



No 396 April 2023



www.crosswordclub.org



"Words are silver, the response is gold".
Swahili proverb

GRIDATORIAL

Once again, we have very sad news to report. The obituaries of two of our more senior members will be found on page 18.

We have an excellent variety of puzzles to offer this month, led off by a stylish half and half by InGrid. Virgo brings back memories of her inimitable style in her Slot 2 presentation. Manveru demonstrates his skills in his clever and well-constructed Slot 3 and we are treated to a rather different grid by Crowsman in the AJ in Slot 4. Nigrum Cattus makes a welcome return with a timely theme puzzle in Slot 5. We are pleased to welcome Robespierre in Slot 6. Not a French history lesson this time, but a certain element may be discernable to the discerning. Crowsman rounds off the month's puzzles with a feast of fifteen-, fourteen- and fifteen letter words in his Corner. Valkyrie challenges us with another of her thought provoking quizzes, which relies on innate knowledge and should not require recourse to Doctor Google.

While a small number of members have not renewed, we are pleased to report that the steady flow of new members means that our numbers remain at a sustainable level for 2023.

Our thanks to all who have contributed to this issue of our incomparable magazine, particularly our compilers and adjudicators but also those who work in the background at a variety of tasks, particularly our IT guru Rob and our hard-working Secretary/Treasurer Jenny. "Thank you", one and all!

Finally, a reminder that our March Clue-Writing Competition is still open for entries.

FROM THE ADJUDICATOR

GENERAL: After only two months, the number of lost dots is more than I've ever seen. Very few solvers have a perfect score, even now. Are the puzzles harder? Or are the solvers getting complacent? [*Or are they not spell-checking their entries prior to submitting them?* Ed] How did YOU go this month? . . .

Slot 1: The major loss of dots came for TURN, with 6 instances of TERN. The homophone indicator is before 'seabird' and not 'go left or right', so TERN cannot be accepted. If the indicator was between, then both would be accepted. In 1dn, 'Asian fighting' is the definition.

Slot 2: Both STABILISE and STABILIZE were accepted. Only 3 errors at time of writing and all were typos. Lots of satisfied solvers I imagine. Let's move along . . .

Slot 3: CLOTHES caught a few out where CLOCHES was 'covers' but 'loc' was not 'some ground', while 'lot' is. Seven other answers had single errors. It pays to really check that all the wordplay is sensible.

Slot 4: This Slot also had numerous unique errors but 6 solvers tried QUOTAS without success. It was a slightly convoluted clue as 'equates' needed the 'capital' to go and the 'a/associate' to become 'o/nothing'.

Slot 5: The setters did well to assemble so many 'OON' answers, suggested twice by the puzzle title. 10 solvers came to grief with OCTOROON but the clue wanted an anagram of 'actor' and 'octor' doesn't do it.

COTM : Thirty-seven nominations but only a few clues scored more than one. Six of them scored two, while another scored three, which was enough – BANDAGED in Slot 7. Well done, Isla.

Andrew Patterson

LEADING FIGURES

| Puzzle No. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Total |
|------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------|------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Entries received | 90 | 94 | 85 | 78 | 78 | 425 |
| Correct entries | 74 | 93 | 70 | 65 | 60 | 362 |
| Success rate (%) | 82 | 99 | 82 | 83 | 77 | 85 |
| Prizewinners | Alison Hocking | Christina Lee | Drew Meek | Rob Moline | Judy Randall | from 95 members |

Prizewinner: March Slots 1-5 correct: Alison Martin. Congratulations!

CONTACTS

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March 1-2023

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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March 2-2023

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| E | A | U | M | A | M | R | L | | | | | | | |
| D | E | T | E | R | G | E | N | T | S | K | I | F | F | |
| D | O | N | | | E | | | | C | I | | | | |
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March 3-2023

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March 4-2023

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March 5-2023

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March 6-2023

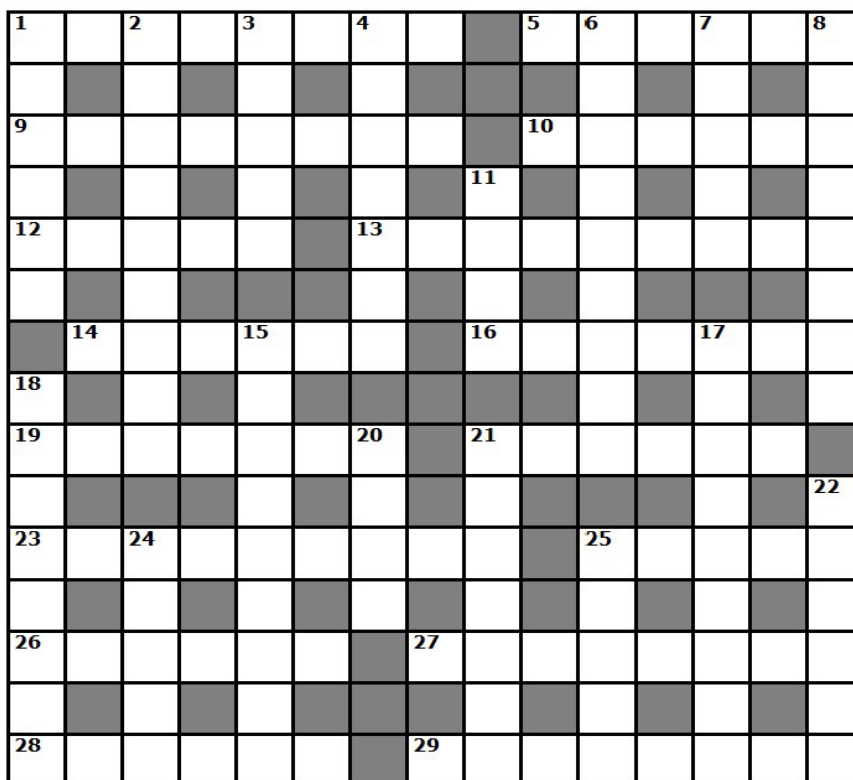
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MEMBERS' RESULTS FOR March 2023 Slots 1 to 7

