



|N|o.|2|8|9| |M|A|Y| |2|0|1|4|



www.crosswordclub.org



And let a scholar all Earth's volumes carry,
He will be but a walking dictionary.
George Chapman, 1609, *The Tears of Peace*, 530.

|G|R|I|D|A|T|O|R|I|A|L|

|F|R|O|M| |T|H|E|
|A|D|J|U|D|I|C|A|T|O|R|

Did you find the recent puzzles in *Crozworld* too hard? Too challenging? Too much for the human mind? In our April 2014 edition of *Crozworld*, our highly-respected Adjudicator **Col Archibald** noted that the "feedback from many members was that the puzzles were becoming more difficult to solve lately with many being a chore rather than a pleasure to solve." Our dynamic Puzzle Editor **Ian Williams** has closely examined this issue and has come up with some fascinating results. You will enjoy reading Ian's detailed examination of the subject on p14. Thank you Ian for undertaking this important task and for setting out your persuasive conclusions.

Our outstanding Puzzle Editor — **Ian Williams** — has selected another variety of excellent and challenging puzzles and quiz for you this month. The slot 1 puzzle has a new name this month: It's titled *Half et Demi* compiled by the richly rewarding *Crowsman*. Favourites like *Blue King* and *Jesso* are there for your ongoing relish plus a skilful offering from the talented *Kaeila* in the Slot 4 titled *Jigsaw*. We extend a warm welcome back to *Barney Naga* with *A Poetic Puzzle* and the irresistible compiler *Raoul* has titled his thirsty Slot 6 cruciverbal compilation *A tour in dipsomania*. Plus another brilliant cryptical offering from *zinzan* in the Slot 7 spot and Brian Symons has given us another one of his enjoyable Quizzes titled *Trees*.

Michael Kennedy has provided the results of the Clue Writing Competition No 2/2014 together with his expert Comments on the clues submitted. See p16. Sincere thanks to Michael for the outstanding quality of his comments.

We sincerely hope you can make the Christmas in July celebration this year. We would like to welcome all crossworders especially those who might like to visit us from interstate. See p9 for further details.

Best of Luck with your solving this month. —Patrick

Greetings from the Golden West. Thank you for your timely entries (only three received by mail on the last day) and for your cards, kind wishes and Easter greetings.

Slot 1: This was a very popular slot with only five errors.

Slot 2: WORKHOUSE was used 5 times for WAREHOUSE, FALSE GAIN for FALSE DAWN on 3 occasions, EXTOLL for EXTOLS and several one-off mistakes.

Slot 3: The word that caught out most solvers here was APPRAISES – four put APPEALERS. This slot contained the most repeated letters such as ENNAAD for ENNEAD, NAASEA for NAUSEA, ASTRRL for ASTRAL and NEAA NEW for NEAR NEW. This mistake occurred more often than blanks.

Slot 4: Not too many errors in the popular AJ: only 5 in fact. QUIETEN was put in for QUIETER on a couple of occasions.

Slot 5: Quite a few did not attempt this one – I think it looked too scary. Mistakes were EXPLODE for EXPLORE, UNIDID THE KNOT for UNTIE THE KNOT, KELPIE for BEAGLE. THISTLED GENT provided some different answers but my favourite was THIRTIES GONE which in my case is certainly true.

COTM: Slots 2 and 4 received 15 nominations each but Slot 5 took out the prize for Clue of the Month with 26 votes in all and with FORTINBRAS receiving 8 of those. Congrats *Valkyrie*. DUMB WAITER in Slot 4 was a popular clue receiving 6 votes for COTM.

FINALLY: I never cease to be amazed by the cleverness of solvers but three in particular are amazing. They send in the answers so quickly, which I receive early in the week and which must have been posted on the Monday after publication on Saturday. Their answers are invariably all correct. The other adjudicators will know who the hotelier, the Doctor with the Scottish name and one of the founding members of the club are, but I could not possibly say. I dips me lid to them for their skill at crosswording. —Doreen Jones

|L|E|A|D|I|N|G| |F|I|G|U|R|E|S|

Puzzle No.	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Entries received	107	100	102	100	75	484
Correct entries	104	85	88	93	60	430
Success rate (%)	97.2	85.0	86.3	93.0	80.0	88.9
Prizewinners	James Sims	Rosemary Dorrell	Denis Coates	Stephen Young	Graeme Cole	from 107 members

Prizewinner: April 2014 Slots 1-5: Lesley Carroll. Congrats!

|L|E|A|D|I|N|G| |L|I|G|H|T|S|

President	Patrick Street	395 Canning St, North Carlton Vic 3054	ph (03) 9347 1216	pstreet@bigpond.net.au
Secretary	Bev Cockburn	12 Norman St, Merrylands West NSW 2160	ph (02) 9635 7802	bevco4@bigpond.com
Puzzle Editor	Ian Williams	12 Lindrum Cres, Holt ACT 2615	ph (02) 6254 6860	ianw@webone.com.au

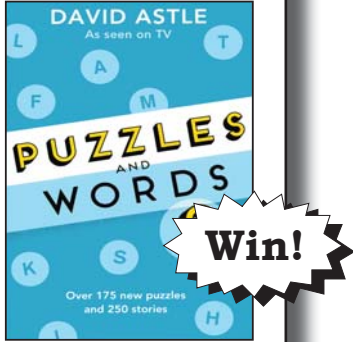
|H|I|G|H|L|I|G|H|T|S|

	page
Half et Demi by <i>Crowsman</i>	3
Cryptic by <i>Blue King</i>	4
Cryptic by <i>Jesso</i>	5
Jigsaw by <i>Kaeila</i>	6
A Poetic Puzzle by <i>Barney Naga</i>	7
A tour in dipsomania by <i>Raoul</i>	8
Vale Brian Eggleton and Brian Smith	9
Quiz No 5/2014	9
Members Comments	10
Cryptic by <i>zinzan</i>	13
Clue Writing Comp	16

M	A	Y			
2	0	1	4		
S	L	O	T		1

**Half
et Demi
by
Crowsman**

Prize:



1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
9														
10								11						
														12
	13			14					15					
16								17						
18								19						
														21
	22								23		24			
25														
26														
27								28						

Across

- 1 Such is life! (1'3,2,3)
- 6 See 9
- 9 and 6 Reply to an invitation (8,1'2,4,5)
- 10 Eyeglass (7)
- 11 Card game for two (6)
- 13 Likely to be captured in chess (2,5)
- 15 Parisian museum (6)
- 18 and 23 Dramatic turn of events (4,2,7)
- 19 Castle (7)
- 22 Prisoner (6)
- 23 See 18
- 26 Look for the female cause! (8,2,5)
- 27 Unconventional (5)
- 28 Opera glass (9)

- 2 The introduction of extra circumstances has strong fellows holding in Mussolini over time (15)
- 3 Thread on new material (5)
- 4 Austrian has Indo-Chinese dismissing four core characters for two new ones (8)
- 5 Made certain having right removed succeeded (6)
- 6 Handle roughly, but deliberately lose a boxing match? (4,5)
- 7 Faulty rivet in a ship – invite failure! (8,7)
- 8 Analyse cricket match (4)
- 12 and 16 Second explicit nooky (3,3)
- 14 Recovery brought round poorly-fed lawn grass (3,6)
- 16 See 12
- 17 One chipping away at Canadian ski resort, having time for son (8)
- 20 Wall around top of well has duck after climbing up (6)
- 21 Part over English grave (6)
- 24 Mischievous, but feel fine with external charge being withdrawn (5)
- 25 Resounding success from “the chop” (4)

Down

- 1 Shortly got Ambrose in cricket (6)

Slots 1-5: Betty Siegman, 2/46 Neale Street, Long Jetty NSW 2261.
 e-mail: betty_siegman@hotmail.com
 Closing mail date: Friday 30 May 2014.
 e-lodgment: ianw@webone.com.au
 Slot 6: William Ryan, c/o Harold Park Hotel,
 cnr Wigram Road & Ross Street, Glebe NSW 2037.
 email: william@haroldparkhotel.com.au
 Closing mail date: Friday 13 June 2014.

|S|E|N|D|
|S|O|L|U|T|I|O|N|S|
|T|O|:

G	O	O	D		
G	R	I	D	S	
P	A	G	E		11

M	A	Y			
2	0	1	4		
S	L	O	T		2

Cryptic by *Blue King*



1		2		3		4	5		6		7		8
9						10							
					11								
12								13					
						14							
15				16							17		
				18									
19									20				21
									22				
23		24				25							
					26								
27								28					
29									30				

Across

- 1 Cling to over possessive female in church (6)
- 4 Christian's embraced doctors in old peep-shows (8)
- 9 Cool a place for bishop in old car (6)
- 10 Noted Welshman returned last month and split (8)
- 12 Torquay landlord in charge of a cathedral (8)
- 13 Speak in detail in a meeting covering the Italian (6)
- 15 Alternatively back an equine hunter perhaps (4)
- 16 Rachel sang improvisation for heavenly masters (10)
- 19 Toffs admit heavy drug consumption, normal for sponsors (10)
- 20 Shift home and enter islands (4)
- 23 Member amid universal anger must be the authority (6)
- 25 Drink a little one of 24, say (8)
- 27 Tunnel under twelve to whip a bird's headpiece (8)
- 28 Australian financial crisis strategy repeatedly led to deserted people! (6)
- 29 Discharge from Internet job? (8)
- 30 Unknowns reportedly rely on solvent (6)

