

GSDL HELPER LICENSING



Helper Licensing 27th-28th July 2013

The 2013 Helper Licensing was held at Bromsgrove RFC on 27th and 28th July. This was the 2nd licensing that I had organised and even from the first email sent out to the Helpers I knew it was going to be very busy and I was not disappointed, 36 helpers in total.

Saturday 27th - we all met at the RFC at 9.30am. The weather was beautiful, the venue was fantastic and it was great to see some familiar faces but also lots of new ones. Saturday was primarily a training day, but it was also a chance for the helpers to meet up with the others from different GSDL clubs. Once the helpers had signed in with the Helper Co-ordinator, they were allocated small groups in which they would work with the Trainer Helpers who would spend most of the day training and instructing them in all aspects of Helper Work. The Trainer Helpers this year were Ian James, Travis Foster, Mark Rigby, Nick Koskinas, Lewis Hartley, Jock Mitchell and Danny Roberts. After the morning training session we were treated to a buffet lunch courtesy of the GSDL. Two more training sessions were completed on Saturday giving the trainee helpers the chance to work with most of the Trainer Helpers.

Sunday 28th - 9.30am started with another training session and the final chance for the helpers that would like to

License to show our GSDL judges they could work to the standard required.

The GSDL judges this year were Gavin Smith, Richard James, Dougie Bannerman, Jim Jackson and apprentice judge Phil Sargent.

After a short break it was time to start the licensing, 5 helpers were to be licensed for A Grades and 22 helpers for B Grades. This is certainly the most helpers the GSDL has ever licensed in one event. All A grades were successful and will be allocated the major trials for 2014.

With 22 helpers licensing Sunday afternoon it was extremely busy, but I am glad to say it all ran with military precision. Special thanks to all GSDL members who provided dogs to test the helpers with.

20 Helpers in total were successful in passing their licenses. A full list of the GSDL helpers can be found on our website: www.gsleague-workingbranch.com/

Although the helper licensing was very busy and quite hard work, it was a pleasure to be part of. I have had several messages from participants to say how much they enjoyed the weekend and how much knowledge they were able to obtain. Thanks to all who helped over the weekend and lastly a special thank you to Mr Paul Howard who helped make sure all helpers had plenty of dogs that they could learn on, not an easy job!



Training and Licensing
more Helpers than ever
for the GSDL