| MEMBER | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | MEMBER | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | MEMBER | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Abbott P. | • | • | | | | | • | Groves J. | | | | | | | • | Milton R. | | • | • | | | | |
| Allen W. | • | • | • | • | • | | • | Hagan R. | • | • | • | | | | | Moline R. | • | • | • | • | • | • | • |
| Anderson C. | | • | • | • | • | | | Harper K. | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | Parsons D. | • | • | • | • | • | | • |
| Audrins K. | • | • | | • | • | • | • | Hearn R. | • | • | | • | • | • | • | Patterson A. | • | • | • | | • | • | • |
| Axelsen U. | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | Heyes N. | • | • | | • | | | | Peach S. | • | • | • | • | | • | • |
| Barbour J. | • | • | • | | • | | • | Hocking A. | • | • | | • | | | | Pinder S. | • | • | | | | | • |
| Barnes J. | • | • | • | | • | • | • | Horadam K. | • | • | • | • | • | | | Potts M. | • | • | • | • | | | • |
| Batum C. | • | • | • | • | | | | Horan P. | | • | | | | | | Procter D. | • | • | • | • | • | • | • |
| Bennett D. | | • | • | | | | • | Howat S. | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | Procter M. | • | • | • | | • | | • |
| Blake M. | • | • | • | • | | • | • | Ibbott B. | | • | | | | | | Pyc M. | • | • | | • | | | • |
| Carroll L. | | • | • | • | • | • | • | Jarman L. | • | • | | • | | • | • | Randall J. | | • | | • | • | | • |
| Cockburn B. | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | Jarman R. | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | Rosendorff D. | • | • | | • | • | | • |
| Cockburn M. | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | Jones G. | • | • | | • | • | • | • | Roulston S. | • | • | • | • | • | • | • |
| Cole G. | | • | • | | • | | • | Kennedy L. | | • | • | • | • | • | • | Ryan W. | • | • | • | • | • | • | • |
| Colgan L. | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | Lankshear J. | • | | • | • | • | • | • | Shapiro R. | | | • | | | | |
| Coote P. | • | • | • | • | • | | • | Lee C. | • | • | • | | • | | • | Shield A. | • | • | • | • | • | | |
| Cornish W. | | • | • | | | • | • | Leigh J. | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | Sidlo B. | | • | | • | | • | |
| Coulton L. | • | | | | | | | Lloyd G. | | • | | | | | | Siegman B. | • | • | • | • | • | • | • |
| Cromer H. | • | • | • | | • | | • | Mackay-Sim C. | | • | | | | | • | Simons A. | • | • | | • | • | | |
| Crowe J. | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | Madden J. | | • | • | • | | • | • | Simpson F. | • | • | • | • | • | • | • |
| Davis K. | • | • | | • | • | • | • | Martin A. | • | • | • | • | • | | • | Skinner R. | • | • | • | • | • | • | • |
| Dennis M. | • | | | | | | | Martin F. | • | • | • | • | • | | | Steinberger M. | | • | • | • | | | • |
| Dobele T. | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | Mason I. | | • | | | | | | Storey N. | • | • | | • | • | • | • |
| Dowse B. | • | • | • | | | | | Matthews S. | | • | • | • | • | | • | Symons B. | • | • | • | • | • | • | • |
| Ducker R. | • | • | • | • | | | • | McClelland C. | • | • | • | • | • | | • | Taylor R. | | • | • | • | • | • | |
| Dyer A. | • | • | | • | • | • | • | McKenzie I. | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | Taylor S. | • | • | • | • | | | |
| Evans J. | • | • | • | • | | | | McKenzie R. | • | • | • | • | • | | • | Thompson I. | • | • | • | • | • | • | • |
| Ferguson J. | • | • | • | | | | • | McLachlan M. | • | • | | | | | | Tickle B. | • | • | • | • | | | |
| Fowler J. | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | McPherson T. | • | • | • | | | | | Veress M. | • | • | • | • | • | • | • |
| Garner P. | • | • | • | | | • | • | Meek A. | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | Wilcox C. | • | • | | | | | • |
| Glissan B. | • | • | • | | • | • | • | Miles A. | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | Williams K. | • | • | • | • | | | • |
| Grainger D. | • | • | • | • | • | | • | Millard A. | • | • | • | • | • | • | • | Wimbush R. | • | • | • | • | • | • | • |

Slot 1

Half and
Half by
InGrid

 Prize
\$50


Across

- 1 Birthright (8)
- 5 Crustaceans (6)
- 9 Bloodline (8)
- 10 Vegetable (6)
- 12 Rejoice (5)
- 13 Typing measure (9)
- 14 Jewellery style (4-2)
- 16 Tire (7)
- 19 Clad (7)
- 21 Tree (6)
- 23 Analysis (9)
- 25 Theatrical show (5)
- 26 Token (6)
- 27 Known (8)
- 28 Filter (6)
- 29 Goer (8)

Down

- 1 Dash of sauce over happy ending for bird (6)
- 2 Fish untrammelled without man around (3,6)
- 3 Parsimonious firm (5)
- 4 German leads her family producing vegetable (7)
- 6 Send off after palace romance (9)
- 7 Bloke finally getting into fruit (5)
- 8 Married priests restructure loans (8)
- 11 Nibble noisily on computer space (4)
- 15 1 and 9 refer to author generation (9)
- 17 Without expert help, organisation did save broadcast (9)
- 18 Clenched hands cover annex for enthusiasts (8)
- 20 Clean but suds held back (4)
- 21 Lose consciousness as an exit strategy? (4,3)
- 22 Require the French compass indicator (6)
- 24 Drill occupies retreating Yorkshire Guards (5)
- 25 Called English rank (5)

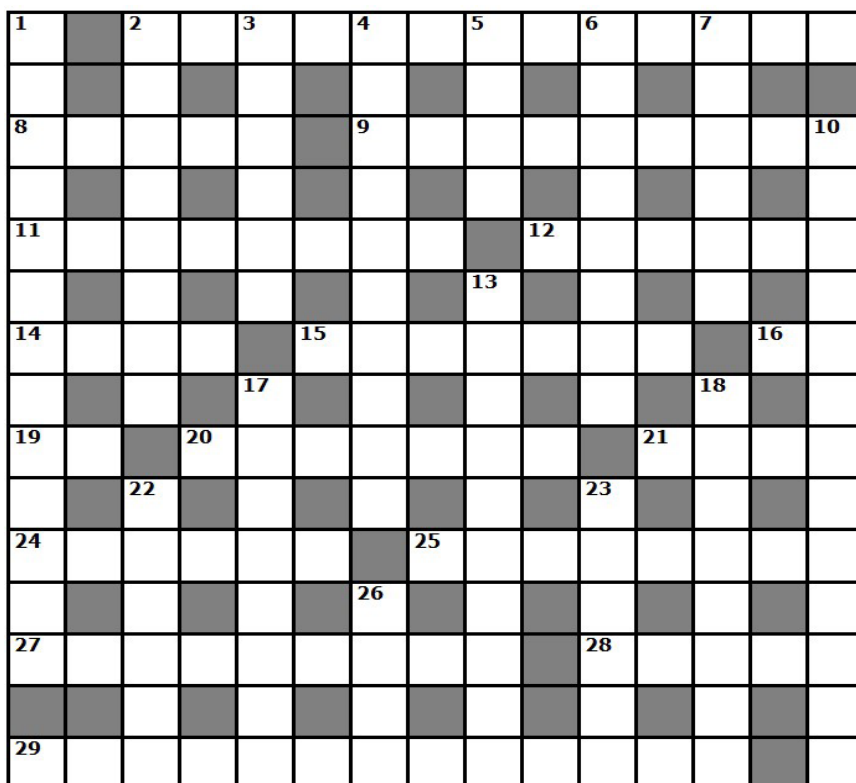
**SEND
SOLUTIONS
TO:**

For online entry, submission and adjudication of all slots via ACCOLADE click on the ACCOLADE button on www.crosswordclub.org home page.
 By mail for Slots 1 to 5: Jill Lankshear 1/30 Grantham Street. Brunswick West, VIC 3055 email lankshearjill@gmail.com
 By mail for Slot 6: Ian McKenzie 47 Ronald Avenue Greenwich NSW 2065 email ianmalcolmmckenzie@outlook.com
 By mail for slot 7: Kay Williams 12 Lindrum Crescent Holt ACT 2615 email ianw@webone.com.au;
 Closing mail date for all puzzles is 28 April 2023.

**BLANK
GRIDS
PAGE 11**

Slot 2

Cryptic
by
Virgo

 Prize
\$50


Across

- 2 Extremely careful to rip out tissues artfully (13)
 8 Composer's decision "Caught out" (5)
 9 Performing three-claw handspring (9)
 11 Frown failing to start dropping (8)
 12 Demanding, like a monarch (6)
 14 Shipbuilder back on a hydrant (4)
 15 Down payment is found back in storage facility (7)
 16,19 Black cuckoos pruned umbelliferous plant (4)
 20 The control inside that (7)
 21 Fungi eliminating one-third of muscles (4)
 24 Just the cake for a Goon Show character! (6)
 25 We turn flower around and find a monster (8)
 27 Turin aria performed in hopeful location? (9)
 28 Encountered little Rosemary on the French railway (5)
 29 Not at all keen for Pluto to bury spirited steed (13)