Down

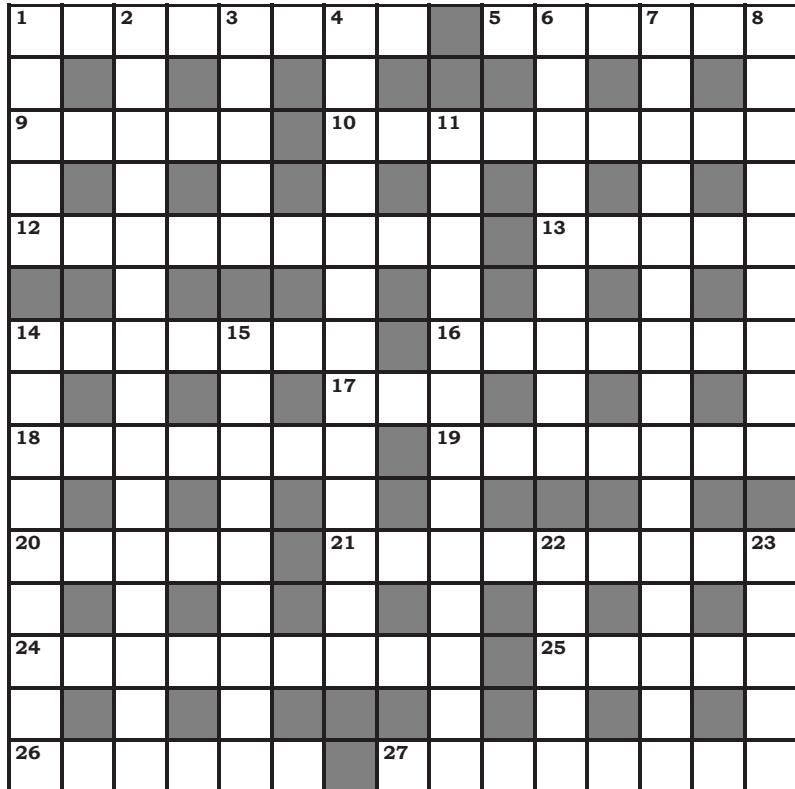
- 1 Get up, awaiting signal after a century and a half (7)
- 2 Give everyone a way in to get umbrella parking spot (9)
- 3 Discover odd bitterness I lost (6)
- 5 I try to win in the same place (4)
- 6 Change direction about half the planet (8)
- 7 After a short time, tea or coffee (5)
- 8 Some Mossad dense firepower hurts (7)
- 11 Will may have worn green or another colour (7)
- 14 Metres up to your hotel room starts main fighter's title (7)
- 17 The French in London city on board for possible choice (9)
- 18 Tables grain in sums (not hard) (8)
- 19 Grand old University's firsts need a revolutionary painting method (7)
- 21 Southern bravery without a whip (7)
- 22 Retry a main road when repaired (6)
- 24 Winged naked boys placed on tree (5)
- 26 Morning Doctor! Here's the rounds (4)

GENERAL COMMENTS:

- I received your beautiful certificate (and the cheque) this afternoon for the March Slot 2 puzzle. Many thanks Patrick. I can see a new Thesaurus in the offing... *Robyn Wimbush*
- It was a very pleasant surprise to receive the book prize: "Puzzles and Words 2" by David Astle. It is a really fascinating little book which promises to keep me absorbed for many happy hours! Many thanks for this great prize. *Laurence Kennedy*
- Many thanks for my 1-5 slot win in March. I used it to pay some expenses on my trip to Antarctica. *Veniece Lobsey*
- Good selection again and some wonderful anagrams this month. In regard to the difficulty level both Dorrie and I would not like to see puzzles made too easy and I reckon that the Club and the setters get it pretty right. A mixture of fun and challenging is the go and the opportunity in slots 6 (and 7) to provide a step up should provide something for everyone. And let's not forget the quiz! *Richard Skinner*
- May I belatedly thank the club for the pen? My husband has a huge collection (1000s!!!) of pens bearing inscriptions, but he knows to stay clear of this one! I'd have to agree with the adjudicator's comments that the puzzles have become very difficult to complete and the past few months have been a testament to an absence of entries on my behalf also. My appreciation for all the time and effort the executive members and setters put into this club, even though it practically blows my mind each month. *Glenda Lloyd*
- Many thanks for the book prize for March slot 5. It was a lovely surprise. *Gillian Champion*
- re Richard Skinner's query in General Comments last month, perhaps a Row of Crosswords is a suitable collective noun? *Jim Fowler*



Book Prize kindly donated by Claire Batum



Across

- 1 Rescued my gal aged five, about (8)
- 5 Sailor returned eccentric surfacing (6)
- 9 Man backed some children bawling (5)
- 10 One hangi pie upset Agamemnon's daughter (9)
- 12 Mixer thus could finish a conflict without the Maori (4,5)
- 13 Lecture on English novelist (5)
- 14 Observed no very loud shotgun? (4-3)
- 16 Getting round to becoming pompous (7)
- 17 Harass in Managua (3)
- 18 Complaint to second attendant gets each a beverage (4-3)
- 19 It alone strangely gives ecstasy (7)
- 20 Red Centre body of water is mysterious (5)
- 21 Ludo, perhaps, to present in parliament, ready to have a go (5,4)
- 24 Ate with Diana, perhaps, seeds prepared in the gallery (9)

- 25 Old town that's left a chief angel (5)
- 26 Fears adders so (6)
- 27 Church establishment fanatic is a joke (8)

Down

- 1 Top performers help make worst arsonists (5)
- 2 Craftily lowering sand-bed, Lennox made it across Prospect Creek (9,6)
- 3 No non-starter in narrow shaft (5)
- 4 Confidante set about early bill of rights (5,2,6)
- 6 Seaweed right to take with a mesquite (9)
- 7 Making smaller, it is a minotaur in disarray (15)
- 8 Heavy type detective ran clone out (9)
- 11 City's hot Schoenberg arrangement (13)
- 14 Sunken warship only beginning to disintegrate around the third of August (9)
- 15 Supported by a thesis, the heart of London is improving (2,3,4)
- 22 English queen and you, say, with country horse (5)
- 23 Left a different key (1,4)

GENERAL COMMENTS (cont'd):

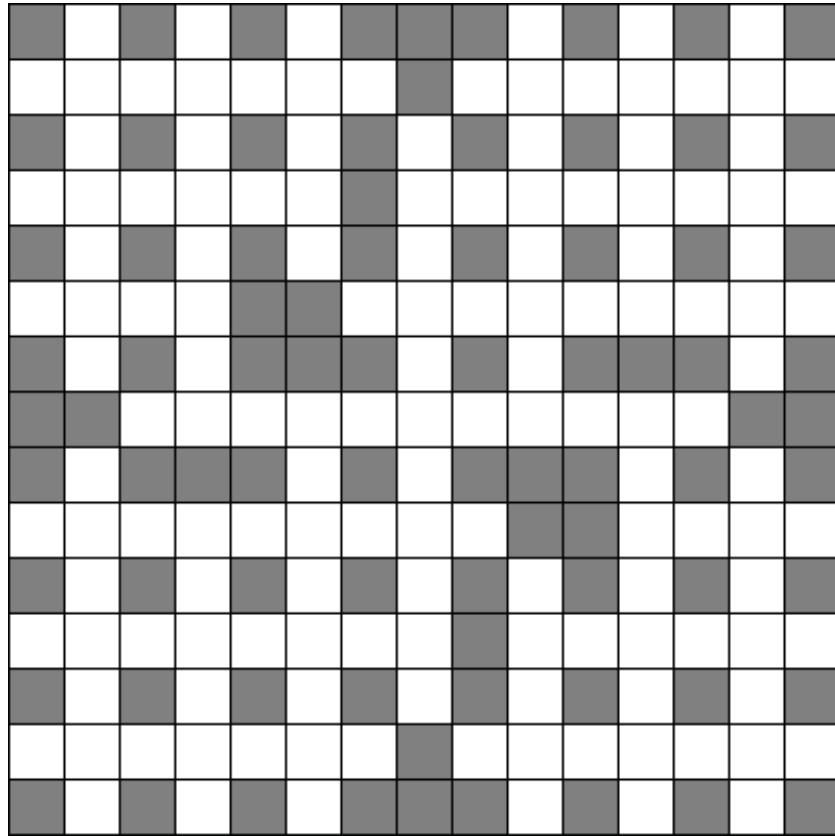
- I took *Crozworld* with me on a 5-day PROBUS coach trip and managed to do pretty well without the customary books of reference. *John Baylis*
- Such a delight to attempt these puzzles especially as last month's lot had become a bit of a chore by the end! *Maureen Blake*
- My thanks to the Committee for another interesting set of puzzles. *Jean Evans*
- The puzzles were quite a challenge but very enjoyable all the same and the setters are to be congratulated on a wonderful job. *Norma Heyes*
- Thank you CROZ for another month of delight, frustration and hopefully satisfaction. *Dale McManus*
- Some very different but refreshing compilers. *Brian Symons*

Answers to Quiz No 2/2014 Plus Two by Fortuna 48 (Nea Storey)

Answers: 1. Awl/Brawl 2. Adder/Bladder 3. Ower/Blower 4. Eve/Breve 5. Amber/Clamber 6. Rome/Chrome 7. Over/Clover 8. Ore/Chore 9. Ill/Drill 10. Ask/Flask 11. Ape/Grape 12. Asp/Grasp 13. Ease/Grease 14. Ell/Knell 15. Aft/Kraft 16. Edge/Pledge 17. Eatery/Cheatery 18. Rink./Shrink 19. Ash/Slash 20. Rand/Strand 21. Eel/Steel 22. Itch/Stitch 23. Raw/Straw 24. Art/Smart 25. Rites/Sprites 26. Each/Preach 27. Ism/Prism 28. Rip/Strip 29. Ell/Spell 30. Robe/Strobe 31. Out/Trout 32. End/Trend.

M	A	Y			
2	0	1	4		
S	L	O	T		4

**Jigsaw
by
Kaeila**



All solutions have something in common.
Place them in the grid, jigsaw-wise, where they fit

Clues:

- On one occasion old Neville Chamberlain's economic leaders... (4)
- ...bit the end off flipping spoon. Uh-oh! (4)
- Flowed gently back through Ryde Zoo (5)
- Oscar to study mountain nymph! (5)
- Shape on blog is indistinct (6)
- Covet a play consisting of 8 lines (6)
- At Hebrew holy period, give thanks for code of silence (6)
- Within the hour Donna assumed a great batsman's popular name (3,3)
- S.O.S! Mo is troubled by diffusion of liquids (7)
- What the drinks are when Slim shouts! (2,5)
- Ancient diggings found in gold miner's lease (3,4)
- Old Earl to play guitar for a gadfly (7)
- Olive-shaped reproductive gland injected with lithium (7)
- Spread upon toe at random (7)
- Not in the mail for the remote settlement (7)
- Indecent old boy seen, we hear (7)
- Work rate arranged, in charge of this type of music (8)
- Twisted loop mate tattooed on shoulder blade (8)
- Dubious reek inside stove makes chef much too eager (8)
- Leave behind to stir up trouble (8)
- Forestalls attack by dedicated people, losing fifty, but taking six (8)
- Herb in love with garum stew (8)
- Medicinal creams set on mint composition (9)
- Tour of nut ground not in order (3,2,4)
- After two full moons, licit compound with mineral mass became a form of limestone (7,4)
- A single oversight, perhaps resulting in no dot for CrOZworlders! (3,8)

Explanations for April Grids, where provided by compilers. Thanks to Joan, Chris, Michael and Ulla

Slot 1 Timid Terrier. Down: 1 ice + home, 2 man + drill, 3 bra + e, 4 DD, 5 anagram, 6 DD, 7 hidden, 8 (b) {m} arrow, 9 see + pet <, 16 Ban(n)ister + s, 18 anag, 20 Tessa <, 21 ok<ko + ala, 23 hidden, 25 no + w, 27 o + mitt + in + g, 28 anag, 29 Sail + or, 30 anagram, 32 hidden, 34 (r)eels, 35 ep + i + c, 36 b + fee <, 37 a + r + i + a.

