under floodlit conditions and was a climatic end to a great day of croquet. Both teams managed to take hoops in the opening stages. The match became a battle of tactics as the experienced players tried to outwit each other. Team McKee/Zorget managed to plough out a 2-each draw after four pins but the foundations for victory were already laid as Easton and Shedden dug deep and knocked through confidently to win 4-2 in the end.

The next competition is Bizzie Lizzie's Flower Power Cup on Saturday 23rd April - newcomers are always welcome. For more information on the Dundonald Croquet Club please go to [www.dundonaldcroquet-club.org](http://www.dundonaldcroquet-club.org)



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