



## Game shooting in peril

**D**efra's suggested new game bird code could cause havoc with the shooting fraternity as it is estimated that it will cost game farmers as much as £6.6m in order to bring existing laying systems into line with the code, according to the Game Farmers' Association.

The GFA believes that forty-three per cent of partridge and six per cent of pheasant egg production will be hit and that the total annual cost arising from other new requirements will be in the order of £5.7million.

GFA chairman, Jonathan Crow said: "The report shows the shooting industry facing massive problems next year with no welfare benefit, all arising from late changes made to the code without consultation. Whereas the draft code seen by the public was based on existing good practice and so would have had little impact, the final version laid before Parliament two weeks ago effectively bans not only raised laying systems but also affects many other aspects of game rearing. Further unnecessary costs will be imposed by involving vets in routine procedures and increasing the frequency of checking birds."

He has called for the code to be withdrawn and added: "You cannot impose new requirements like these on an industry without significant impacts. For the government to have done so without even consulting or costing the changes themselves is a complete disgrace."

Views on the proposed new code have been mixed but a change of government might make its withdrawal an automatic conclusion.



## The Gunroom

### A great start to the season

**L**incolnshire shooters collected an impressive two silver medals in the first of the Clay Pigeon Shooting Association's regional championships for 2010.

Tracey Bridge, from Southrey, had the joint-highest score of 96-282 in the ladies' section of the 100 down-the-line competition but she was pipped in a shoot-off for ladies' gold by Leicestershire's Leanne Palmer.

Meanwhile, Jack Wilkinson, from North Kelsey, notched 98-288 which earned him second prize in the junior section.

Lincolnshire's Stuart Whitehead was also in the prizes, taking second place in Class A, having hit all 100 targets and used eight second barrels to finish on 292 ex 300 points.

## Hunt is on for die-hard gamekeepers and riverkeepers

**C**ountryside watchdog, the CLA, is seeking gamekeepers and riverkeepers so they can be recognised at The CLA Game Fair, the world's largest countryside event, which takes place at Ragley Hall, Alcester, Warwickshire, on Friday 23rd – Sunday 25th July.

The presentation at The CLA Game Fair presents a unique opportunity for Estate and Shoot owners and managers and everyone who cares for the countryside to say a public thank you to the people who have given the best part of their working life to it.

CLA Game Fair Director David Hough said, "In areas where wildlife is abundant, where habitat is healthy and diverse and where nature truly is in balance, the one consistent factor is a good gamekeeper. We want to track down the longest serving members of this distinguished profession and say a sincere 'thank you' for looking after our countryside."

Helen Woolley, CLA East Midlands Director, said: "Many of us have appreciated much of the biodiversity of cropping and woodlands, but very few of us see the quiet men and women who spend long, often solitary hours at their labour. These awards are an opportunity to recognise their efforts over the years."

To qualify for the CLA Long Service Awards, a gamekeeper must have achieved at least forty years service to the countryside on not more than five estates. A riverkeeper must have dedicated at least twenty-five years to looking after the same river system.

Potential candidates for the awards must be nominated by an employer; further details on both the CLA Long Service Awards and how to nominate an individual can be obtained by emailing: [gamefair@cla.org.uk](mailto:gamefair@cla.org.uk)

