

PRESS RELEASE

BUSINESS GIFT FOR OVER 200 LINCOLNSHIRE FIRMS

6 AUGUST 2007

Staff at motorbike mechanics Ray Hamblin Ltd in Gainsborough joined the party to celebrate the first anniversary of Train to Gain, a service funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to help businesses succeed.

Ray Hamblin Ltd is one of over 200 organisations from across Lincolnshire to benefit from Train to Gain during the past year. The service aims to help companies identify and fill skills gaps within their workforce. It offers them the chance to use the skills of a specialist Skills Broker to improve their business performance by training their employees.

Over 1,300 employees from across Lincolnshire have accessed training worth almost £2 million during the past 12 months.

Ray Hamblin Ltd, based on North Street, used the service to take on an apprentice. Scott Townsend, 17, had been helping out part-time at the garage while he was at school. Using the Train to Gain service, owner John Hamblin found a suitable package of training for Scott to enable him to be work through NVQ Level 2 in Repair and Maintenance of Road Vehicles.

John Hamblin. said:

“I was really keen to take Scott on full-time when he left school and Scott was very enthusiastic about training to be a mechanic. I spoke to Train to Gain Skills Broker Jenny Stainton and she was able to find a package of training that suited us perfectly. Scott will be going to college one day a week from September to learn the theory which he can put into practical use working on the bikes here. It’s great for me as it means I’ve got someone to help out who will be properly trained up. It’s also great for Scott as there are limited jobs in the area and this gives him a great opportunity.”

Scott Townsend said:

“I’ve always been interested in bikes and really wanted to be a motorbike mechanic. I started helping out here while I was at school and knew it’s what I wanted to do when I left. Hopefully after the NVQ Level 2 I’ll be able to do the Level 3. I’m really pleased to be able to do this training as it means I’ll have a trade for life.”

Skills Broker Jenny Stainton said:

“There aren’t many specialist motorcycle mechanic trainers about so it took a fair bit of research to find someone who could provide what they were looking for. But by ringing a garage that I knew was training up apprentices I found out who they used and got in contact with Carter and Carter, a specialist training company based in Ruddington near Nottingham. Mark Gauld, the trainer, was very helpful and could provide the exact specialist training we were looking for.

Mark Gauld, the trainer from Carter and Carter, said:

“I’ve worked very closely with Ray Hamblin Ltd to ensure Scott’s getting the best training to suit the business, both now and in the future.

“I visit Scott about every six weeks to assess him during his normal working day so we don’t disrupt the normal work of the business. So far it’s been working really well and Scott is very enthusiastic. I send him an action plan to work towards and assess him when I visit him. Scott will be a specialist in motorbike repairs and maintenance when he’s completed his Apprenticeship, but the skills can be applied to every day life – cars, houses, all sorts. In small towns opportunities are always limited so the chance to train as a specialist mechanic is really good news for Scott.”

All companies in Lincolnshire can access the Train to Gain service either by taking the Skills Pledge - a campaign to inspire people to improve their skills - or by contacting the Train to Gain helpline direct. For more information on Train to Gain telephone 0845 057 1817, text TRAIN to 64446, register at www.iwanttotrain.com or visit www.traintogain.gov.uk.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. Photographs of staff from Ray Hamblin Ltd celebrating the Train to Gain birthday are available. Contact Helen Clarke at GNN or download from www.gnn.gov.uk
2. Train to Gain is a service run by the LSC. Train to Gain aims to improve productivity and competitiveness by making sure employees have the right skills to do the right job through: an organisational needs analysis, by making recommendations on the most relevant training and providing best value for money.
3. The brokerage service for Train to Gain in the East Midlands is provided under contract to the LSC, by East Midlands Business Ltd (EMB); a joint venture partnership formed by Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire Chambers of Commerce.

4. The Leitch Review of Skills, published in December 2006, warned that the UK must 'raise its game' on skills at all levels if it is to sustain and improve its position in the global economy. The Skills Pledge fulfils a key recommendation made in the review, at the heart of a new 'deal' where employers will be able to shape the skills system to meet their needs, in return for prioritising skills training at all levels.

**ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE LEARNING AND SKILLS COUNCIL BY
GOVERNMENT NEWS NETWORK EAST MIDLANDS. FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION CONTACT HELEN CLARKE AT GNN ON 0115 971 2787**