

## 24th World Championship of Young Roofers in Lucerne, Switzerland, 2012

The leading specialists within the roofing industry from around the world meet in Lucerne, Switzerland, for the 60th Congress of the International Federation for the Roofing Trade (IFD) and the 24th World Championship for young Roofers.



**Team GB Pitched Roofing**  
Mathew Timby  
Stephen Harking  
Bob Coutts (Mentor)



**Team GB Flat Roofing**  
Sam Hall  
Tom Peck  
Gary Walpole (Mentor)

The World Championship Competition was held from the 14<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> November 2012, and hosted by the Swiss National Federation of Roofing Contractors with a total of 21 teams from 11 countries were competing in the three disciplines, pitch roofing, metal roofing and waterproofing or flat roofing.



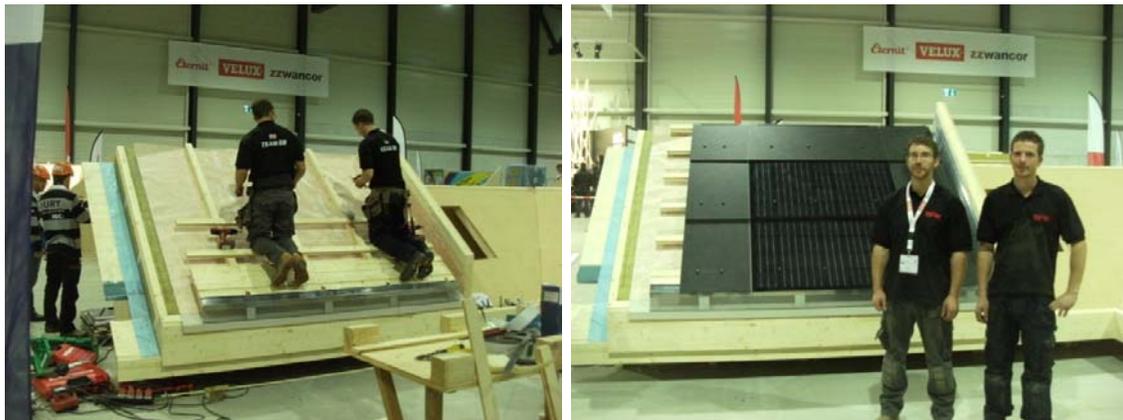
The Pitch roofing competitors came from Austria, Switzerland, Germany, Estonia, Great Britain, Holland, Hungary, Slovenia, Poland and Romania.

The United Kingdom 'Team GB' had two teams entered into the competition in Pitched Roofing and Waterproofing (Flat Roofing) through the National Federation of Roofing Contractors. There was no team from the UK in the Metal Roofing category.

The competitor's skills, training and the expertise in working with materials in both traditional and new roofing techniques were tested to the limits over the three days. There was a separate Task for each day, the first two tasks were very closely

inspected and marked by a jury of three judges from Germany, UK and the host country.

The first pitch roofing task was a roof with an underlay bonded over a Polyethylene vapour barrier which had to be sealed at the eaves to form an air-tight detail, Thermal insulation laid crosswise between wooden inlays covered by a second underlay with homogeneous bonded laps (hot welded), metal side gutter and eave trims formed and fixed, counter and cross batted with a covering of large sized fibre-cement sheets and Solar PV (Photovoltaic) Elements. (Not the usual UK specification). Small details were changed and some new bits and pieces introduced to the specification on the day causing some hic-ups and little mistakes.



**Mathew and Stephen completed the first task**

The second task was a Swiss valley detail with a taped underlay, timber counter and cross batten, clay biber (beaver) tile, Velux roof window, copper eave trim, copper soakers and cover trim. The valley detail was a problem for a number of teams as more than half competing failed to complete the task. Team GB again finished the task and showed the benefit of the two training sessions over at the training school in Uzwil.

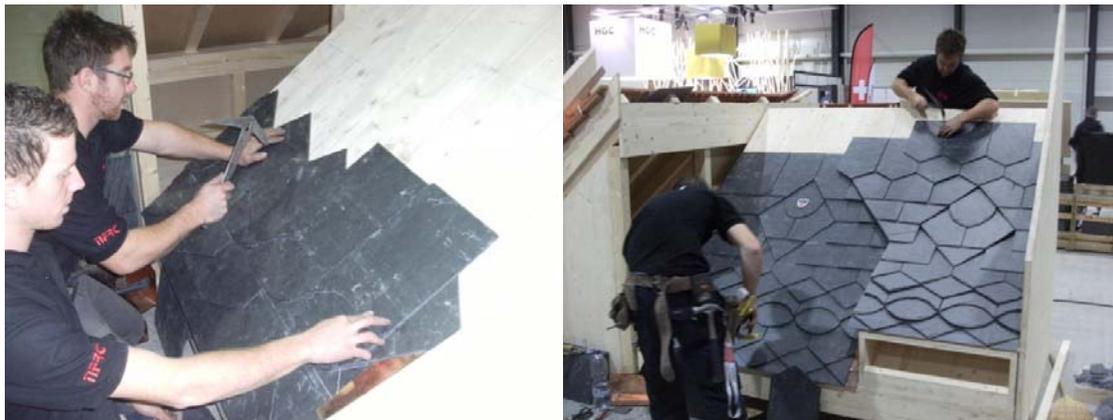


**Mathew and Stephen completed the second task**

These two tasks completed the work necessary for the World Championship Medals.

The Optional task was an opportunity for the teams to demonstrate their skills and ingenuity with the natural slate available or they could bring their own materials to demonstrate and demonstrate their national methods and techniques. The only limit was the roof which had a small shed dormer at the eaves against an abutment.

The mentor aids in the design and progress of the work, but Mathew and Stephen also assisted in the final design for the Team GB Optional task. We attempted some very ornate detailing including a little copper work to the side of the dormer and a straight dovetail or raking edge to the slates at the top to come into the main roof. As shown below there was diamonds, hexagonal and curved work which tested all our skill and knowledge but then the final two slates were cut out to form the letters 'G B', so with a few people looking on the mentor had to get the hands dirty. (the letter 'G' cut without breaking to my relief)



**Mathew, Stephen and Bob completed the optional task**

The final placings were announced at the Gala Evening in the Lucerne Concert hall where we were joined by the Congress members and partners. The Winners of the Gold Medal in all three categories (Pitched, Flat and Metal) were Switzerland with the Silver in the pitched roofing to Austria and Bronze to Germany. The UK was very close, although they were not placed they should be congratulated on a very good effort. The standard of skills displayed was very high and rising, where we can now compete when away from a UK specification.

The final award was announced for the Optional Task and the Team GB received the Special Prize by the President of the IFD.

The glass trophy given to the UK Mentor Bob Coutts will be presented to the new first Principal of Edinburgh College, Mandy Exley, to proudly display the World Class achievement of the Team.

The next Competition is in 2014 Romania

*Some of the other Optional Tasks on display*





Completed Rig



**Team GB**

**Mathew Timby, Stephen Harking and Bob Coutts (UK Mentor)**