

Croquet club's season opener

IAN Shedden and Steven Easton were kings of the Castle Landscapes Cup at Dundonald Croquet Club 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 the 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 10th year.

As the first tournament kicked off, past captain Dave Farrow presented 2011 captain Billy Smith with the captain's cap.

First to play in the group stages were Douglas Shedden and Margaret Kuczynski versus Kirsty Finlayson and George Steele,



TROPHY TIME: Cup winners Ian Shedden and Steven Easton, pictured centre with runners-up Ian McKee, far left, and Ronnie Zorget, far right.

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 as they suffered two successive whitewashes to go crashing out in the group stages.

Croquet junior Robbie Hunter

won the 'hoop in one' competition with a precision shot to hoop four.

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 under floodlit conditions with both teams managing to take hoops in the opening stages. Team McKee/Zorget managed to plough out a two 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 Bizzie Lizzie's Flower Power Cup is the next competition this Saturday – newcomers are always welcome.

To find out more, visit www.dundonaldcroquetclub.org