

Murray's battling against the pain

ANDY Murray will today bid to complete a stunning French Open fightback against Viktor Troicki after coming from two sets and a break down to tie the fourth-round match at 4-6 4-6 6-3 6-2 when play was called off for light.

The world number four's participation looked in doubt because of an ankle injury and he lost the first five games before gradually turning things around.

He lost the second set from a break up and then won the third from a break down before ending last night very much on top against the 15th-seeded Serbian.

All eyes were on Murray's right ankle after he rolled it during the second set of his third-round win over Michael Berrer and finished virtually on one leg.

The Scot had declined to give any updates on his condition in the 48 hours between matches but still looked very cautious with his movement in a gentle practice yesterday lunchtime.

Berrer had made Murray's life easy by letting his sympathy for the fourth seed's plight affect his game but Troicki, who himself had been suffering food poisoning, was never likely to follow suit.

The early signs were certainly not good from the fourth seed's perspective as, barely able to run from side to side, he lost five games in a row.

The only question seemed to be how long Murray would continue for but he avoided the dreaded bagel by retrieving

one break of serve - and slowly the momentum began to change.

His serve had more bite and he was having more success going for big shots. It was not enough to prevent Troicki taking the first set - although he did have points for 5-5 - but there was hope where to start with there had not been.

Murray was still not moving as well as he can but competitive instinct seemed to have overridden any fear of really testing the ankle.

Troicki had never taken a set off Murray in three previous meetings but he has been a different player since helping Serbia win the Davis Cup last year.

Murray needed two big serves to save break points in the third game of the second set, and two terrific forehands then gave the Scot a chance at 3-2, which he took with a third winner.

He immediately gave the break back, though, netting a drop shot on Troicki's third break point, and he then missed two chances for a third successive game against the serve.

Holding serve was proving difficult for both men, and it was Troicki who gained a second break in quick succession when another Murray drop shot backfired.

That left the 15th seed serving for the set, and, although a double-fault on his second set point betrayed nerves, he took it with a big serve.

Losing that set really seemed to have deflated Murray and his body language



NO PAIN NO GAIN Andy Murray was suffering from an ankle injury in Paris, but he fought back from two sets down against Viktor Troicki

was anything but positive at the start of the third. Another break for Troicki in the third game seemed to spell the beginning of the end - but the fourth seed dug deep and responded in kind.

Murray was looking much more like his usual self and in the eighth game he upped his level decisively, hitting a couple of beautiful angled winners then clinching the break with a crunching forehand.

That left him serving for the set and this time there was no real drama, with the Scot taking it on his third opportunity with a huge serve down the middle.

With the clock ticking past 9pm, there was only time for one more set at best, so it was imperative Murray did not get sloppy at the start of the fourth.

Instead it was Troicki, who was now looking extremely weary, that blinked first, trying and failing to live with Mur-

ray's weight of shot as the Scot broke through to lead 3-2.

Murray then took his second break point with a forehand cross-court winner, giving him the chance to serve out the set, which he managed comfortably to level proceedings after two hours and 52 minutes.

Elsewhere, Rafael Nadal faces a repeat of last year's final tomorrow against Robin Soderling after reaching the quarter-finals thanks to yesterday's 7-5 6-3 6-3 victory over Ivan Ljubicic.

Novak Djokovic, Nadal's chief rival for the French Open crown, received a free passage through to the semi-finals when Fabio Fognini withdrew through injury.

In the women's draw, Maria Sharapova and Victoria Azarenka moved through to the quarter-finals after both won in straight sets yesterday.

Barry seeing double after BSB-Evo victories

MOTOR SPORT

BARRY Burrell has thrown himself into BSB-Evo Championship contention after two stunning victories in the wet at Thruxton yesterday, writes *ZOE BURN*.

The Bishop Auckland rider won the first Mirror.co.uk British Superbike Evo race yesterday lunchtime, and then backed it up with a sensational second victory later in the afternoon.

And the result means he is now second in the championship standings, just 15 points adrift of leader Glen Richards.

Burrell had struggled to get a decent lap on the Buildbase BMW Motorrad machine during Sunday's dry qualifying session, ending the session fifth.