Slot 2 Banjo. Across: 1 ON TOP OF + THE WOR (L) D, 9 sNAKED, 10 (OFTEN OUR + D)*, 11 C (HALL + ENG) E, 12 homoph, 13 anag + E, 15 (LABoUR + I)*, 18 EX + TOL(l)S, 19 DANCE* + CE + D, 21 UNCLEan, 23 AUTO + CAR* + ST>, 25 CHAIN* about AU MAn, 26 diLEMMA, 27 EG + G (AND SPOON) RACE. Down: 1 OF NO CON + SEQUENCE, 2 T (A KEA + H) INT, 3 P + LEAD*, 4 anag FULLY around ENT, 5 H + EDGES, 6 W (ARE) HO + USE, 7 ROOD + ST, 8 anag, 14 DD (Dawn French), 16 IS + EACH* + AIM>, 17 Cryptic def, 20 P + ATHOS, 22 C + LUNG, 24 COL + tOwn.

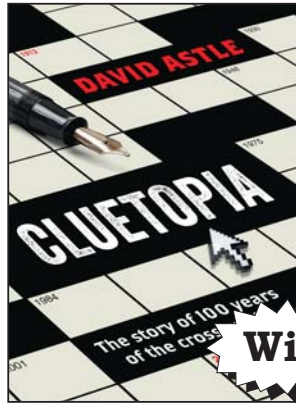
Slot 4 Manveru. A+STEROID, B + A + NANA, CAB+IN (E)T, D Cryptic def, E Anag CASE around N + H, F+LAGS+IN, GRAND+SON, H(AIRD)Ost, I Anag CAFFEINE and ULT, J Cryptic def, K+U+WAIT+I, L Anag GOREGLADHE, M Anag MAGAZINE - Z (Serial extremist?), N+O+U+NAL (network up), O Anag TORN around NAME, P Anag PLEADOR, QUITTER with E replacing T, RE(d) + VEA, S NETS returning on CIL, T+OUR, U Anag NUDE around ABAT, V Hidden, W(R)INGER, X OX> + ANON, Y Anag EVERYMAN - M, Z SUEZ>.

Slot 5 Valkyrie. Across 1 ER<+ PETITION, 6 Anag nEWt + TickS, 9 PAT + RI(ARCH)S, 10 hidden, 12 STORM + LAN(d) + TERN, 14 POLE<+ E+R+S, 15 (To be or) -(to be) = OR + IE + NT, 16 Outside letters BE + AG + LE, 18 DE + TESTS, 21 anag PRESSING CRISIS - SS, 23 tEXAn + M, 24 Homoph, 25 DUN<+ E, 26 BET + ROT + anag of LASH. Down 1 RI(SOP<+ TE, 2 PIT + Y, 3 T + anag of DELIGHTS + ENT, 4 (SORE + ROT)< 5 O + T + HELL + O, 7 anag of SENT DENSE + R, 8 change m to w in mooing, 11 pun, 13 anag, 17 change d to r in explode 18 D(RIFT)ER< 19 anag, 20 anag MEN + BRAs, 22 ARE + A

M	A	Y			
2	0	1	4		
S	L	O	T		5

A Poetic Puzzle
by
Barney Naga

Prize:



Autographed by DA

	1	S						I							
	2	P						S							
	3	T					C								
	4	U						E							
	5	R						E							
	6	M						H							
	7	A						S							
	8	G					G								
	9	A						C							
1	0	P						I							
1	1	C							O						
1	2	H					P								
1	3	S					E								
1	4	D						E							
1	5	P					A								
1	6	D					T								

In each line of the poem two words have been given synonyms which are clued in the order in which they appear in the line. These synonyms are to be placed in the grid in the same order. Line, clue and solution numbers all match. Word lengths are indicated and initial letters are supplied.

To get you started a few words have been underlined and divisions in some of the clues have been indicated as "/". As an example, if LAMP and LIFE from the title were clued in this manner – the clue could be, "North alter North somehow, and I tour around (7,8)" with answers of LANTERN (lamp) and DURATION (life).

VITAI LAMPADA (Lamp of Life)

Sir Henry Newbolt 1862

- 1 There's a breathless hush in the Close to-night –
- 2 Ten to make and the match to win –
- 3 A bumping pitch and a blinding light,
- 4 An hour to play and the last man in.
- 5 And it's not for the sake of a ribboned coat,
- 6 Or the selfish hope of a season's fame,
- 7 But his Captain's hand on his shoulder smote –
- 8 "Play up! play up! and play the game!"

- 9 The sand of the desert is sodden red, –
- 10 Red with the wreck of a square that broke; –
- 11 The Gatling's jammed and the Colonel dead,
- 12 And the regiment blind with dust and smoke.
- 13 The river of death has brimmed his banks,
- 14 And England's far, and Honour a name,
- 15 But the voice of a schoolboy rallies the ranks;
- 16 "Play up! play up! and play the game!"

Clues

- 1 The French have since arranged / to be in time at work (7,8)
- 2 Staff dressed in brownish-purple / coloured calico tops with suede design (7,7)

- 3 The heats repechage or wildcard starters / could finish in clean sweep (5,6)
- 4 Mutilate replaced / organ with half left in gut opening (8,9)
- 5 Staple food to gain success with energy from even a melon perhaps (4,4, 6)
- 6 Make merry dance – lead off and on in time (9,6)
- 7 Fool first and last changed to the first – get stuck right in (9,6)
- 8 It sounds like a risk, going back to stir someone up (6,6)

- 9 Horse in a scramble charged round inside mounted leaders – so ran last (7,7)
- 10 Sounds like the parrot has flown home – loves different territory (7,9)
- 11 Code G sent – switched off before I start to communicate with Her Majesty (9,7)
- 12 After the last match I'd study back to forward power play (6,6)
- 13 Master crook operates after heart turn (6,10)
- 14 Order isn't at first decided but informally meet several on return (7,6)
- 15 Recall some slip-ups by fools without direction (5,8)
- 16 Doctor doctors and doctor interns right away (5,6)

M	A	Y			
2	0	1	4		
S	L	O	T		6

A tour in dipsomania by Raoul



Bonus prize of a bottle of Chateau Rene Pögel from the bowels of the Harold Park Hotel.

1		2		3		4		5		6	7		8
									9				
10								11					
12						13							
14				15				16					17
						18							
19		20						21				22	
23						24				25			
26								27					
28						29							

Across

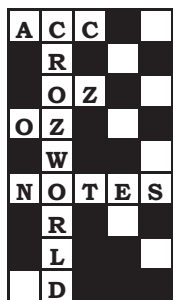
- 1 Tasmanian bat David to go after leg break? Waste of time! (10)
- 6 'Females Only' sign! (4)
- 10 Managed Spike's capital (7)
- 11 Stripped Brown back, caught in the act (7)
- 12 Become one on the run (5)
- 13 Raoul is legend in this eating period (9)
- 14 Buoy Sue left unpolished at sea (7)
- 16 In this, the answer is 'Outstanding!' (7)
- 18 Spear found behind 9 (3)
- 19 Regrets about step back, taking note (7)
- 21 Childishly, at least 2 by 9 (3-4)
- 23 God's name! Beg in the US! (9)
- 25 Motif for 'The Real Me' not true (5)
- 26 Most are upset by this musician (7)
- 27 Express approval of a very soft twofold return (7)
- 28 Beast besides the author! (4)
- 29 Where one finds 7, complains Ms Fitzgerald, vocally (4,6)

Down

- 1 Simpson killer serves 7 and 4 from 29, and, if at 15, often 11, a 24 at most! (9)
- 2 Net error? (3,4)
- 3 Clancy of the Overflow, lacking resistance, teed off (5)
- 4 Drinks to scheme supporters (3,6)
- 5 Packed Californian nightspot (5)
- 7 A sponge's favourite drink (7)
- 8 Innuendo requires an extra one - wink, wink! (5)
- 9 Poor, single, 21! (3-5)
- 15 No cocks at this 6 get-together! (3-5)
- 16 Total? Total! Get garage (9)
- 17 Yellow card giver may keep stocking up (9)
- 20 Smelly Raoul, perhaps; on occasions, anyway! (7)
- 22 Licence at risk if 3 having 4 or 7 up to here (7)
- 23 River to mark my Englishman, say (5)
- 24 Fabric for two notes, reportedly (5)
- 25 Wearing this hat, men stand, women sit? (5)

Post
Solution
to:

William Ryan, c/o Harold Park Hotel,
cnr Wigram Road & Ross Street, Glebe NSW 2037.
email: william@haroldparkhotel.com.au
Closing mail date: Friday 13 June 2014.



ACC Quiz 3/2014. SYLLACRYPTIC by InGrid (Jean Barbour)

Thank you to everyone who submitted a solution to my *Syllacryptic*. There were some lovely comments from our fantastic members. I apologise for the incorrect clue for taglioni. For those who didn't get the quote from Oscar Wilde: 'An idea that is not dangerous is unworthy of being called an idea at all'.
—InGrid (Jean Barbour)

100% correct. The winner is **Ulla Axelsen**. **Congratulations!**
Solutions: navigator, interest, demolish, eventually, antipasto, tariff, hecatomb, allowance, taglioni, icon, sweltering, narcotic, omega, traditional, drivell, antagonise, noseband, garda, emoticon, roti, offended, ultimate, scintilla, inertia, secondment, umbra, natural, weevil.

Correct solutions from: Warren Allen, Corryn Anderson, Ulla Axelsen, Robyn Caine, Bev Cockburn, Graeme Cole, Peter Dearie, Jean Evans, Jim Fowler, Barbara Glissan, Ray Gooderick, Bob Hagan, Kath Harper, Valerie Howard, Susan Howells, Doreen Jones, Gabrielle Leeds, Julie Leigh, Veniece Lobsey, Pat Lord, Alison Martin, Claire McClelland, Andrew Miles, Eileen O'Brien, Helen Perrow, Michael Potts, Marian Procter, Judy Randall, Sonia Roulston, Alison Shield, Betty Siegman, Anne Simons, Richard Skinner, Margaret Steinberger, Nea Storey and Brian Symons.

Clue Writing Competition Scoring System:

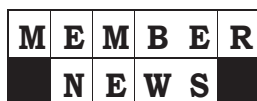
	Poor	Proper	Perfect
Definition	0	1	2
Secondaries	0	1	2
Fairness	0	1	2
Surface Reading	0	1	2
x-factor	0	1	2

Star Rating: No star; 1-2 *; 3-4 **; 5-7 ***; 8-9 ****; 10 *****

Clue Writing Competition No 3/2014:

Write a clue for the word **CHIMERA (7)**.
Note: only one clue per person. Send your clue and explanation to the adjudicator Michael Kennedy, 27 Hennessy Lane, Figtree NSW 2525 or by email to: manveru@bigpond.com
Closing mail date: Friday 13 June 2014. Book prize.

