

SKILLBUILD 2010 FINAL BRINGS OUT THE VERY BEST YOUNG ROOFERS

Sixteen of the nation's leading young roofers had their expertise well and truly put to the test during the 2010 SkillBuild final at Coleg Menai, Llangefni, on the Isle of Anglesey, in early September. The competition is managed by the National Federation of Roofing Contractors for SkillBuild and sponsored by their associate manufacturing members.

Everyone agreed, the competition was of extremely high quality and although any one of the young roofers had the capability to win, the judges had the very difficult task of selecting outright winners in each of the three categories – slating and tiling, sheeting and cladding, and reinforced bituminous membranes.

First in the slating and tiling (RST) category was Matthew Timby (The Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment), second, Steven Butler (Ian MacDonald Slating and Plastering) and third was Ian McCarthy (Pickle Bros (Slaters) Ltd). Timby and McCarthy are both at Leeds College of Building and Butler is training at South Lanarkshire College.

In the sheeting and cladding (RSC) category Scott Lyons (North East Contracts) was first with Peter Kerr (Weatherproofing Advisors Ltd), second. Both are at the National Construction College Scotland.

Tom Peck (Capital Roofing Co Ltd) was placed first in the reinforced bituminous membranes (RBM) category and, second, was Sam Hall (Russell Trew Ltd). These two young roofers are both at the National Construction College South.

All competitors received certificates of commendation but as the NFRC's technical expert, Kevin Taylor, pointed out: "The standard was so high that almost any one of them could have been placed. Indeed all 16 participants could consider themselves amongst the cream of the UK's young roofers."

Indeed, the judges, Bob Coutts, Telford College, Edinburgh, Stephen Boden, IKO PLC, Simon Dixon, NFRC Roof Training Centre NI, Bob Hann, NFRC and John Pegg, Construction Skills, were all unanimous that it was "another exceptional competition across all three categories."

The judges explained that the young roofers, aged between 19 and 21, all performed to an exceptionally high standard. It was evident that their training was of a very high level for which their colleges and employers should take a great deal of the credit.

So far as roofing is concerned the next big competition will be held alongside the 58th Congress of the International Federation of Roofing Contractors in the King's Hall, Belfast, Northern Ireland, from 16 - 20 November, 2010. At that event some 27 teams of young roofers from 12 countries will be displaying their skills and, appropriately, amongst them may be some roofing apprentice winners from the SkillBuild final.

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Notes to Editor:

NFRC is the UK's largest roofing trade association representing over 60% of the roofing industry by value. NFRC actively ensures that members offer high standards of workmanship and sound business practice through a strict code of practice and vetting procedure, including site inspections and adhering to the Government endorsed TrustMark standards. NFRC also offers training services, technical advice, and represents member interests to the wider construction industry and Government. For more information please visit www.nfrc.co.uk.