As race day dawned wet and misty at the Hampshire circuit, Burrell got a fast getaway at the green light, and had made up two places within the first lap.

While the wet weather began to catch

out some of the main superbike runners, Burrell found himself with the perfect set-up, and began reeling in the bikes ahead, moving up to second on lap six.

Two laps later he passed Glen Richards' WFR Honda and never looked back, quickly pulling out a lead of a couple of seconds, beating Richards by three seconds and 13th overall.

Still riding high, Burrell was back out in action a couple of hours later, this time starting as top Evo bike and 17th on the grid.

But he didn't get such a good start, dropping down to third. However his BMW was working perfectly, and

SILVERWARE Barry Burrell with his trophy



he was quickly able to reel in the bike in second place, passing on lap six.

From there, it was a nine-lap dash to catch Richards, again leading Evo. Closing him down, reducing the gap by two seconds in two laps, he was on his tail.

He made the move on the penultimate lap and held off Richards to the chequered flag, taking his second win.

"It's amazing, I certainly wasn't expecting it and I really don't like to say this, but it was actually pretty easy," he told *The Journal* last night.

"The bike has just been fantastic, and I didn't even have to work too hard - look at me, I haven't even really broken a sweat.

"But seriously, it's been a really great day. In the first one I think I

know I could've caught up with Martin Jessopp on the Superbike ahead of me, but I didn't really push it. I was leading Evo so I knew I was okay.

"I knew there was a bit of a gap there behind, so I just kept it steady really, and didn't try any harder."

Burrell, new to the championship after a year in British Superstock in 2010, admitted he realised the double was possible as soon as he won the first one.

"It sounds a bit bad really but yeah, I knew I could do it because the bike was handling so well. I'm still new to this and the hardest thing about the two races is psyching yourself up for the second.

"I just kept it together and figured I'd do the same again if I could, and we went out there and did it. The bike was absolutely mega this weekend."

Burrell now has a two week break before the next round at Knockhill, Scotland, over the weekend June 17-19.

SPORT SHORTS

ATHLETICS

Ennis may pass on relay baton

WORLD and European heptathlon champion Jessica Ennis has been given until October to decide if she wants to run the 4x100 metres relay at next year's Olympic Games.

Ennis has already turned down the chance to be part of the relay squad at this summer's World Championships in Daegu, preferring to focus on the defence of her heptathlon title after an injury-plagued winter.

And the 25-year-old also looks set to pass up the chance to compete in the sprint relay in London as she aims to give 100% to her bid to add the Olympic title to her burgeoning medal collection.

"There has been talk (about the relay) but to be honest my focus is on the heptathlon," Ennis said in Gotzis at the weekend, where she returned to heptathlon action with a commanding victory.

"Especially after having an injury, I just need to focus on what is important and the heptathlon is more important than anything else.

"I don't want to commit myself to a team if I'm not going to be at the sessions when all the other girls are there because I don't think that's fair on the team."

FORMULA ONE

Button warning

JENSON Button has warned Sebastian Vettel every driver will "fight to the bitter end" to prevent him from walking away with back-to-back Formula One world titles.

"We could all just give up now and not bother with it, or we could fight until the end, which is what we're going to do," Button said.

SAILING

Golden glory

SKANDIA Team GBR claimed two golds at the Dutch leg of the ISAF Sailing World Cup, Stevie Morrison and Ben Rhodes winning the 49er at the end of the six-day regatta.

The British team also captured top spot in the Finn class thanks to some superb sailing from world champion Ed Wright.

CRICKET

Afridi retires

FORMER Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi has retired from all forms of international cricket, according to reports in his homeland.

Geo TV say the 31-year-old, who has played 27 Tests, 345 ODIs and 43 Twenty20s, has ended his career with the national side.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Warriors rampant

PAT Richards and Sam Tomkins each scored a hat-trick as Wigan enjoyed a resounding 40-6 victory over Hull KR last night.

Warrington and Huddersfield won earlier in Round 15 to go clear at the top of the table, but Wigan's sixth straight engage Super League win - and eighth in all competitions - took the Warriors level on 22 points with a game in hand.