David Stickley was recently interviewed on a crossword blog called *Crossword Unclued* which covers all aspects of cryptic crosswords and is worth a regular visit. For this month's interview plus a fetching photo of this cruciverbal star visit:
<http://www.crosswordunclued.com/2014/04/interview-david-stickley.html>



Member Renewals: Welcome renewal of subs from David Bennett, Chester Chance, Shirley Wills and John Jenkins. Our sincere thanks to David and Chester for their generous donations to the ACC 2014

Prize Fund.

Puzzle Adjustments:

Michael Kennedy was awarded 5 dots for slots 1-5 in March and Tony de Grys was awarded dots for slot 1-4 inc in March and Tony Dobebe got a dot for the February Slot 6 puzzle.

Vale Brian Eggleton

We were saddened to hear that ACC member Brian Eggleton passed away on 2 April 2014 at the age of 85. Brian was a Life Member of the Silver Society of Australia Inc and was persuaded to join the ACC in December 2004. He was an excellent solver and prizewinner of the puzzles. Brian had not been enjoying the best of health in the last 12 months. Brian was the Founder of the Silver Society and was an expert in all aspects of silver objects. He will be sadly missed.

Vale Brian Smith

We were sorry to hear that Joan Smith's husband Brian passed away on 26 March. Joan said: "Brian had been sick for quite some time and is now at peace. *Crozworld* arrived this morning and will give me something else to think about." We send our sincere condolences to Joan and her Loving Family.

CROSSMAS CRUCIVERBAL 2014

Our Annual Victorian Get-together this year will be **Christmas in July** and will be held at noon on Sunday 27 July at the Royal Oak Hotel, 442 Nicholson Street, North Fitzroy. The Dining Room has given us excellent food and service in the past few years and we are looking forward to renewing acquaintances again in July. So let's do it again. Make a note in your Cruciverbal Diary now!

DIARY NOTE:

Our charming Mine Host **William Ryan** has announced that the Annual ACC Get-Together at his sumptuous *Harold Park Hotel*, cnr Wigram Road and Ross Street, Glebe NSW will be held on Sunday 30 November 2014 commencing at 11:30am. This is a cruciverbal celebration which is not to be missed! Make a note in your Diary now.

Quiz No 5/2014. Trees by Brian Symons.

The answers to all 23 clues are the common names of trees. Word lengths are indicated and the answers are in alphabetical order. The clues are not definitions but are of two types (a) allusions or associations to a particular type of tree (eg NEWTON (5) requires the answer APPLE), or (b) something related to the spelling or pronunciation of the tree's name.

Send your answers to Brian Symons, 1 Kookaburra Place, Grays Point NSW 2232
e-mail: bms65@bigpond.com.

Closing Date: 13 June 2014. \$75 prize.

- 1 Tell (5)
- 2 Sounds like a Wimbledon champ (3)
- 3 Tremble (5)
- 4 Flogging (5)
- 5 Lebanon (5)
- 6 Longfellow (8)
- 7 Malaria (8)
- 8 Matilda (8)
- 9 Island homophone (7)
- 10 Namatjira (5,3)
- 11 Crucifixion (8)
- 12 Christmas (5)
- 13 Royal poet (6)
- 14 Berlin boulevard (6)
- 15 Canada (5)
- 16 Silkworms (8)
- 17 Cognac (3)
- 18 Reconciliation (5)
- 19 Apparently has no rhyme (6)
- 20 Gallipoli (4)
- 21 Kingdom anagram (5)
- 22 Contains all vowels (7)
- 23 Cricket (6)

April 1-2014: Half 'n Half by Timid Terrier (Joan Smith)

- I haven't done much solving in recent months so this was a good start to ease myself back in. *Jenny Wenham*
- 1dn ice-house should be 3-5. I know that the Australian rock band icehouse does not have a hyphen. [The band is the definition and Macquarie has the food storage meaning as one word while Chambers, Oxford and Collins have it as two words – IW] 19ac: Union Jack length indicator 5,4 not 9. *Tony de Gry*
- I always have a dire feeling when I say a puzzle was easy, too easy. It's quite possibly also wrong. With 11ac it was nice to see Jenny from Comet (Mrs Goanna in DEEF) get a mention. *Jim Fowler*
- Our *Timid Terrier* gets more like a Rottweiler every time! *Margaret Davis*
- An enjoyable Slot 1 puzzle. Thanks Joan. 19ac UNION JACK indicators should be (5,4) *Alan Walter*

April 2-2014: Cryptic by Banjo (Chris Bilkey)

- A number of clever clues, with WAREHOUSE edging out NAKED. However, I am not keen on "Goldman detailed = AUMA", especially where the answer is not a common word, and I personally will never use "girl = DI". But good fun! *Len Colgan*
- A great introduction to *Banjo* with some excellent clues. I singled out several contenders for COTM. I particularly liked 9ac & 5 and 17dn. I do have 3 questions. I'm fairly sure I have the right answers but could not quite reconcile 12, 18 & 26ac [please see Explanations, p6 – IW]. *Jenny Wenham*
- An enjoyable challenge, with my favourite clues being 6dn WAREHOUSE, 15ac BURIAL and 27ac EGG AND SPOON RACE. *Ian Thompson*
- A neat theme. In 16dn, as the clue reads it invites one to place raise around apes which is the opposite of what is intended. If it is raise it should read "verbally ask for". [In fact the homophone of "asks for" was "prays" which was required to be inserted as PRAISE, which introduced an extraneous E, as noted by other correspondents – IW] Clue to 32ac should read "The old dig up leas around deep ocean" as dig up refers only to leas not to ye as well. *George Rolfe*
- 23ac "car" has two functions: second half of "motor car" and a broken down car for "cra" [Sorry, Tony, but "motor" gives the AUTO and "car" the fodder for the word play – IW]. 10ac Penny, not Pennies. 9ac: I don't understand the clue. 12ac ditto. 14dn: did not understand French in part of the clue? [see Explanations, p6 – IW]. 18ac: rings = tolls. Extols only has one "I" ["beginning to 'look' elsewhere removes the L – IW] 1ac: I wonder who wrote the gospel concerning Luke's origin. Some excellent clues especially 8dn for its anagrammatical surface reading. *Tony de Gry*
- A bit different and most enjoyable. 12ac has me bothered etc and I cannot see why it should be hitch [homophone of not (knot) – IW] from the cryptic bit. *Jim Fowler*
- Our new setter *Banjo* deserves congratulations. He will be an asset to the compilers list. I loved his "egg and spoon race". *Bev Cockburn*
- I look forward to *Banjo's* explanations. If my answers are correct I don't understand some of the clues. *Margaret Davis*
- I was not sure if I was going to be able to do Slot 2 when I saw the long edge words but I surprised myself by solving these words readily once I had a second look at them. *Barb Ibbott*
- Please explain how 1ac ON TOP OF THE WORLD relates to "the Gospel about Luke's origin". 13ac Liked the clue for NAIL-FILE and also for 14dn FALSE DAWN. 25ac NAUMACHIA and 16dn ISCHAEMIA were not easy to solve. The 4 border, 15-letter answers neatly framed the answer grid. *Alan Walter*

April 3-2014: Me! Me! Me! by Fortuna 48 (Nea Storey)

- 3dn (TEDDIES) was clever and is my COTM! *David Grainger*
- We really enjoyed *Fortuna 48's* little joke. *Richard Skinner*
- Nice concept, but something is wrong in 16dn. I would destroy that TI tree in 23ac! *Len Colgan*
- I enjoyed this puzzle but thought it a bit unfair to anyone, particularly some of our newer members, who couldn't immediately identify who "I" was. My only query would be the use of "wages" as an anagram indicator in 15. While it fits nicely with the surface of the clue, it doesn't indicate movement or rearrangement of the letters. *Jenny Wenham*
- The meaning of Me! Me! Me! facilitates the solution of this slot. *Tony de Gry*
- At first glance this seemed an impossible challenge but then I remembered that *Fortuna 48* is NEA! Nine clues then fell into place. *Tony Dobe*
- Pointing out that there were 2 acronyms would have been

- sufficient. I think that putting in the asterisks was overkill. *Neat Ulla Axelsen*
- It was a help that I remembered who *Fortuna 48* is. It saved a lot of time. *Margaret Davis*
- No. 3 was a pleasure to solve. Thank you, Nea. *Catherine Jones*
- I am very happy *Fortuna 48* was not christened "Ivy" or "Xena". How clever she is! *Eileen O'Brien*
- 12ac acronym a little unfair not appearing in our standard dictionaries: NEAFL. 30ac: the second "out" is the anagram indicator and shouldn't be used with "out! Does as told" to obtain the answer OUSTS. "Does as told" on its own should be the definition but OBEYS is wrong. *Alan Walter*

April 4-2014: AJ by Manveru (Michael Kennedy)

- A little harder than usual? *Richard Skinner*
- Not too tough from *Manveru*. I particularly liked TOUR, though I thought it would have been better without "It's". And the BANANA clue conjures up some interesting images. Other favourites were A, D & F. *Jenny Wenham*
- Quite tricky, with some great clues. I especially liked HAIRDOS and FLAGSHIP. *Ian Thompson*
- Hope for an explanation of Federer at open (the "f" clue). Capital re-appearance, following the entry in the AJ March 2014 of "Yerevan". Liked asteroid, and Quieter. *Tony de Gry*
- Great to see a return to a 'normal' AJ. Thanks *Manveru!* *Tony Dobe*
- An enjoyable AJ. Liked asteroid, banana, flagship and grandson: clever definitions. *Ulla Axelsen*
- A really good AJ: always my favourite puzzle. I think I'll give the D clue my COTM. *Margaret Davis*
- The D clue for DUMB WAITER was amusingly clever. Thanks *Manveru* for a pleasant AJ. *Alan Walter*

April 5-2014: Cryptic by Valkyrie (Ulla Axelsen)