Down

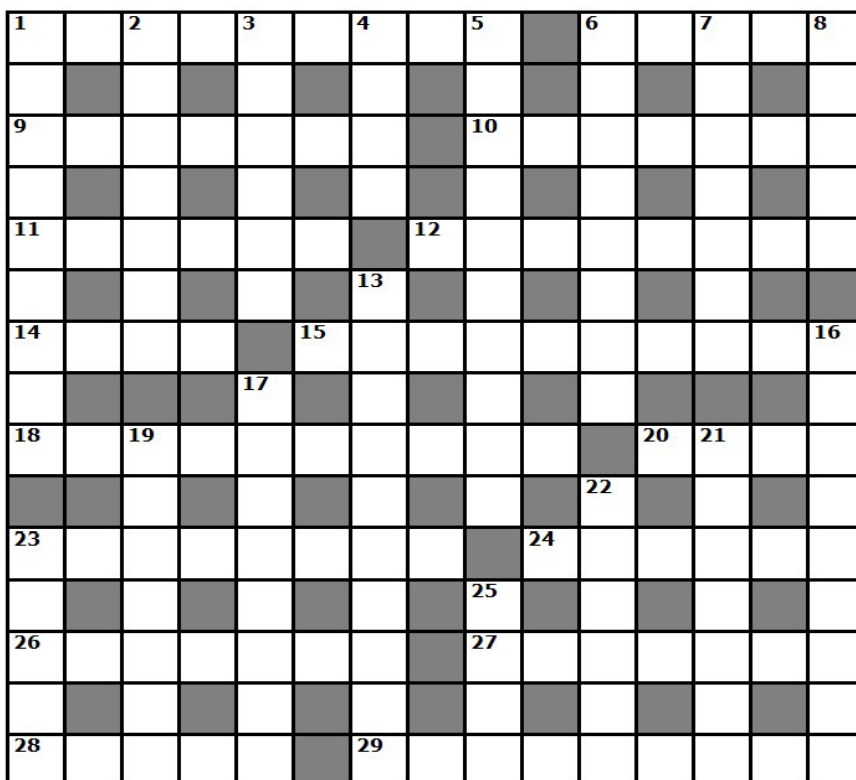
- 1 A courteous mechanic? (5,8)
 2 What Art's trying to cover up with ... (5,3)
 3 ... before finding unknown building (6)
 4 Storytellers' curse on art novel (10)
 5 Sea bird in an alternative location (4)
 6 Posh twin livened up the community (8)
 7 A potent drink for Eugene (6)
 10 Winners of ARIAs may be dubbed this, but rarely for an aria! (7,2,4)
 13 Cover if tea-brewing makes a loud clamour (10)
 17 Mad Hatter half seen to terrorise (8)
 18 Little Rosemary rebelled! (8)
 22 Flier in charge of a Rugby Union society went too far! (6)
 23 Solitary woman with German (6)
 26 Kick never expected even for starters with a joint (4)

General Feedback for March

- It was a lovely surprise to receive the Slot 4 prize for February. I always enjoy the AJ. Thanks to all the setters and others who help to keep the club going. *Hilary Cromer*
- Thank you all for the pleasure you give us all and particularly for that person who drew my name out of the prize barrel. [*Perhaps more likely to be the person who clicked on the random number generator these days, but a barrel is a much nicer thought - Ed*] *Glenda Lloyd*

Slot 3

Cryptic by Manveru



Across

- 1 Problem with ute resolved following drainage of black oil (9)
- 6 Baker's first loaf is light (5)
- 9 Boils gently and seasons, getting umami at the end, not the beginning (7)
- 10 Water channel is cut to smother flame and starve of oxygen (7)
- 11 Club for swimmers? Unruly pirates not accepted (6)
- 12 Arrangement of electron with one overcoming resistance (8)
- 14 Shrub is a bit of an eyesore when pruned back (4)
- 15 Generate power with new arrangement to sequester carbon for a profit, perhaps (10)
- 18 They'll launch International Chess app designed to catch cheaters ultimately (10)
- 20 Blitz in chess requires an element of resistance (4)
- 23 Medicine from special mushroom provided by single chemist initially (8)
- 24 Prohibition on stories in this republic say (6)
- 26 Level out! Up! Back! Around! Behind! Answer? (7)
- 27 Striking and knocking down - time to replace facade of fort (7)
- 28 Ruff, extremely drowsy, sounds thin and piping (5)
- 29 Gentleman loved talking about getting caught with his pants down (9)

Down

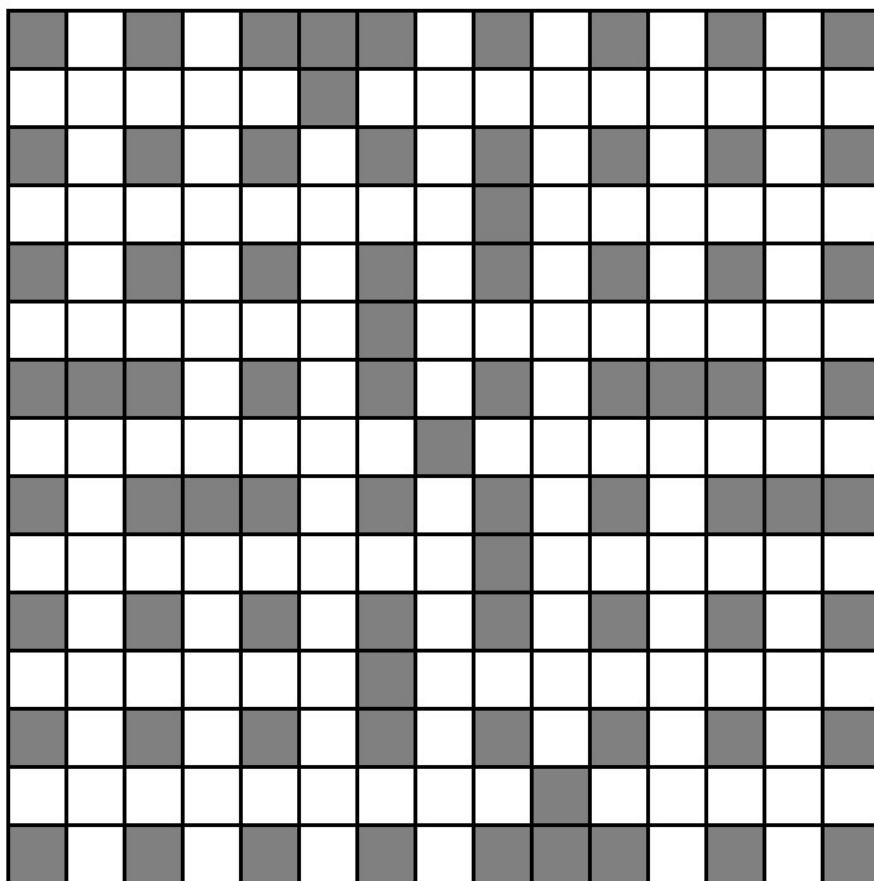
- 1 They're sometimes stamped with pressure so straps break (9)
- 2 Guts retrieved from headless preserved bodies found under Troy (7)
- 3 Port city in the south does struggle with Russia's far border... (6)
- 4 ...otherwise, held by rebel sectors (4)
- 5 Police officer infiltrating crime organisations, extremely worried it will blow up (10)
- 6 Plenty getting sick following onset of beta particles (8)
- 7 Crimea at war after annexation, initially by another country? (7)
- 8 Worn away and checkmated after sacrificing bishop (5)
- 13 Cook ten quiches with these methods (10)
- 16 Swapped old coins (denarii) (9)
- 17 It could be bouncy baby? (8)
- 19 Everyday, struggling travel agencies lose clients (7)
- 21 Script listing characters? (7)
- 22 Bird watcher from Japan finds wings of owl ascending through the air (6)
- 23 1ac - need this on the A1? (5)
- 25 6-across is just a ruse, mostly (4)

Slot 4

AJ
by
Crowsman

Prize
\$50

Solutions begin with the
given letter. Place them in
the grid jigsaw-wise,
where they fit.



