

Opinion

Job register must be up to date

Helen Benson reminds keepers that the Gamekeeper Job Register is there to help, but urges users to update her on their situation.

THE GAMEKEEPER JOB REGISTER EXISTS TO help those who are seeking positions available, help prospective employers find a suitable person, assist trainees and provide information. It is a voluntary enterprise and works alongside the Gamekeepers' Welfare Trust in supporting gamekeepers in whatever way

we can. However, it only works if you, the gamekeepers, help too.

This year has regrettably been quieter than usual for the register. It is not surprising, but is a reflection of the general situation in shooting and indeed the whole economy. However, there is also an element of inefficiency. Much of this is to do with the number of applicants who, it is discovered when a prospective employer contacts them, have already found another position or are not interested.

When applicants wish to join the register they complete an employment form. This goes onto a database and we pull out potential employers according to positions available and requirements. This can only work when an applicant who has decided to stay in his current post, no longer wishes to become a gamekeeper, or has found a job asks us to remove him from the register.

I will give you some shocking statistics. Last year I received over 80 positions available. Out of those, only one person informed me he had found a position through the register and only one shoot employer thanked me for finding me a suitable person. Does this mean that I only placed one person? Not a bit of it! Through the grapevine, I found discovered over 20 people placed in positions last year through the register.

It has been particularly difficult for trainees this year. However, if you really want to be a gamekeeper, you have to be prepared to move around and put in some effort. Not long ago, someone rang me with a position. This was really good news as there have been so few. However, I was disappointed to find that one lad said he did not want to move away, another was not prepared to forego the money he was making as a builder, and another did not even bother to reply. To be a gamekeeper today, effort and sacrifices do have to be made.

This service is free and, although imperfect, is undoubtedly useful in helping people to find suitable positions

and information. Please let me know if you have found a job and no longer wish to be on the register. Just as important, it is so rewarding for me to hear of a successful match. For employers, please do give me a call – we have a large database and the service is free. Please keep me informed, and thank you all.

GAMEKEEPER JOBS REGISTER

To be placed on the Gamekeeper Jobs Register, or to update your details, please call 01677 470180 or email gamekeeperjobs@btinternet.com

SOPHIA GALLIA



Being there for gamekeepers, stalkers and ghillies

Information, assistance for issues including health, finance, housing, employment, redundancy and legal difficulties.
Financial grants for keepers and their families suffering from ill health and disability.

All enquiries are fully confidential and treated with sensitivity from someone who understands.

**CONTACT THE HELPLINE ON
01677 470180**

Email gamekeeperwtrust@btinternet.com
www.gamekeeperwelfaretrust.com