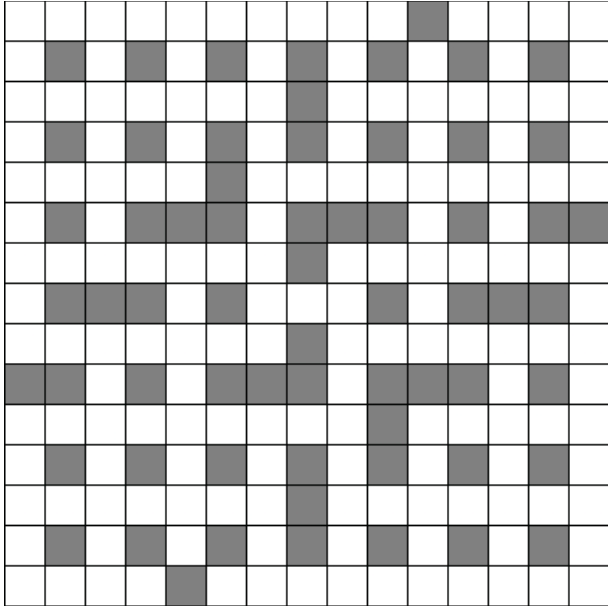
- This was challenging. It was also informative and we now know a lot more about the Bard than we did. Two clues tickled our fancy. 14ac ELOPERS was, I thought, cleverly written to hide the reversal but the surface reading of 6ac STEW won the day even though it was not actually tough to work out. *Richard Skinner*
- I enjoyed all of *Valkyrie's* pseudo-Shakespearean clues, so I'm giving my COTM vote to 1ac – repetition. *Kath Harper*
- I appreciate the effort needed to refer so often to the theme. Best clue is 4dn TOREROS ahead of 26ac BETROTHALS. I am not familiar with 3dn, THISTLED GENT, assuming it is correct. *Len Colgan*
- This was tough and perhaps not altogether fair. Some of the clues seemed forced to create the surface and make them fit the theme and didn't quite work. 3dn, assuming I have it right, and 20 are examples. The ones that do work, work really well, such as 12, 24 and 22. I particularly liked 8 and 11. *Jenny Wenham*
- A clever concept to hint at an abundance of Shakespearean solutions, but then only having a few clues (thankfully for me) requiring much research. I got bogged down for a while, partly because of this distraction, but then got on the setter's wavelength. Especially liked 20dn MR BEAN, for the clue distraction, as commented on. Also liked 14ac ELOPERS, especially for the "south-westerly" and 15ac ORIENT for the "to be or not to be". Very clever. *Ian Thompson*
- Very enjoyable and imaginative but quite difficult. However, did end us reading quite a few Shakespearean speeches whilst doing research: felt I was back at school cramming for the Leaving. Eventually filled in all the blank spaces but not convinced about some of them. *Trish McPherson*
- Slot 5 was great. I thought I'd get bogged for sure. But didn't. My COTM is THISTLED GENT. *Andrew Patterson*
- My COTM – for making me laugh out loud – is 24ac FORTINBRAS who, it is said, duelled in his underwear. *Susan Howells*
- Not surprisingly "Thistled" does not appear in the dictionaries as a verbal form or an adjective in this clever humorous clue, one of many. *Tony de Gry*
- Excellent puzzle and not as hard as I had anticipated. *Jim Fowler*
- Fiendishly clever: what a brain strain! Tremendous stuff! I counted no less than 14 Shakespearean references. *Tony Dobe*
- A great puzzle; really quite a challenge but all very fair. *Margaret Davis*
- STEW 6ac. I loved it! A very clever clue. *Betty Siegman*
- *Valkyrie's* ride thru these clues was v. challenging especially finding THISTLED GENT, MOPED STAND and MR BEAN. *Alan Walter*

Send solution to: William Ryan, c/o Harold Park Hotel,
cnr Wigram Road & Ross Street, Glebe NSW 2037

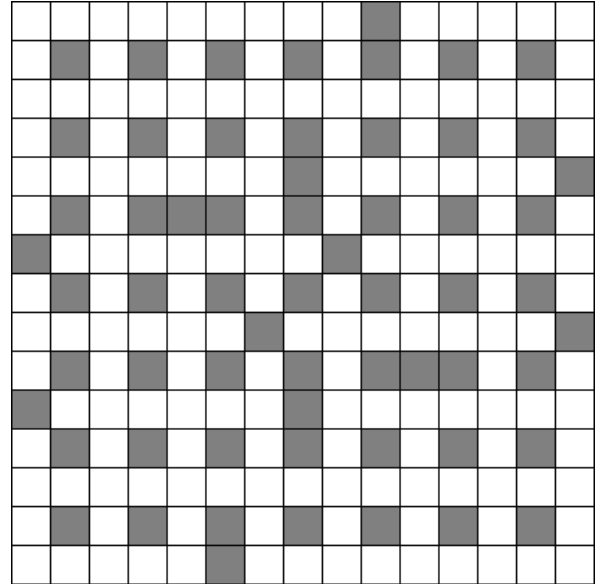
Closing mail date: Friday 13 June 2014.
NAME:



|M|A|Y| |6| |2|0|1|4|

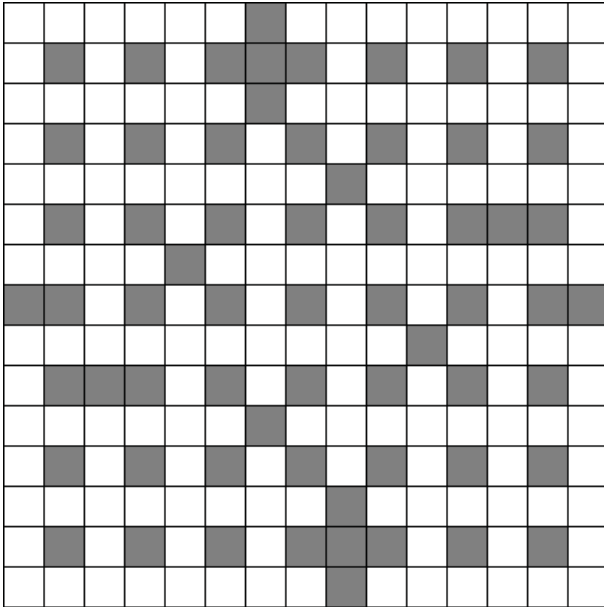


|M|A|Y| |1| |2|0|1|4| NAME.....

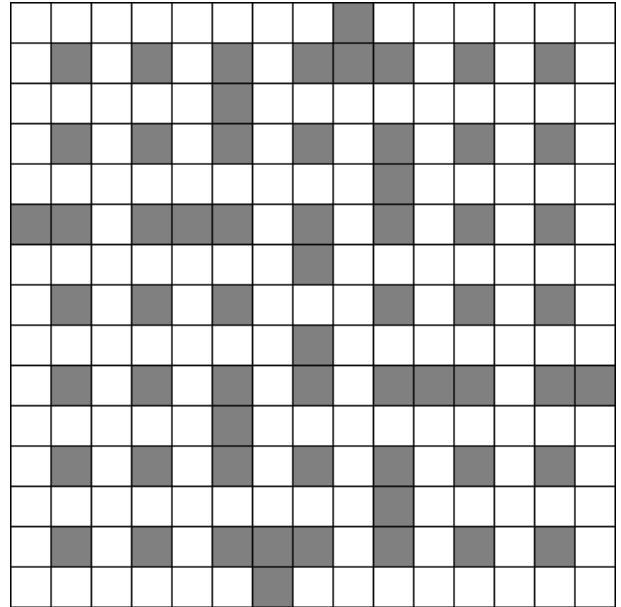


Clue of the Month

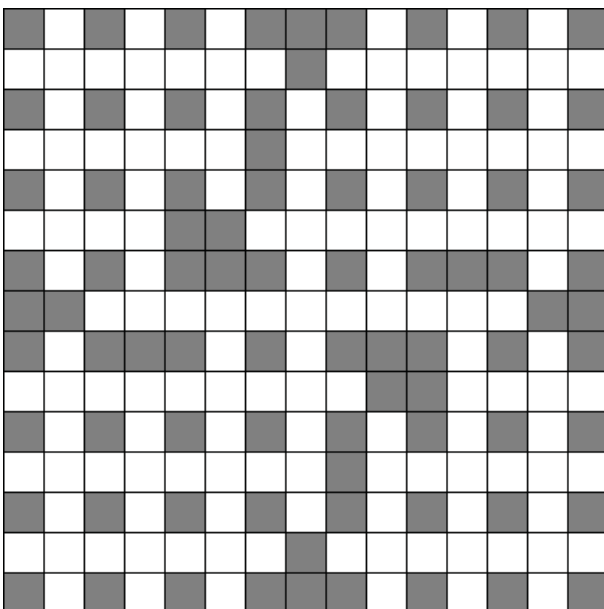
|M|A|Y| |2| |2|0|1|4|



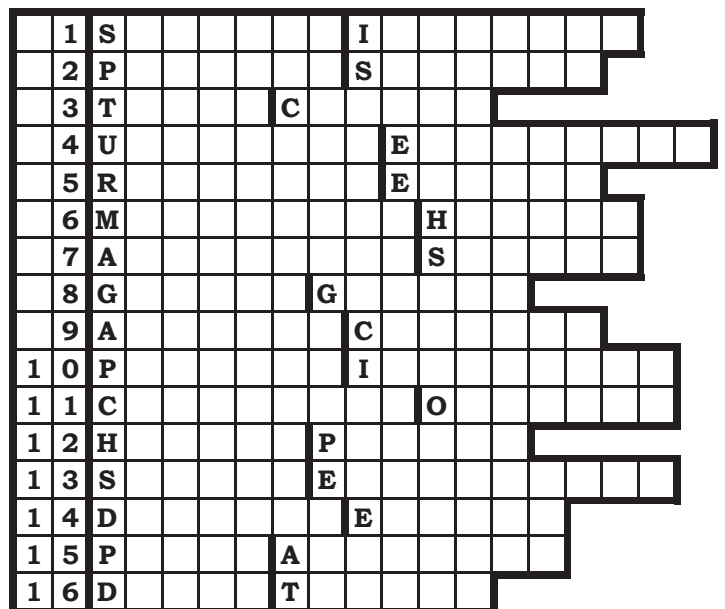
|M|A|Y| |3| |2|0|1|4|



|M|A|Y| |4| |2|0|1|4|



|M|A|Y| |5| |2|0|1|4|



March 6-2014: Cryptic by *Flowerman* (Ian Thompson)

Entries: 51. Correct: 43. Success rate: 84.3%.

Prizewinner: Nea Storey. Congratulations!

Adjudicator's Comments: Thank-you members for all your comments. I was pleased that some members indicated that they liked the DUMP TRUCK clue, as I am quite proud of it. Some queried how 'cor' represents 'horn'. I actually only knew that cor could be horn only from my puzzle solving, and I used it assuming, incorrectly, that cor would be in most dictionaries. My subsequent research tells me that "cor" is a colloquial term for the Cor Anglais, which is French for English Horn, but which is a kind of oboe and isn't English! It was originally known as engellisches horn (angelic horn) in 18th century Europe, but engellisch also meant english then apparently, and so it became known in English as English horn. Some also queried whether deriving I from "a" was OK. (a = I, the number, which in shape corresponds to I, the letter). I am comfortable with it; it's no different to duck to 0 number to O letter. Besides, there are only a few different ways "a" can be converted. Some solvers were tossing up between SCRATCH and STRETCH for 15ac. For stretch, "this job will stretch (test) you" and "I'm staying at my brother's place for a stretch (time)". I can't see how scratch can be a synonym for test or time, so have not accepted this answer.