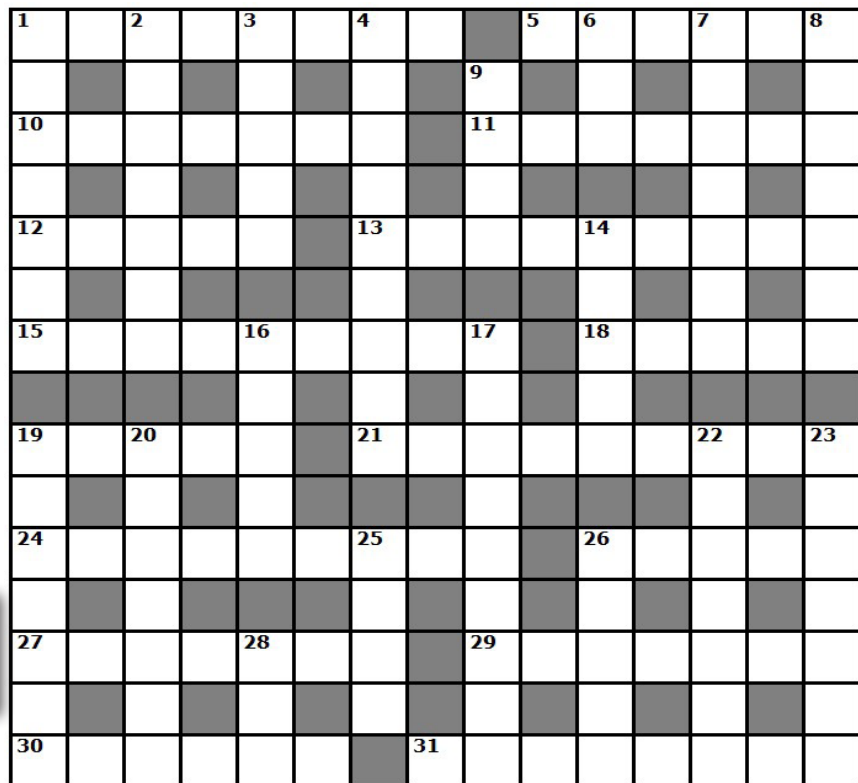
- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>A Heath is enthralled by funny man from the USA (8)</p> <p>B Insults dwarfs restricted by backs (13)</p> <p>C Turn into a poison, greenish-blue colour, that is holding touch of zinc (7)</p> <p>D Something said is cut mid-broadcast (6)</p> <p>E Len's second puzzle is hell! (6)</p> <p>F 1.25 litre bottle, possibly, for trip out (9)</p> <p>G Leader of gang warrants the rope! (7)</p> <p>H Capital derived from brothels in Kings Cross (8)</p> <p>I For profit, buy gold crown (6)</p> <p>J The green-eyed monster has Poles abandoning denims. Awful! (8)</p> <p>K Youngster fellow acclaimed actress (6)</p> <p>L Misplaced elitism ignoring English restrictions (6)</p> <p>M Dogs make fellows speechless (9)</p> | <p>N Criticises turnover of metal tools (8)</p> <p>O Well-behaved old criminal is about to pop off (8)</p> <p>P Great ruler's signal at bridge (5)</p> <p>Q Note: Queen heads state! (6)</p> <p>R Hand in bona fide pardon (8)</p> <p>S Last in acrobatics, at no time disheartened with derisive comment (5)</p> <p>T Direct scorn at theatre's opening by cutting fun feature (5,4,4)</p> <p>U Gander maintenance? (6)</p> <p>V Glen and Dean are against walks (7)</p> <p>W Knocked back, interrupting exact garden activity (8)</p> <p>X Inflammation in cardinal turned to abnormal dryness (7)</p> <p>Y You old blokes supported by one countryman! (6)</p> <p>Z Topmost hazel nuts split by fool (8)</p> |
|---|---|

Slot 5

Offside!
by
Nigrum
Cattus



The solutions to ten clues are of a kind and three others are otherwise representative.

**Across**

- 1 Papal edict follows clips (8)
- 5 Mama's grand entry rocks! Really hot stuff! (6)
- 10 ps: image distorted, becoming black and white (7)
- 11 Claimed cricket side cut new deal (7)
- 12 Munched half of wheaten bun (5)
- 13 Audience inclines to hold comedian Roy back (9)
- 15 Stones approved in counties (9)
- 18 Native Americans' right to be involved in cattle! (5)
- 19 Left charged items at service club (5)
- 21 Cosec solved by old coach in 6, possibly following 22 (9)
- 24 Anoraks go around jumpers (9)
- 26 Previously you engaged in retrogressive discussion: now clearer regarding account (5)
- 27 Gang collected equipment of one of its members (7)
- 29 Totally satisfactory putt recorded (2,5)
- 30 Flyers on course for good scores (6)
- 31 Delegates sent out to restrict plant disease (8)

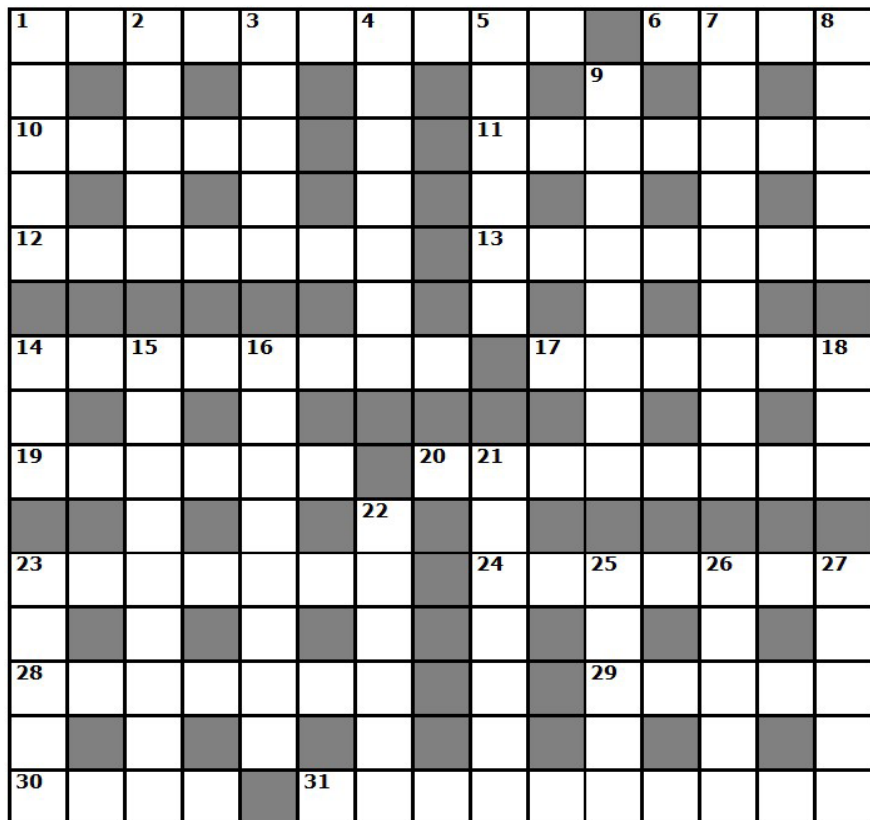
Down

- 1 Mob turned on injured Serb, from suspected terrorist group (7)

- 2 Polish land in revolt (5,2)
- 3 Lower oneself, scratching seconds from plan (5)
- 4 Dirty looks - while female is entering oil-field events (3,6)
- 6 Alf played footie (3)
- 7 Silver mesh put into second generator (7)
- 8 Upset winners? But they beat others! (7)
- 9 Show cases with extremes of temperatures (4)
- 14 Host announcing "Music ends!" (5)
- 16 Scores a bloomer! (5)
- 17 Meeting about church withdrawal (9)
- 19 Pleasant, though inclined to accept kickback (7)
- 20 Squealing coming from within tattoo inking parlour (7)
- 22 Alternate, so player got on second, possibly before 21 (7)
- 23 Those attending to tennis beginners (7)
- 25 Chance of overdoses limited doctor initially (4)
- 26 Authority put pressure on the direct opposite of 26-across. (5)
- 28 Optimistic result for 23 perhaps (3)

Slot 6

Cryptic
by
Robespierre

 Prize
\$50


Across

- 1 Sign of a lack of character (10)
 6 Deity for terrorists (4)
 10 Disreputable girl follows directions (5)
 11 Whistle-blower about to block charge led by soldiers (7)
 12 Excuse one-time expert wavering (7)
 13 Bun and mushroom a pollie spurned (7)
 14 Court finds opportunist guilty in the end (8)
 17 Flyer with letter from Greece has gone astray (6)
 19 See 18 Down
 20,14-down Fervent chap praying for a symbol of liberty (8,3)
 23 Spooner ousts bloc - that's demanding (7)
 24 Disreputable fighting unit has perhaps sole follower (7)
 28 Bootlicker gets to bend over with hands clasping heel of shoe! (7)
 29 Diabetic in group restricts sugary stuff (5)
 30 Ex-PM is blooming deficient (4)
 31 Cash levy announcement provides practical details (5,5)

