

TRADITIONAL ROOFING

Dedicated to the preservation of the skills and knowledge of the traditional roofing trades

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EXCLUSIVE REPORT

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WORLD SLATING AND TILING CHAMPIONSHIPS, 2000

UK TEAM TAKES THE GOLD MEDAL UNDER THE MENTORSHIP OF JOHN BALL

First Americans to Attend the International Federation of Roofing Trades Congress since 1968

A group of nine Pennsylvania slate roofing contractors, friends and wives traveled to Edinburgh, Scotland, last November, to attend the International Federation of Roofing Trades (IFD) Congress, and the IFD World Championship of Young Roofers, 2000, the first Americans to attend the Congress in 32 years.

The highlights of this excursion included a talk on Scottish Natural Slate, during which a mention was made of a slate roof dating to 1643 still in use today in Scotland. Many world class traditional roofers from various countries were in attendance, including the UK, Scotland, Ireland, Germany, South Africa, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Hungary, Austria, Slovenia and others. All of these countries competed in the 13th World Slating and Tiling Championships for Young Roofers.

A number of roofing schools exist in Europe, and the best of their roofing students and apprentices are chosen to represent their respective countries in this competition. Each of about 16 national teams, consisting of two young roofers (maximum age approximately 24) who do the actual roofing work, and one Mentor who advises them during the competition, compete against each other.

Each team had to install roofing materials on an indoor roof mock-up at Telford College in Edinburgh. The roof mock-up consists of an "L"-shaped roof divided into three sections: a hipped end section on which Redland clay plain ceramic tiles had to be installed on battens; a central section with a valley that could be



The UK team, Gold Medal winners at the 2000 World Slating and Tiling Championships, Edinburgh, Scotland.

done in any material or style chosen by the team (see photo, p.12); and a gabled end section that had to be slated with Burlington slates of random widths and diminishing courses, on battens. Over a three-day period, each team had one day to complete each section.

Although all of the teams exhibited exemplary craftsmanship, the UK team, under the mentorship of John Ball of Northern Ireland, took the Gold Medal.

This year's IFD Congress and World Championship for Young Roofers will take place in Vienna, Austria, on October 4-6, 2001. More information can be obtained by emailing dialog.life@aon.at, or by contacting the National Federation of Roofing Contractors, 24 Weymouth Street, London W1N4LX, United Kingdom (Phone: 020 7436 0387; fax: 020 7637 5215; www.nfrc.co.uk). Next year's IFD Congress and World Championship is scheduled to occur in Dublin, Ireland, in 2002, and is sure to have Americans attending. ☐

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