—*Flowerman* (Ian Thompson)

Explanations: ACROSS: 8 Rev. H(I)ATU + S, **9** COR + NICHE, **11** ID + I(O)M, **12** Anag. UN(TREAT)ED, **13** Anag. - m, **15** Double def., **16** Double def., **18** PR + rev. (OG + NOS + TICAT + I ON), **21** DU(anag. MP TRU)CK, **22** Rev. S(NAF)U, **23** TE(ABE)RRY, **24** FLICK + A. **DOWN: 1** Alt. words, THE + IS + M, **2** Anag., **3** CULM(-ination), **4** CONTROL(STICK)S, **5** Anag., **6** ACT + homoph., **7** H[e(n)EEDLES]S, **8** PUT ON + HIS + rev. GU(A + R...)D, **14** Anag. YET (A)NOTHER, **15** SA(rev. PID + IT)Y, **17** Anag. NUISA(Never)CE, **19** Rev. hidden, **20** NEU(t)RAL, **22** SO + L + ...D.

Solvers' Comments:

- Tough as old boots. The dictionary and Google both got a workout. 21ac (DUMP TRUCK): Like the definition, "One can makes heaps tipping." And the wordplay "score when player fails." And the surface. Excellent. 1dn (THEISM): Too much going on for my liking, especially with "reflect" in there causing me to look for a reversal as well, but 10/10 for attempting something new. 22dn (SOLD): Took a long time to figure out, but I liked it. Short and tricky. *Rob Moline*
- Quite a complex puzzle by *Flowerman*, with a few answers requiring effort to get full justification. The surface readings are thorough, albeit sometimes longish. My favourite clues each contained only two words, giving the consecutive answers STRETCH and SECONDS. Neither was immediately obvious. *Len Colgan*
- I made a few bloomers before completely solving your cryptic. 11ac took some time to rationalise. Your puzzle was very challenging and took a good time to completely solve and rationalise all the wordplay. 18ac PROGNOSTICATION: A very cleverly clued gem! Thanks for the very puzzling entertainment. *Alan Walter*
- 21ac DUMP TRUCK is my nomination for clue of the month. Also liked 6dn ACT TWO. *Ian McKenzie*
- Thank-you, Ian. We are so lucky to have so many good compilers in our club. It's such a long time since I've heard anyone ask for second helpings. Brought back childhood memories of family dinner, especially at Christmas. *Robyn Caine*
- I hope you get plenty of entries this month! Please find attached mine for your challenging Slot 6. I enjoyed your nice double definitions, and 6dn ACT TWO is a nifty idea, but OOMPAH was my favourite. *Michael Kennedy*
- I notice that in two of your clues you have used 'a' to represent T... is this standard practice? *Ulla Axelsen*
- Very challenging. I've had many sleepless hours re STRETCH or SCRATCH. *Bob Hagan*
- "My friend Flicka" started me off on this one. Thanks Ian. *Carole Noble*

- Great stuff, flowery one! An excellent workout. Couple of new words – love it. *Thanks. Raoul*
- Thanks for another beauty. Right or wrong it was a lot of fun. *Brian Symons*
- Thank you for another challenging puzzle. *Nea Storey*
- Many thanks for the enjoyment/challenge provided by this crossword. *Julie Leigh*
- Good puzzle – struggled with North West corner, but otherwise not too bad. *Roger Douglas*
- Thank you for the challenging puzzle. There were a few moments when I thought I couldn't advance. More than a few actually. The NW and SE corners proved hard to get into. Plus a few other stubborn answers. I hope I chose correctly. *Andrew Patterson*
- Thankyou for an enjoyable and challenging puzzle. You and *Crowsman* must have been channelling each other this month with CORNICHE and PROGNOSTICATION! *Andrew Miles*
- Thanks for an interesting and most enjoyable puzzle. Most clues good and fair. For me the hardest to prove was 23ac TEABERRY. Terry towelling OK. Abe = grampa was less than apparent until I cottoned on to the odd spelling of grampa. Google or some such provided the link to the Simpsons. Not a programme I have ever watched except the odd snatch – I've never been keen on silly voices (except my own) – Just reread that. The reference to cotton and towelling was not conscious. Looking forward to your next offering. *Jim Fowler*
- Powerful and at times particularly perplexing, *Flowerman!* *Roy Taylor*
- Just finished after 5+ hours including "cheating"! Rating: "h3b" Hard level-3, Brilliant! Absolutely *Times* Standard. This is the best puzzle I've seen in the ACC. Surface readings: beautifully smooth with only 3 slightly clunky (13ac, 18ac, 4dn). Word Play: immaculate except 8ac, 1dn, 3dn, 10dn. Reason: I couldn't parse them completely so you can prove me wrong! Favourites: really hard to choose between SOLD, NUISANCE, CORNICHE and PROGNOSTICATION for the word-play. Loved: the "Never Ever" and "Arabic Text" devices! Thank you, even though my brain hurts. *Roy Low*
- Loved SECONDS and OOMPAH. DUMP TRUCK was a beauty! But the IDIOM/CULM duo nearly lost me, and ID = papers was the last penny to drop. Altogether, fun! *Max Roddick*
- This was quite a struggle. Had help from the UK for the Shakespearean question! Thanks for your adjudication. *Robyn Wimbush*
- It was a good workout for the brain! *Alison Martin*
- I find it very hard to get onto your wavelength. I had a lot of trouble with 15ac STRETCH or SCRATCH? They both have merit. Thank-you for your excellent input to our club. *Bev Cockburn*
- This puzzle has so many cleverly constructed clues. I particularly liked 13ac MONEY FOR OLD ROPE. *Odette Greenberger*
- This was quite a challenge. Favourite clue was 22dn SOLD, my last one in! *Jan Wood*
- Many thanks for a challenging but fair puzzle. I liked your clue for 21 DUMP TRUCK and was pleased to see a childhood friend featured at 24 FLICKA. *Kath Harper*
- I found this very tough, so submit it with some trepidation. At least I was grateful for my 6 years of studying Latin at school back in the 60s! *Pat Garner*
- Some lovely clues in this puzzle. I particularly liked 13ac MONEY FOR OLD ROPE – it's such a vividly visual expression. It is interesting how the use of "Arabic" style, writing, text, etc. seems to have emerged quite quickly as meaning "going from right to left". Thank you for your most important contribution to the club. *Susan Howells*
- My favourite clues were 22ac – copying Arabic text indeed! and 17dn – never ever extracted! *Michael Potts*
- Just happy to have completed this puzzle. For some reason I found the clues particularly baffling. I can't work out the champion reference and why Abe represents Grampa. The reference to copying Arabic text was very clever. CULM was the killer for me. [A champion is number one = NO I; Abe is Homer Simpson's dad; Bart and Lisa call him grampa – *Flowerman*] *Peter Dearie*

M A Y 2 0 1 4 S L O T 7
<h2 style="margin: 0;">Cryptic by zinzan</h2>
<h3 style="margin: 0; color: red;">Prize \$75</h3>

Across

- 7 6 and 5 (or 5 and 4) – two essentials to pass exams (5)
- 8 Power is intrinsic to a person in charge (9)
- 10 Exchange program beginning to threaten rugby code in Australia (6)
- 11 Foremost ridges and valleys spanned by snappy move by mountaineers (8)
- 12 Almost cower in fear over old Saints' act of piety (8)
- 13 Was obliged to recite poetry (4)
- 15 Ruptures relationship with pilot, quitting after reorganisation (7)
- 17 Heard of horse outside, led in, chopped? (7)
- 20 2 or 24, 8 or 18, 10 or 26, 11 or 12 – a marker's dilemma ?! (4)
- 22 Rock star's time to get stoned with roadies (8)
- 25 Brings to justice overturned leader of Syria, much hated (8)
- 26 Go along with company's right to open normal hours in New York (6)
- 27 Rebuke includes transitive person being totally devoid of warmth (5-4)
- 28 17's nose and tail suggest these tradable items (5)

Down

- 1 Only regular frill is a good match for ornamentation (9)
- 2 8, (9 or 23!), is working under hotel on a valuable car (8)
- 3 Student's method of learning's good in one particular subject (7)
- 4 Thin, fried slice of eel cops a rubbishing (8)
- 5 Stick bill poster's instruction up there? (6)
- 6 Can't stand still like those in the Army? (5)
- 9 Italian leaders of Spumante appellation toward the north (4)
- 14 Thailand's leader overwhelmed by an outburst from the West (9)
- 16 Clientele of 18 storm out of badly edited documentaries (8)
- 18 It could be a sign – in poor health, some radiology, then theatre (8)
- 19 'Eagle' was one late thought amid clue being rewritten (7)
- 21 Zinzan as an alternative to hospital's speciality position (6)
- 23 Large predator's tail bitten off by an unknown 3 (4)
- 24 Very casually, the Queen had on tatty clothing (5)

Post solution to:
Andrew Patterson
 372 Great North Rd,
 Abbotsford NSW 2046
 email:
mcandap@bigpond.net.au
 Closing mail date:
 13 June 2014

ROUGH COPY

GOOD COPY – Name

	1		2				3		4		5		6	
7						8								
				9										
10							11							
12									13					
													14	
15					16			17			18			
							19							
		20	21				22		23					
	24													
25									26					
27											28			

The difficulty of ACC Crosswords

From time to time *CrOZworld* carries comments from members that could suggest that our puzzles are getting harder. A recent adjudicator has suggested that feedback from many members was that the puzzles were becoming more difficult to solve lately with many being a chore rather than a pleasure to solve. Clearly, if this is the view of members it is of considerable concern to the *CrOZworld* team. While membership seems relatively consistent at the moment, suggesting that members are happy with the mix that we offer, solving our crosswords is supposed to be fun, not a chore. We don't want to turn our members off, let alone lose them.

There is not yet, as far as I am aware, any way of assessing the difficulty of a crossword by any consistent and coherent method and arriving at a number. Comment on particular clues is no guide, it being relatively common for one solver to describe a clue as a stinker and to demand an explanation of any logic that the originator may have applied in compiling it, while others applaud it and vote it Clue of the Month! When selecting puzzles for the magazine I have tried to continue the broad scheme of increasing the difficulty of the puzzles from Slots 1 to 5. The only basis for this is my perception of the difficulty that I've experienced while solving each puzzle, sometimes associated with the reputation of the compiler.

Within this scheme, Slot 1 will hopefully be an "entry level" puzzle that relative newcomers to cryptics may be able to solve correctly

with a fair chance of success. We frequently schedule the Half and Half into this slot for this reason. Slots 2 and 3 require an increasing level of expertise and Slot 4 tends to be reserved for the popular AJ or Alphabetic Jigsaw. Slot 5 represents the more difficult end of the spectrum where one might see crosswords ranging from the Ximenes form of barred crosswords by *Praxis*, through themed puzzles of all kinds to double acrostics and *Barney Naga's* poetic puzzle offerings. Slots 6 and 7 are aimed at the more expert solver and may contain a variety of approaches and perhaps more complex clues and/or a broader range of vocabulary or source words. We make no excuse for the intended difficulty of slots 6 and 7 but would be concerned if the difficulty of the other slots is making them too testing for members in general.

