

## ■ Tekst 4

**From:** M J Scott-Bolton,  
Stourbridge

**Re:** Pursuits that preserve the  
country

**Date:** 8 October 2000

THE discerning eye of Mr Bill Bryson could not possibly fail to appreciate that the making, and the saving, of our landscape is in great measure due to the English countryman's passion for field sports (review, Oct 1). Yet in his article "Your Country Needs You", field sports go unmentioned.

As a land agent I have had the privilege of managing 12,000 acres of lovely countryside over the last 43 years and I have come to the conclusion that the sporting interest and the non-political Game Conservancy between them have done more to preserve our countryside since the end of the last war, than any other body, certainly more than the National Parks and other "political" bodies – and at no cost to the public purse.

When the EU Environmental Sensitive Area Schemes were first introduced, I remember the Agriculture Ministry being very surprised that the heather moorlands that they wished to include in their scheme had been managed for the past 20 years in just the way they were proposing. I explained that we had simply followed the recommendations of the Game Conservancy to enhance the grouse shooting and thereby also to preserve the heather.

  
The Sunday Telegraph

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- Text 4 is a letter emailed to *The Sunday Telegraph Editor*. The last paragraph was deleted.
- 1p 8 ■ Which of the following would be suitable as a last paragraph?
- A I, for one, have always maintained that the EU has been beneficial to Britain all along. It is high time we started appreciating the benefits of Brussels directives instead of indulging in cheap Europe bashing, which seems to be fashionable in Tory circles.
  - B It is no surprise that, when questioned by pollsters amid the suburban sprawl that this government has encouraged, most people are in favour of banning hunting. After all, a ban would make the countryside more attractive.
  - C I voted Labour in the past precisely because I expected a Labour government to use parliamentary time to tackle the huge problems created by the Tories in areas such as health and education. I did not expect them to squander that time on irrelevancies such as country pleasures.
  - D The proposed abolition of hunting and hare coursing (and other field sports which could follow), together with the right to roam, will do more to bring about the destruction of the countryside and wildlife than any other development that can be envisaged.