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Nadal files suit against French ex-minister over drug test allegations

FOURTEEN-time Grand Slam champion Rafael Nadal has begun legal proceedings against former French cabinet minister Roselyne Bachelot after she alleged that the Majorcan had failed a drug test.

The 29-year-old issued a statement through his agent yesterday saying he had filed a case for defamation against Bachelot in the Paris law courts. Bachelot

was health and sports minister in 2007-2010 and social affairs minister until 2012.

"This legal proceeding was instigated after Miss Bachelot made offensive remarks last March on le Grand 8 programme on French channel D8," the statement read.

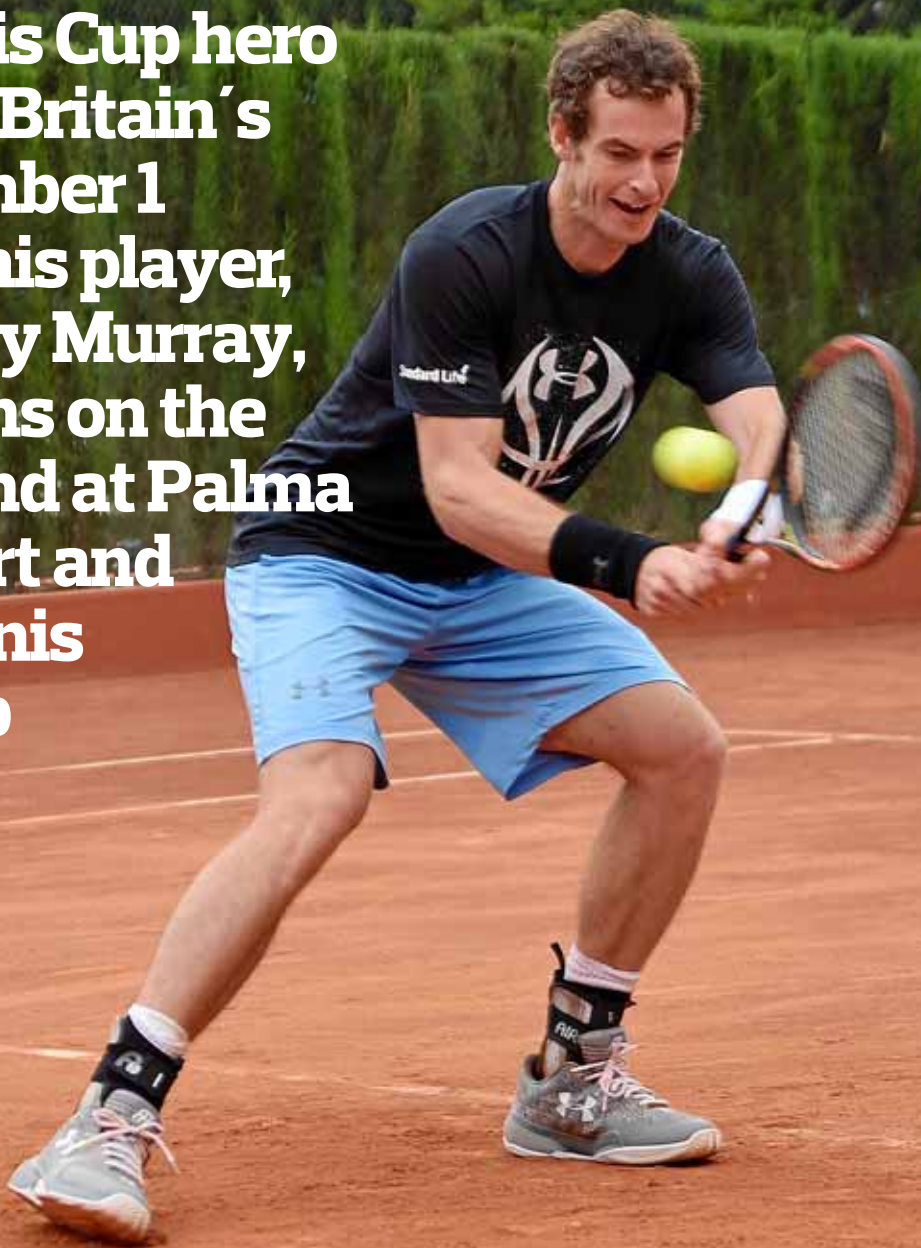
"Through this case, I intend not only to defend my integrity and my image as an athlete but also the values I have defended all my

career. Nadal added: "I also wish to avoid any public figure making insulting or false allegations against an athlete using the media, without any evidence or foundation and to go unpunished."

Former world number one Nadal, who will attempt to win a 10th French Open title this year, strenuously denies ever having taken performance-enhancing substances.

STAR ISLAND

Davis Cup hero and Britain's Number 1 tennis player, Andy Murray, trains on the island at Palma Sport and Tennis Club



French acting star Jean Reno films on the island

French acting sensation, Jean Reno, was filming a commercial on the island yesterday for a leading beer company. The star of *Crimson Rivers*, *Godzilla*, *The Da Vinci Code*, *Mission: Impossible*, *The Pink Panther*, *Ronin*, *Les visiteurs*, *The Big Blue*, and *Léon: The Professional* is believed to have arrived on the island over the weekend and yesterday he was filming at a Majorcan five star hotel.

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