The statistics provided each month by our indefatigable adjudicators give a basis for comparison on broad parameters over time. We have had an unprecedented number of new compilers of late and perhaps this has been responsible for the adverse perceptions. Accordingly, I based the main comparison over the last three years of *CrOZworld* from 2011 to 2013. Just in case there has been a quantum shift in difficulty over the years I've also analysed the results from the puzzles published in 2004, before I assumed the puzzle editor's role.

The overall figures are shown below as average submission numbers and average success rates in each of the years shown. Atypical results judged to be the result of "killer clues" such as *zinzan's* recent VICEGERENTS, which resulted in a success rate of 25%, have been removed to ensure that the averages are not skewed.

Slot	1		2		3		4		5		6		7		Total m-ship number
Year	Av No	Av % corr	Av No	Av % corr	Av No	Av % corr	Av No	Av % corr	Av No	Av % corr	Av No	Av % corr	Av No	Av % corr	
2013	106	78%	105	81%	98	78%	101	82%	88	83%	64	73%	51	79%	235
2012	110	76%	110	78%	105	81%	106	76%	88	83%	68	77%	62	82%	257
2011	110	77%	106	78%	105	83%	102	84%	90	72%	72	81%	44	73%	233
2004	93	81%	95	80%	95	81%	91	82%	82	82%	55	83%	n/a	n/a	214

Table 1 Overall Statistics: Number of attempts submitted and average success rates

There are two possible indicators of difficulty:

- the number of entries, which could be taken to represent the number of members who think that particular puzzles are capable of solution and therefore are suitable to be submitted; and
- the success rates achieved by members.

The table also shows member numbers, although making comparisons based on a simple percentage of the membership submitting puzzles could be misleading. We don't keep records of the names of members who submit puzzles, but the perception gained from a long period as an adjudicator would suggest that the majority of submissions come from a core of long-term members and that new members tend not to submit at the same rate as these established members. Ignoring slots 6 and 7, there does not appear to be a consistent trend, either on an absolute or a proportional basis, that would lead to the conclusion that less members have submitted entries than in the past. Interestingly, on the whole, less than one half of our membership submits puzzles for adjudication (and prizes).

Comparing the trend in success rates, for all slots over the last three years and over 10 years, the change in success rates does not appear to be of the magnitude that would be required if it were to be judged as statistically significant, nor to show any pattern that would suggest that success rates are falling significantly over time.

Analysis of the detailed figures from 2004 and 2013 shows another interesting trend. In 2004, in Slots 1 to 5, *Jesso* was responsible for 11 puzzles and *Southern Cross* and *Virgo* for 10 each. *Praxis* and *Timid Terrier* compiled 6 each and *St Jude* 3, with 10 other compilers providing 1 or 2 puzzles. In comparison, in 2013 in slots 1 to 5, *Crowsman* set 7 puzzles, *Timid Terrier* 5, two compilers set 4 puzzles each and three set 3 each. 19 different compilers provided 1 or 2 puzzles each in the year. It could be argued that a less consistent, and therefore less familiar, group of compilers would result in a higher level of challenge and hence a lower level of success, but this does not seem to be supported by the figures. Table 2 shows for slots 1-5 the average solving success by frequency of publication in 2013.

Number	7	5	4	4	3	3	3	2	1
% correct	83	81	85	84	88	91	82	79	76
Compiler	Crowsman	Timid Terrier	Bogeyman	Virgo	Fortuna 48	Penobscot	Jesso	Avg of 11	Avg of 8

Table 2 Solving success in 2013: Crosswords published in Slots 1 to 5 inc

Finally, looking at average success rates in slots 1 to 5 from 2011 to 2013, no less than six of our compilers have averaged a success rate of 90% and over and only three have averaged less than 70%. The detailed statistics have been assembled from material published in *CrOZworld* and are available to any interested member.

harder over time one would have expected the submission rate to have fallen and/or the solving success rate to have become lower, both in a fairly substantial way. It is suggested that the statistics do not support this point of view and therefore it could be concluded that the crosswords published have maintained a reasonably consistent level of difficulty over the years.

**Ian Williams ACC Crossword and Puzzle Editor
April 2014**

Conclusion: Had the puzzles published in *CrOZworld* been getting

March 7-2014: Puzzle with a twist? by Betelgeuse (Gillian Champion)
Entries: 54. Correct: 47. Success rate 87%.
Winner: Ro Ducker. Congratulations!

Adjudicator's Comments: Thank you for all your welcome cards, letters and emails. This puzzle has for its theme the word 'Turn', and a few of the many words and phrases used. As it is a word which describes a change, not only in physical position but in alterations of quality or substance, it's not surprising perhaps to find just how many words and phrases include it, both in English and other languages. The archaic word was 'turnshoe', a mediaeval type of shoe so-called because they were made inside out and then turned the right way to wear. This protected the seams and prevented somewhat(?) against moisture. There were a mixture of phrases (eg turn turtle, turn the other cheek) and 'turn' being added to make another word (eg turntable, turnshoe) There were queries about 'Lollypop' spelt with a Y - a little bit iffy as a word perhaps, but it is listed as a variant (OED).
-Betelgeuse (Gillian Champion)

Solvers' Comments:

- Another brilliant and difficult crossword, a definite dictionary and Google puzzle. JEWEL/JOULE took a while: unused to homophones used like that. Fortunately as an engineer I know the term, and note approvingly that you've used it correctly. Same for HEARSE; but that has such a great definition it came much more quickly. And Brava! for *The Doors*.
Rob Moline
- Thank you for a jolly good turn! Either this one was less difficult than normal or I'm starting to synch with your style. I was able to justify all the 'turns', but I did have to look up TURN SHOE. HANDBRAKE was the odd one out as, I think, it's the only one with the TURN coming after. I assume LOLLYPOP was the archaic word - at least it didn't appear in *Chambers*. I think I understand the INNLESS clue but 'on board' suggests to me that the fodder should be between the SS (i.e. on a ship). SS doesn't mean 'on board' or even 'board' as far as I can tell. Maybe I'm missing something but I will be interested to hear your explanation. 'Carries the late....' and 'Outlet for Auntie' - very neat!
Michael Kennedy
- Once the theme was discovered, this became one of Gillian's more straightforward puzzles. I admit I am not totally *au fait* with TABLE. Thanks again!
Len Colgan
- Very hard work for me but I eventually got there. Thanks very much for the challenge.
Ray Gooderick
- A hard slog but a clever concept with a good number of demanding clues.
Ian McKenzie
- I don't know whether 'shoe' is correct, but it's the only word I could fit in. Many thanks for another great puzzle.
Robyn Caine
- I felt like turning cartwheels when I got this out, but age and arthritis prevented me!
Nea Storey
- Many thanks for many hours of puzzling.
Julie Leigh
- Thanks for an interesting and clever puzzle. Don't know how you do it!
Roger Douglas
- This was rather tame by your standards. I really didn't have to unscramble my brain neurones too much. I don't think SS is 'on board' as such. Setters use it obliquely when they want S----S (i.e. having climbed into/onto a ship). And is 19ac the archaic one? I have an answer but little confidence behind it. Thanks for the puzzle.
Andrew Patterson
- Your super challenging puzzle could well be nicknamed "One good turn deserves another". It was full of twists and turns. INNLESS appears to be a word constructed to mean "No pub". LOL(Y)POP spelling not included in standard dictionaries of *Chambers*, *Macquarie* nor *Collins*. I could only find this spelling with Y in the huge *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*. The across clues were very challenging to solve especially so not having any definitions. Two of the first clues I solved gave SHOE and HANDBRAKE. It took quite a number of other across answers before I realised that the missing associated word was TURN indicated by 'twist' in your title. This puzzle took me much more time than expected to solve. Thanks for the entertainment.
Alan Walter
- I suspect that this puzzle was a lot harder to compile than it was to solve. I think it was a blind eye that dropped the penny and thereafter it was reasonably plain sailing. Turnshoe had me searching, searching until I found a reference (and having found it I can now no longer recall what it is).
Jim Fowler
- Well, young lady. You really are making life difficult (albeit more pleasurable also). Slot 7 has been one of the toughest we have attempted but we got there. Finding the defining word was a real problem as the first across clues we solved were "cartwheels", "handbrake" and "A Blind Eye". We spent a fair bit of time looking for body parts! Anyway, it was my brilliant wife who cottoned on to "Turn" when we got "Turtle and "Chillier" given we couldn't think of any part of our bodies at least that would fit. At least it made "shoe" make sense when we got it! Thank goodness I knew Lugs was slang for ears.
Richard Skinner
- Loved the idea! Thanks.
Margaret Steinberger
- How clever to find words and phrases to go with 'turn' for every across clue. I initially thought I had 'shoe' wrong but then found 'shoe' on the internet. Not sure about 24dn though.
Ulla Axelsen
- Herewith your very interesting and challenging slot 7. I imagine this type of puzzle is also a challenge to construct. I assume 'turn shoe' is