Down

- 1 Storyteller seen from river with waters receding (5)

- 2 Hold forth for free? (5)
 3 Your old setter - a sage companion? (5)
 4 Spacecraft has unnatural aberrations - NASA at a loss! (7)
 5 Poet's vehicle turns up in garden (6)
 7 Wildlife reserve - criminal gets in before getting nabbed (9)
 8 Lengthy yarn to finally feature in film. (5)
 9 For natural attraction, you may have to be fifty, Ian! (8)
 14 See 20 Across
 15 A charity preserving woodland briefly mentioned earlier (9)
 16 Latin American country admits marijuana ingredient used in cooking (8)
 18,19 New start for mostly tinpot organisation lacking commercial motivation (3-6)
 21 Warning instrument set off buzzers (7)
 22 You're talking about a certain person of great interest (6)
 23 Big limo for grouch (5)
 25 Spooner to dart round backstabber? (5)
 26 I care foremost about return of trouble involving hip (5)
 27 Physicist showing fine weather systems good for hearts (5)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | C | C | | |
| | R | | | |
| | O | Z | | |
| O | Z | | | |
| | W | | | |
| N | O | T | E | S |
| | R | | | |
| | L | | | |
| | D | | | |

Explanations for March slots 1 to 5 Note: cd = cryptic definition; dd = double definition; rev or < = reversal; homophones are noted as "homoph" and words from which they are derived may be shown in quotes; anagrams as anag. if straightforward, or (NNNN)*. "Heads" or "Tails" are first or last letters of part of a clue; letters forming solutions are normally written as capitals and removals as lower case; hw or hidden = hidden word. Explanations provided by individual compilers may vary from this format.

Slot 1 Fraz. Across: 1 [by Margery Williams], 9 ...new clothes, 19 "... hot ... cold". Down: 1 V + (WATER MAIN)*, 2 UP in LIN(e), 3 ER(RAT)IC, 4 RUE< + A in OPENS, 5 hidden, 6 (ANTS + OMG)*, 7 (STILE)* in BEAR, 8 homoph "tern", 12 anag of letters of "ears", 14 G + RAPP(L)ING, 15 PRO + LONGED, 17 O + VARIES, 18 W(ARM)ISH, 20 (b)EAGLE, 21 DIVES(t), 22 dd.

Slot 2 KA. Across: 1 mass + if + central, 10 o in this*, 11 dd, 12 deter + gent, 13 dd, 14 air + time, 16 hidden, 18 con + vent, 20 new in real, 22 (r)egret, 24 anag, 26 homoph "stable eyes", 27 ras in E...E, 28 anag. Down: 2 a + viator, 3 saturn + (k)ine, 4 L in fame, 5 hidden, 6 dd, 7 anag, 8 [eche=augment] in anag, 9 s + elf + inflicted, 15 term* in exist, 17 hidden, 19 anag, 21 WA + stage, 23 (dia)tribe, 25 m in thee.

Slot 3 Lexi Conner. Across: 1 LOTin CHESs, 5 FIG + SURE*, 9 BACK + LANCE, 10 I + SO + LATE, 11 Raw + EnQUIRING, 12 M (O) IST, 13 T + WEAK, 15 LORD + homoph "mare", 17 JOB + URN + EYED, 19 NA (Sheet) Y, 22 cordovIN Castillo, 23 IMPASS (IV) E, 25 Zambian in SNEERED, 26 DD, 27 PAR + A + DO + X, 28 SPED round TEE.

Down: 1 CAB + ARE + wesT, 2 (doublequick - duck)*, 3 HeAr NaOmI, 4 SPECIAL + TheorY, 5 FILING, 6 GROOMS + MAN, 7 I in REALTY, 8 (lets her)*, 14 KING + SIZED, 16 homoph "red" + E + PLOYS, 17 JOIN + SUP, 18 (rule can)*, 20 ITS< + PURR<, 21 DD, 23 remIND EXecutor, 24 (Lawyer) in SIDE.

Slot 4 Valkyrie. A ALTER(N)ATION, B Double, C LIBRA in CATEGory, D TIED< round POS, E (EVEN)* + LOP+E, F FU(TU)RIES, G Spooner "slim gyp", H H+IRE+S, I Hidden, J (JESS + LUCIE)*, K K+A+N+GAR+OO, L L+O+CATION, M homoph "mock" + A + SIN, N (sAId) in SEDAN<, O OBE+A+H, P Homoph "sigh key", Q eQUATES replace A with O, R Hidden, S (TASSIE+WRITERS - WERE)*, T TEASE+T+S, U (VENUS+RAN+HID)*, V alternate letters, W WAR(RAN)T, X X+Y+LOP+I+A, Y Double, Z Z(A+MP<)ONE.

Slot 5 Blue Moon. Across: 8 SER(ious); S(OON)ER, 9 (FRESH FOO(d))* , 10 TYPH(u)S; TYPH(OON)S, 11 GG in GONE<, 12 MS; M(OON)S, 13 C + DOGS; C(OON)DOGS, 15 SAND*; AND S(O ON), 17 CAPS*; P(OON)ACS, 20 PASTE*; TEASP(OON), 21 dd, 24 SHRIMP, but C for H, 25 ACTOR*; OCTAR(OON), 26 F + NERO<; FOREN(OON), 27 SPY; SP(OON)Y. Down: 1 LOP< + Y,Z; POLYZ(OON), 2 INCH + ON, 3 T(ou)R; TR(OON), 4 MONS; MONS(OON), 5 A + F + TERN; AFTERN(OON), 6 SHAG + R; SHAGR(OON), 7 CaRuSo; CR(OON)S, 14 (PUPS SO)*; SOUPSP(OON), 16 homoph of 'C sides', 18 CARTS; CART(OON)S, 19 (t)OKYO*; YOK(O ON)O, 20 T(he) Y(acht) C(lub); TYC(OON), 22 MAR; MAR(OON), 23 (walle)T in SASH.

From Derek Harrison's Crossword Centre March newsletter

Derek reports on some recent discussions with an American author, Barry Joseph, who is writing a book on Stephen Sondheim and his interest in puzzles.

Barry Joseph can be followed on Instagram at matchingmindswithsondheim. You can see there some of the gems that he has discovered, including many of [Derek's] illustrations. He is looking for more information about Sondheim and puzzles.

The 2022 APEX puzzle from Paul Henderson had the theme of a quote from Stephen Sondheim. Solvers were asked to write a clue to SONDHEIM. The results are now published and the podium clues were as follows:

- 1st Harry is done with His Majesty – he's sadly departed, not without some dramas *Richard Morse*
- 2nd Scoring West End show, I composed foremost of musicals *Mick Hodgkin*
- 3rd Composer, the man uncredited in She Done Him Wrong *Allan Scott*

American compilers, Emily Cox and Henry Rathvon (Hex) were surprised when the New York Times decided to take their Acrostic puzzles off their website. Although they would still be available in the printed paper, many solvers preferred to do these complex puzzles on-line. Apparently, Cox and Rathvon have now decided to leave the NYT and it may be that they will create their own website to publish the Acrostic.

The 45th Annual American Crossword Puzzle Tournament is taking place on March 31 - April 2, at the Marriott in Stamford, CT. You can get more details and follow the event at <https://www.crosswordtournament.com/>

continued on page 16

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | E | M | B | E | R |
| | N | E | W | S | |

Donations to the ACC Prize Fund: Many thanks to our generous members who donated their prizes to the Prize Fund this month.

New compilers welcome! We welcome puzzles from new compilers. The easiest way to start is with a slot 1 Half and Half puzzle, which only involves cryptic clues for half of the solutions. If you're hesitant, some of our more experienced compilers will be delighted to pair with you and provide assistance. Do let Ian know if you are interested.

