

Majorca Daily Bulletin

Friday, December 13 2013

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BEST OF BRITISH IN MAJORCA

● Tour de France winner Chris Froome trains on the island: Page 6 and 7

No vote in Catalonia



Madrid.—Separatist parties in Spain's northeastern Catalonia region yesterday agreed the wording of an independence referendum on 9 Nov., 2014, but the Spanish government said the vote was illegal and would not happen.

Catalan regional government head Artur Mas said the vote would ask two questions: "Do you want Catalonia to be a state?" and "Do you want that state to be independent?" Spain's Justice Minister Alberto

Ruiz-Gallardon immediately said the vote could not take place because the constitution would not allow it.

The ruling People's Party and the main opposition Socialists have both decried Catalan breakaway rhetoric. Both have lost substantial voter support in the region as tensions between Catalonia and Madrid have risen.

Catalonia has strong historic and cultural roots and its own language,

aside from Spanish. It wants more say over taxes and public spending, demands that have come to a head as Spain has implemented tough austerity measures to cut its budget deficit. Polls show that around half Catalonia's residents would choose independence in a yes-or-no breakaway referendum.

The region, whose capital is Barcelona, makes up a fifth of the Spanish economy and around 15 percent of its electorate.

PHONE HACKING TRIAL

Queen Elizabeth went nuts over nibbles, court told

● Queen Elizabeth was so incensed with royal police officers eating nuts from bowls left out in the corridors of Buckingham Palace that she drew lines on the sides in a bid to catch them out, a London court heard yesterday.

In emails submitted to the phone hacking trial of journalists at Rupert Murdoch's now defunct *News of the World* tabloid, its royal reporter said he had learnt that a memo had been issued to all officers telling them to "keep their sticky fingers out".

To laughter in the court, judge John Saunders told the jury that these were "unfounded allegations".

Moments de joia

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New *Hobbit* film opens in Palma in English today: See What's On; P17