- the archaic description referred to. I thoroughly enjoyed it. *Bob Hagan*
 - Great puzzle, Gillian. One good turn deserves another. HEAT UNIT (JOULE) was very clever.
Roy Taylor
 - AMAZING! Lots of fun - only query is can you spell 'lollypop' with a Y?
Brian Symons
 - Challenging puzzle with good clues. Especially liked 21 and 24ac and 24dn. Loved the theme.
Joan Smith
 - What's going on, *Betelgeuse*? This was positively clement by your standards. You're not going to "TURN SOFT" on us, are you? I am not suggesting for a moment that it would be a bad thing!!
Andrew Miles
 - Thanks for an enjoyable crossword. TURN is the word associated with across clues.
Ian Thompson
 - Thanks for a terrific crossword. This is the first of your slot 7 crosswords that I've ever completed. I just hope I've come up with the right words. It wasn't easy! The first word that I got was "loose", as I was familiar with the battle of Loos, often mentioned by John Buchan's hero, Richard Hannay. I never thought that my extensive reading of Buchan's novels would ever come in useful for a crossword!!
Alison Martin
 - My favourite clue of all time is 23dn. Thanks.
Barbara Glissan
 - Enclosing your "Laugh of the Month" - when you see some of my answers you will see what I mean. But I did have fun with most of it. Specially loved the 'jewel' - took a while for that to fire my brain!
Eileen O'Brien
 - I enjoyed this - not as hard as some you have produced. 18ac was very good and I puzzled over 10ac before getting 'turn to set the table'.
Jill Freeland
 - Very enjoyable! Although "TABLE" seems a safe bet for 10ac, I cannot fathom the connection to the clue.
Peter Dearie
 - How very clever of you to include all those "turning" phrases in the crossword.
Susan Howells
 - I have no idea why I put PENNY in at 24ac: look forward to explanation. Favourite clue was COLIC - loved the double duty of GAS.
Jan Wood
 - Thank you for another excellent crossword. It was fun to complete and very clever - all those phrases to do with "turn". TURN SHOE was unusual and required Google!
Bev Cockburn
 - Thought I would never finish this or even get the theme! 18dn was clever - Jewel sounds like Joule - only saw that after I had all the letters and looked up HEAT UNIT. Not sure about TURNSHOE - although it is an old word. Keep up the good work and keep TURNING them out.
Marian Procter
 - Another ripper! What one might call a good turn, perhaps? I really enjoyed this one, though it took a while to make sense of the theme. I loved 7dn, and it took me ages to work out what the 'dreadful book' was in 21/24ac. Well done once again.
Kath Harper
 - Another twister from *Betelgeuse*! 18dn HEAT UNIT was my favourite, but a number of other clever and challenging clues.
Mike Potts
 - Thank you for an interesting and really fun puzzle. It really kept me on my toes!!
Jean Evans
 - Liked SO TO SPEAK and HWANG HO and, among the 'turns' turn TURTLE, turn A BLIND EYE.
Max Roddick
- SOLUTIONS: ACROSS:** 1 CARTWHEELS=cart+wheels 6 SHOE=s+hoe 10 TABLE=stable -s 11 HANDBRAKE= hand+break(homonym) 12 A BLIND EYE= one(A)+binge(BLIND)+watch after (EYE) 13 RIGHT(double meaning) 14 TURTLE=let loose(-TLE)+sexual excitement(ret)(TUR-) 16 OUTDOORS=dismissed(OUT-)+rock band(-DOORS) 19 CHILLIER=ricepudding(C-IER)+inclination(-HILL-) 21/24 HONEST PENNY= Really!(HONEST!)+ PENNY(-dreadful book) 25 THE SCREWS= sounds sorry(-REWS)+chest complications(THESC-) 27 THE CORNER=spread thereabout(THE-ER)+vegetable filling(-CORN-) 28 LOOSE+ battle(LOOS-)+E 29 EAST(anag of seat) 30 OTHER CHEEK=almost dam(m)OTHER(-)+rudeness(-CHEEK)
- DOWN:** 1 CATHARTIC=heretic(CATHER-)+incomplete tick(-TIC) 2 RABBLER= spoil rare(RA-ER)+books left(-BBL-) 3 WHEEN=initially work (W-)+hard(H-)+even poetically(-E'EN) 4 ECHOED= till(-HOE-)+EUROPEAN community Day(EC-D) 5 LINKED UP=(LIN-ED UP)+(-K-) 7 HWANGHO=(H-OH minus O)+about to chew up(-WANG-) 8 EXERT=river(EXE-)run(-R-)+time(-T) 9 ABC RADIO=anag of broadCIA 15 LOLLYPOP=money(LOLLY-)+propose(-POP) 17 SO TO SPEAK= (cry for help SO-S about to(-TO-) +point(-PEAK) 18 HEAT UNIT=jewel(homonym of joule) = give warmth(HEAT-)+one(-UNIT) 20 INNLESS=change linen(INNLE-)jon biard(-SS) 22 EYEHOLE = feature (EYE-) +homonym of whole(-HOLE) 23 HEARSE=male (homonym of mail)(H-E)+lugs inside(-EARS-) 24 PATTE=bone(-T-) +head (PAT-E) 26 COLIC=gas(CO-) +almost beat(-LIC(k))

Solution to March 7-2014

C	A	R	T	W	H	E	E	L	S	S	H	O	E
A	A	H	C	I	A	W	X						
T	A	B	L	E	H	A	N	D	B	R	A	K	E
H	B	E	O	K	C	N	R						
A	B	L	I	N	D	E	Y	E	R	I	G	H	T
R	E												
T	U	R	T	L	E	O	U	T	D	O	O	R	S
I													
C	H	I	L	L	I	E	R	H	O	N	E	S	T
P	E	N	N	Y	T	H	E	S	C	R	E	W	S
A	L	P	U	E	A	O	H	E	P				
T	H	E	C	O	R	N	E	R	L	O	O	S	E
T	H	S	P	I	S	I	L	E	A				
E	A	S	T	O	T	H	E	R	C	H	E	E	K

Results of the Clue Writing Competition No 2/2014.

Write a clue for BILLOW (6). Adjudicated by Michael Kennedy

Definition of BILLOW from *Chambers* (12th edition)

n a great wave or cloud; a wave, the sea (*poetic*). **vi** to roll or swell in great waves or clouds; to bulge (out), as a sail in the wind [Appar ON *bylgja*; Swed *bölja*, Dan *bølge* wave]

Billow was probably not my most inspired, dare I say swellest choice, so I was relieved to still receive 19 entries covering the gamut of clueing techniques. Thank you to Brian Symons, who reliably tells me that *billowy* is the longest common word with its letters in alphabetical order. For the record, *Aegilops* (a flower genus) is apparently the longest. There were several clues that cleverly wielded the willow, or fluffed the pillow, but **Roy Taylor's** clue just edged out the others.

Bolster initially replaced soft part of cushion, causing bulge (6)

The clues are listed in alphabetical order and the definitions, where appropriate, are *italicised*.

2 down over 50 forms a roll ***

This is an unusual opener as it begins with a numeral, as I guess it's a reference to a hypothetical 2 down clue. It's a charade-type clue with BI(2) plus LOW *down* over L (50). The connecting word *forms* would be served better by *is forming*. While the parsing is precise, it's difficult to know what the surface reading is trying to convey. Is it a dice roll maybe?

Big surge returned Liberal with depleted following ***

This is BIL *returned Liberal* with LOW *depleted*. While the definition is cleverly disguised, it is difficult to reconcile a big surge with a depleted following, even if it's a dodgy WA ballot. Perhaps*returned Liberal base* could have been an option.

Black with blue conceals the Italian bulge *½**

This clever clue puts B *black* with *blue* LOW literally concealing *il*, which proved a popular method of parsing this month. The surface sense does convey a fashion theme, although I'm not convinced those colours would really work to disguise a spare tyre.

Blow-out of account generates painful ejaculation! ***

This charade clue puts BILL with OW. The disguised definition and the surface reading work swimmingly. However, the filler word *generates* is just too superfluous for my liking. I could see the possibility of using *nothing* (o) with *wife* (w).

Bob accommodates sick swell ***

A perfectly succinct and fair clue that puts ILL in BOW. It may be that I'm too much of a landlubber, as I find the surface a little choppy. What actually is a sick swell and what's Bob doing with it? So many questions!

Bolster initially replaced soft part of cushion, causing bulge****

This clue replaces the P in *pillow* with the letter B, literally *causing* bulge. A clever idea and one that manages to maintain surface integrity. I like it.

Bulge of second rate cushion is not soft *½**

This clue works with B (often designated as second class), plus *pillow* with the P (soft) removed. Very well constructed with no extra padding. *Second-rate* should be hyphenated.

Fill out a written bill account before official work starts **

The definition used here is one of my favourites as it's cleverly disguised. Unfortunately, the clue falls away after this with the superfluous words *written* and *account* (unless you accept that a *written bill account* equates to *bill*, which is a bit messy). I also think that a synonym for *bill* would be preferable as it makes up most of the answer.

Great wave and wind engulf the Italian *½**

A simple, but accurately parsed clue putting IL inside BLOW. The surface reading is also excellent, although not for the poor Italian hit by, not one, but two natural disasters.

Great Wave heard down under ***

This clue was surprising, as I had not anticipated any homophones with *billow*. The premise is that *billow* sounds the same as *below*.

Technically it doesn't, as *billow* is pronounced /bil'ō/ while *below* is /bi-lō/. They are very close though, so close in fact, that in practice they are difficult to differentiate, and depending on accent may actually sound the same. Nevertheless, a homophone is a homophone when it's a homophone. Is *Great Wave* the title of a real song?

Misbehaving old boy will become a swell ***

For obvious reason, anagrams were not a popular choice this month. However, this compiler managed to find OB and WILL. The definition of a *dandy* is not from *Chambers* but is found elsewhere. For the clue directions to work literally *become* should be *becomes* (i.e. Anagram of **this becomes this**).

Old actress hides unfortunate bulge ***

On receiving this clue, I could work out by deduction that the old actress must refer to BOW, but I did not know why. I do now. (The pink wedge in *Trivial Pursuit* is always the last one for me). Clara Bow was an American actress from the 1920s, and it does appear that she was relatively well known. That may be so, but there are many old actresses and I'm not a fan of these generalised references. In practice, most solvers would end up working backwards to discover the old actress's name, rather than the answer. Excellent surface reading!

Paradoxically a bill owed, when reduced, will inflate! *

This is a brave attempt but let's just call this one a first draft. The idea is to reduce (i.e. remove *ed*) *bill owed* to arrive at the answer. Firstly, the word *paradoxically* is superfluous and needs to be removed. While it may be okay to ask the solver to reduce a word, unless told otherwise, one would assume a reduction of one letter.

Submariner's preference perhaps, beneath a swell? ***

This is another homophone clue based on *billow/below* (see previous homophone clue). Keeping in mind the subtle pronunciation differences between *billow* and *below*, I really like the compiler's linking of the two into a single coherent whole.

Surge cricket bat, first wicket is bowled ***

While I like to think I'm incorruptible, any cricket-themed clue automatically gets a half star. Here, the W in *willow* is skilfully replaced with the letter B. As *willow* has two W's, the compiler has rightfully told the solver that it's the first W that goes. My only quibble is the slightly strained surface reading, as I'm not quite sure what 'surging' a cricket bat would actually look like.

Surging wave heard rushing by the Men of Harlech *½**

You would be forgiven for thinking that this clue is a homophone. I did. I couldn't solve it and without the compiler's explanation, I would still be clueless. *Men of Harlech* or, more correctly, *The March of the Men of Harlech* is a *widely used* Welsh song and military march. There are several published versions, but for this clue one would need to be familiar with the following verse:

*Men of Harlech in the hollow
Do ye hear like rushing billow?
Wave on wave that surging follow
Battle's distant sound.*

While it was obscure to me, the clue does work well and would be most fitting in a Slot 6 style puzzle.

Swell! I'll take a bow...on the contrary! *½**

The compiler is indicating to place ILL in BOW by reversing the initial indication (i.e. *contrary* to what I just said). A clever idea, particularly as the elements *I'll* and *bow* go so well together. *Swell* is being used as an adjective (great, excellent), which surprisingly doesn't appear in *Chambers* with this definition. The surface sense works well, but it does read like only half the story.

The Italian trapped, by shock wave *½**

Here we have *il* (the in Italian) inside *blow* (shock). Besides an unnecessary comma, this is an excellent little clue, particularly because of the way the definition is disguised by its connection to *shock*.

Wave the bat! West's gone so send in the next best *½**

This is another cricket-themed clue that works with *willow* to produce *billow*. In this instance, the compiler has gone for quite flamboyant, yet accurate directions. The idea is to replace the W with B (i.e. the next best). It's a pity there isn't a well-known cricketer by the name of West because that would have strengthened this clue considerably.