March Clue-writing Competition: We have had few entries for this month's competition so far. If you have a bright idea for a clue to **CRESTFALLEN** (11), do send your clue and explanation to the adjudicator Drew Meek - drewski1@hotmail.com by 15 April 2023.

Find us on 

Join our Facebook group and discuss anything to do with words and puzzles. (No discussion of current prize puzzles please.)

Search for [Australian Crossword Club](#) or click the hyperlink

If you're not receiving your copy of the magazine, please email jenny@wenham.net.au to make sure we have your current email address.

March 1: Fraz (Fraser Simpson)

- An interesting assemblage of answers. Surely 11ac should be enumerated (3-4, 6) *Ian Thompson*
- Refreshing start to the month. DIVES my favourite clue. *Len Colgan*
- Nice balance of clues. *Andrew Patterson*
- Good slot 1, some clever clues. *Roy Taylor*
- An interesting, different Slot 1. Thanks Fraz. *Robyn Wimbush*
- A good start to this month's puzzles. 12dn (REASSESES) was a clever one. *Mal Cockburn*
- I really liked the deletion clues for EAGLE and DIVES. *Brian Tickle*
- I always like to see if I can do a Slot 1 without a dictionary or Google, but I couldn't initially get even one across answer. I gave in and reached for my trusty Chambers. Good fun all the same. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Entertaining mix of clues. *Kathleen Harper*
- 1ac caused angst. Being fairly confident of the second word, nothing would come to mind for the first word and of course, I was locked into Australian thinking. It would have been difficult to choose a COTM because so many clues were very clever. Tick for 1dn, 7dn, 20dn. *Lynn Jarman*
- Fun! I liked REASSESES and EAGLE. Shouldn't 11ac be two words? *Kathy Horadam*
- Impressive Half and Half. Loved the answers for your 13 and 15 letter clues! *Bev Cockburn*
- I'm not sure about my answers to LUPIN or WARMISH, but nothing else seems to fit. *Barbara Ibbott*
- I found this one rather hard! *Anne Simons*
- Lovely variety of clues, Fraz. *Robyn McKenzie*

March 2: KA (Karl Audrins)

- My favourite clue was the one for FLAME. *Brian Tickle*
- A pretty straightforward puzzle except for 13ac SKIFF for which I had a lot of trouble finding the other meaning. Got there in the end. *Mal Cockburn*
- Nice, straight clues made this easier than Slot 1. *Ulla Axelsen*
- For me, this was a good Slot 2, i.e. I didn't need a stack of reference books beside me. *Lynn Jarman*
- I liked WASTAGE! Mostly easy, but I couldn't parse SKIFF or ERASE so hope they're correct. *Kathy Horadam*
- A nice, honest cryptic crossword. *Bev Cockburn*
- Hopefully this time I haven't made errors. *Barbara Ibbott*
- Some interesting clues. *Jean Evans*

March 3: Lexi Conner (Ron Shapiro)

- PARADOX is an excellent clue. Also liked OBLIQUE. *Ian McKenzie*
- I wonder if Ron deliberately arranged for the answers to form a pangram. Particularly appreciated YIELDED. Questionable if a synonym for 'special' can be used in a clue for SPECIALTY. The 1dn clue, CABARET, is a bit clunky. *Len Colgan*
- Enjoyable puzzle. My COTM is CABARET, with its clever use of a part of the verb to be. *Roy Taylor*
- My favourite clue was the one for FLING. *Brian Tickle*
- Some quite complex clues in this puzzle. *Ian Thompson*
- As I was typing this into Accolade I realized it was a pangram. Good fun. *Ulla Axelsen*

- 'Doctor' as an anagram indicator threw me off the track. Overall, a great variety of types of clues. *Lynn Jarman*
- It took me a while to work out that 'vacuous' and 'blank' both indicated 'empty', i.e. first and last letters only. How rich and varied our language is! *Kathleen Harper*
- Very enjoyable, thanks Lexi. I especially liked CLOTHES, OBLIQUE and JOURNEYED. *Kathy Horadam*
- I always admire Lexi Conner's puzzles. His cluing is excellent. Loved BALANCE, IMPASSIVE and SHELTER. *Bev Cockburn*
- Some good clues... an enjoyable challenge. *Anne Simons*
- Great clues! I especially loved PARADOX. *Robyn McKenzie*
- Some excellent clues including PARADOX; ISOLATE and STEEPED. *Ron Jarman*

March 4: Valkyrie (Ulla Axelsen)

- I especially liked the K and W clues. *Len Colgan*
- The C clue CALIBRATE gets my COTM as it was delightfully deceptive. *Mal Cockburn*
- Like all of Valkyrie's puzzles this one was tough, fair and a lot of fun. *Brian Tickle*
- Great clues for CALIBRATE, LOCATION and PSYCHE; I couldn't parse N or W though. ZAMPONE was a new one. Thanks, Valkyrie! *Kathy Horadam*
- Needed to print a second copy as my original placements didn't work! The L and Q clues were clever. *Bev Cockburn*
- Nymphs and goddesses abounding in this puzzle - and an Aussie icon for good measure! *Kathleen Harper*
- Another enjoyable AJ from Valkyrie. Can't believe how long it took me to think of GYMSLIP! *Nea Storey*

March 5: Blue Moon (Nea Storey and Len Colgan)

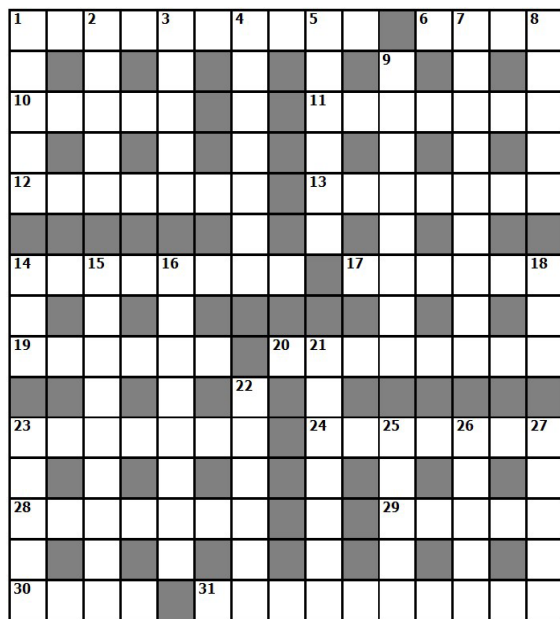
- Another master class in how to cram an amazing number of theme words into a grid. How does a word like COONDOGS escape the watchful eye of the modern censors? *Ian McKenzie*
- Thank you, Blue Moon - this was fun. *Trish McPherson*
- As I had nothing on today, I did this fun puzzle. *Roy Taylor*
- Once the secret letters were worked out, it was plain sailing. Marvellous puzzle. *Mal Cockburn*
- Shagreen I know, but shagroon? And polyzoos? Who knew polyzoos had polyzooids inside? Most entertaining. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Personally, I would have spelt 25ac as OCTOROON, but it doesn't fit the wordplay, does it? *Christina Lee*
- OON!! Clever compiling. The title together with the setter is a rather suggestive combination! *Ulla Axelsen*
- An enjoyable teaser. It was fun parsing the two title OONs after solving the puzzle. *Fraser Simpson*
- So many words containing OON - nothing on. Loved it! *Betty Siegman*
- Well, now I can add a new three-letter word to my vocabulary. Very clever! *Lynn Jarman*

Continued on page 16

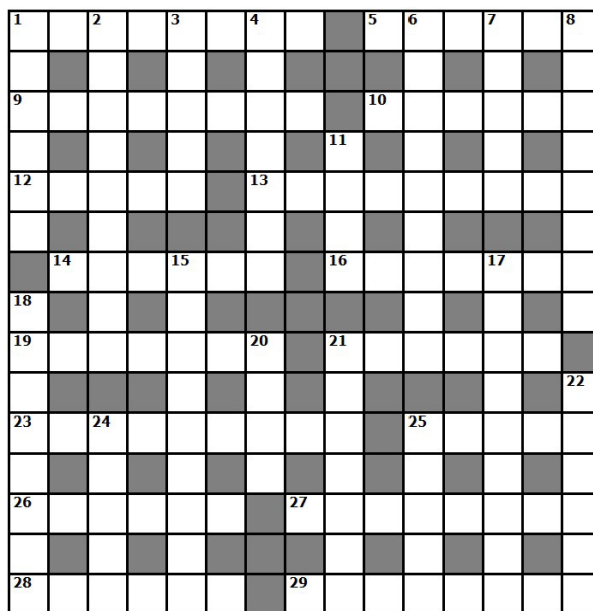
Submit solution by ACCOLADE or for mail entries see
page 3 Closing mail date 28 April 2023
NAME.....



APRIL SLOT 6 2023

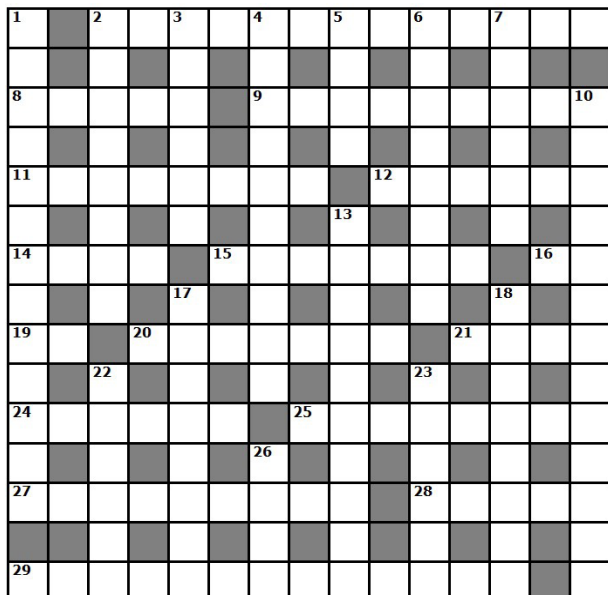


APRIL SLOT 1 2023 NAME.....



Clue of the Month

APRIL SLOT 2 2023



**Quiz 4-2023 by Valkyrie (Ulla Axelsen)**

The following answers all have something in common. They are in alphabetical order. The first word length is the answer and the second is the common element. Send your answers to Ulla Axelsen by email ullaaxelsen@hotmail.com or 6 Maud Street Donnybrook Qld 4510. Mail closing date 28 April 2023.

- 1 Celebration (11) (3)
- 2 Tea or coffee? (8) (3)
- 3 Reel (6) (3)
- 4 Shell (8) (4)
- 5 Melee (10) (3)
- 6 Removal (11) (3)
- 7 Breakable (9) (4)
- 8 Convivial (10) (4)
- 9 Illusion (13) (3)
- 10 Carriage (6) (4)
- 11 Constant (11) (3)
- 12 Trip (7) (2)
- 13 Insect (7) (4)
- 14 Tolerance (8) (3)
- 15 Ultimate (7) (3)
- 16 Close (6) (3)
- 17 Seat (7) (4)
- 18 Support (9) (3)
- 19 Uncultured (10) (4)
- 20 Bragging (11) (3)
- 21 Healthy (10) (3)
- 22 Speculative (11) (4)
- 23 Humble (10) (3)
- 24 Certify (8) (3)
- 25 Strength of mind (9) (4)
- 26 Mexican riding blanket (6) (4)

Quiz 3/2023 Eponyms by St Jude (Drew Meek).

Results: Entries **22** Correct: **17** (76%) **26** W Allen; U Axelsen; B Cockburn; L Jarman; J Leigh; R McKenzie; A Miles; A Millard; A Patterson; D Procter; M Procter; D Rosendorff; B Simpson; R Skinner; B Symons; M Veress; K Wimbush. **25** B Glissan; D Grainger; R Jarman; W Ryan. **24** J Crowe; B Siegman.
Winner Bev Cockburn . Congratulations!

Answers: 1 Axel 2 Bakelite 3 Catherine wheel 4 Dobro 5 Epicurean 6 Ferris Wheel 7 Gobelin 8 Hobson's choice 9 Ignoramus 10 Jacuzzi 11 knickerbockers 12 Leotard 13 Mentor 14 Nicotine 15 Orrery 16 Plimsoll line 17 Quisling 18 Rafflesia 19 Saxophone 20 Tontine 21 Uzi 22 Venn Diagram 23 Winchester 24 Xanthippe 25 Yapp 26 Zapata. see page 17 for a comprehensive description of the origins of the eponyms.

Compiler's Observations

The eponymous etymology of each of the expected answers was indicated in at least one of the standard club references [Chambers, Collins, Macquarie]. However, that was not indicated in the instructions. Therefore, some alternative answers have been accepted. Lacoste was accepted for L as the sportswear brand name was founded by René Lacoste the tennis player. One solver found a link to an eponymous Daily guitar brand instead of the expected Dobro [Dobry, Polish for good as one entry's (possibly) spell correcting error]. Occam's razor is certainly eponymous, however Occam couldn't be accepted for "model"

Solvers' Feedback

- Thank you for the quiz Drew. I hope you are well and look forward to solving more of your puzzles. *David Proctor*
- An interesting quiz. *Ann Millard*
- Thanks for a most interesting quiz. Took me a while to find O, T and Y. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Thank you for another original quiz. The O word had me going for a long time. I hope I have now got it right, having cycled through Origin, Oxford etc. *Julie Leigh*
- As usual, an entertaining quiz from you. Y wasn't easy though. Many thanks. *Robyn Wimbush*
- I had to look up the etymologies of a few of these to confirm they were eponyms. Very enlightening! *Fraser Simpson*
- Thanks for the quiz. Moral of the story – if you want eponymic remembrance, get into one of weaponry, musical instruments or active wear! *Andrew Miles*
- Had a lot of fun with this one. Apologies if I've gone a bit over the top. [*he gave me a detailed table of the eponymous sources -Adj*] *Richard Skinner*
- I loved your quiz! I enjoy research and learning new stuff so I found your quiz fascinating. Thanks and do more like that, please. *Bev Cockburn*
- Thanks for the quiz which had half a dozen answers take longer than the rest. My biggest problem was IGNORAMUS which showed no eponymic reference in my Chambers, only the Latin [*eponymic origin indicated in Collins and Macquarie - Adj*]. Online references however had some allusion to a play character, so I went with that. Also, the 'brand of guitar' was quite vague. Many guitar brands are named after their maker and nothing said answers were in Chambers. *Andrew Patterson*
- Quiz 3 certainly had me reaching for reference books and a friend Thanks St Jude. *Lynn Jarman*
- I never knew some of these words were eponyms; you learn something every day! *Michael Veress*
- I very much enjoyed your quiz, thank you. *David Grainger*
- Thanks for the quiz - certainly some surprises. *Ron Jarman*

March 6-2023 All Aboard! by Zinzan (Andrew Patterson)
Entries received 55, Correct 41, Success rate 74.5%.
Prizewinner: Ian Thompson. Congratulations!

Compiler's comments

I reasoned that most members would have played the standard English version of Monopoly at least a few times! Yes, the circled letters give MONOPOLY as they are 'running in circles'. That being a game and also leopards and lions being 'game' (sadly), that was 24ac. I had a count of 13 answers on the board plus 'game' (but I didn't go check as it wasn't really important). So in the end, it was a standard cryptic where I toughened the clues a little but most solvers managed to pass GO.

Explanations – Across: 1 o in (washers)*, 5 AFL (g)ame, 9 rot,Arian, 10 d--e,l--e,t-e, 12 n or m, 13 Minis,T(ran)T, 15 --b--,(g)row,n,i.e., 16 -ime le----, 18 av(o)id, 19 CO(MP,a)NY, 22 e in (me,a,partly)*, 24 ddef, 27 squ(ats),are, 28 s-----,tr-angle, 29 (h)aven,(r)ue, 30 cover,l----,et. **Down:** 1 ST(ran)D, 2 w,a,t.e.r., 3 (c)oars(e), 4 stat,I,on, 6 f(----l)eet, 7 (every,gala)*, 8 elect,ric-, 11 -v-i- n-e-, 14 b----,on,d, 15 (be,so,awful)*, 16 ----e,x,A-,M-, 17 f,-antas,1A, 19 c,had, 20 (art,some)*, 21 re(-g,-e)nt, 23 Per(d)u, 25 -an-,gel, 26 ---l,-a-n-e-.

Solvers' Feedback See above re names aboard.
 Feedback on the number of names has been omitted due to lack of space

- The number of answers on the (English) Monopoly board seems ambiguous. Angel (Islington), Vine (Street), Strand, Fleet (Street), Regent (Street), Bond (Street), Water Works, Electric Company. Half marks for (Trafalgar) Square, (Park) Lane, and Station? Challenging puzzle: the only slow solve in this month's batch. *Ian McKenzie*
- I reckon there are thirteen. Favourite clues are for ROTARIAN and STRANGLE. *Len Colgan*
- I found this quite difficult which is fair enough as it is Slot 6. Reassuring that many clues related to MONOPOLY in one way or another. Thanks. *Ann Millard*
- I didn't notice until close to completion when I could see MONOPOLY was likely to be in the circles. I make it 13 answers or 14 if the word 'game' is on the board. *Ian Thompson*
- A very clever idea, I wish I had cottoned on earlier! *Roy Taylor*
- It wasn't until I had most of the grid completed that I worked out theme and how it was applied. I hope I figured out 24A correctly as I thought GAME was appropriate. *Mal Cockburn*
- Once the grandkids snaffled Mayfair and Park Lane (regularly) that was it for me. But this was challenging. Thank you Zinzan. *Robyn Wimbush*
- With so many varieties of MONOPOLY out now, I'm not sure how many of the answers have made it on the board. Some of the ?? questions were very challenging, not sure I can even work out how they work. *Ulla Axelsen*
- I had to take a "Chance" on 24A since I wasn't sure about it. As for the extra question, I counted 13 that appear on the standard version of the Monopoly board, but 14 if my 24A is correct (but

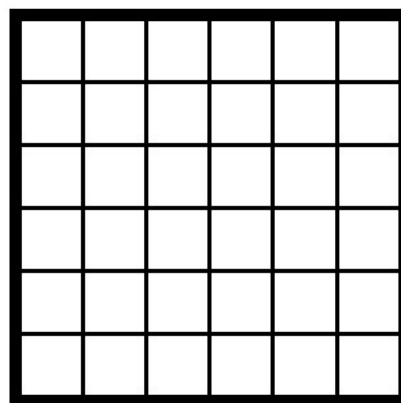
only on some boards). *Fraser Simpson*

- Toughest of this month's batch. Bit hard to pin down the number of MONOPOLY board answers. The obtuse definitions and clueing made it very difficult. Fingers crossed as we still haven't parsed a couple. *Richard Skinner*
- A great puzzle. The title was a bit misleading until I twigged to Monopoly. I haven't played it in years, brings back memories. *Betty Siegman*
- Very difficult puzzle brought back memories! *Bev Cockburn*
- I found this difficult until all answers containing the circle were completed and the the 'monopoly' anagram was discovered. This clue helped to complete the puzzle. *Maureen Blake*
- Lots of guesses - MONOPOLY seems to be the circled letters *Jean Barbour*
- Clever theme, and some tricky clues. *Julie Crowe*
- Spent enough time on this to play a game of Monopoly - still not sure of some answers! *Nea Storey*
- It's years since I played Monopoly, but I could identify at least a dozen words that would appear on the board - and more if you include feelings aroused by playing it! *Kathleen Harper*
- An amazing mind Zinzan to be able to work all those into your puzzle. AFLAME took a while for a New South Welshperson and MINSTRANT and COMPANY were stand out clues for me. *Lynn Jarman*
- Great clues in this puzzle though I admit I found some very hard. I counted 11 words from the monopoly board. *Robyn McKenzie*
- Brilliant clue for FANTASIA! *Ron Jarman*
- Interesting clues and theme. *Jean Evans*

FRAZ WORD SQUARE 6-39 (Solution on p 14)

Identical words read across and down in this square. Clues are not listed in order.

- Brat finally caught mistake
- Doesn't use places for belts in the auditorium
- Hard to find war badge near church
- Highlight strong deodorant smell in my ear
- In haste, reorganise sound system
- Make secret company in complete silence, ultimately



March 7-2023 ZYXototic by Isla (Rob Moline)
Entries received 77, Correct 73, Success rate 95%.
Prizewinner: James Groves. Congratulations!

Compiler's comments

Thank-you for the kind comments below, the puzzle seems to have been reasonably well-received. Wish I knew why, so I could do it more often. Just two mailed entries. No comments on the smaller 13 x 13 grid, which makes it a bit more difficult with fewer connections between the four corners. Only three errors: QUIT for QUIZ, PERK for PECK and SATNAV for SATNAV. All look like typos or lapses in concentration after correctly solving the clue. So close to the mystical, mythical 100% correct...

Explanations – **A** cub in s-a, **B** s + now + job, **C** (choir + e)*, **D** band + aged, **E** Hidden, &lit, **F** dand(y) + ruff, **G** DD, **H** (h)itch, **I**. T + <Manus + i, **J** (jihadi - (I + I))* [note: I + I = 2 Is], **K** DD, **L** Homoph "idle", **M** a + f + firm, **N** DD, **O** bar + go after em [longer measure than en!], **P** no + Trump, **Q** ira + q, **R** R(o) u(g)h(e)r [ref Dambusters], , **S** (hinges)*, **T** <rat + t, **U** hind + U, **V** sat + <van, **W** Cole's + law [side = side dish], **X** (air-taxi + v)*, **Y** (n)ag + (w)on + (b)y, **Z** z after qui.

Solvers' Feedback

- The clue for HADJ is neat! *Len Colgan*
- Thankfully, simpler clues made this less imposing. *Andrew Patterson*
- Great to do a reverse AJ - thank you Isla *Trish McPherson*
- Some very good clues. I found this easier than a typical slot 4. *Ian Thompson*
- A great variation of an AJ. Really enjoyed it. Thanks, Isla! *Ann Millard*
- Thank you a very enjoyable final slot. *Julie Leigh*
- I enjoyed this variation. *Roy Taylor*
- AJs where the last letters are used are rare but it always pays to check. Much more challenging for sure. Great puzzle. *Mal Cockburn*
- An interesting idea, thank you Isla! *Caroline Mackay-sim*
- Yet another layer of complexity. What a month! *Robyn Wimbush*
- Very enjoyable. *Ulla Axelsen*
- This turned out to be more accessible than it first appeared it might be. *Fraser Simpson*
- A new twist on the AJ. Lots of fun, thanks Isla. *Betty Siegman*
- I enjoyed doing this puzzle - a bit different. *Claire McClelland*
- Loved it!! *Judy Ferguson*
- An enjoyable puzzle to conclude this month's posers. It was very satisfying to have a complete set, A to Z, which wouldn't have been easy! *Bev Cockburn*
- I really enjoyed this variation of the AJ *Hilary Cromer*
- Loved this! Took some time to get it into the grid, the "backward" thinking was fun! *Cheryl Wilcox*
- An enjoyable variation on the usual AJ. *Nea Storey*
- AJ with a twist! An enjoyable challenge. *Kathleen Harper*
- It was so easy to slip back to looking for a word that began with the given letter. *Lynn Jarman*
- I enjoyed this puzzle very much; thank you; Isla. *Robyn McKenzie*

Solution to March Slot 7

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | P | | C | | S | | T | | I | | B | |
| H | E | R | O | I | C | | S | A | T | N | A | V |
| | C | | L | | U | | U | | C | | N | |
| S | K | Y | E | | B | U | N | | H | A | D | J |
| | | | S | | A | | A | | | | A | |
| I | D | Y | L | L | | | E | M | B | A | R | G |
| | A | | A | | N | | I | | V | | E | |
| S | N | O | W | J | O | B | | | H | I | N | D |
| | D | | | | T | | A | | A | | | |
| I | R | A | Q | | R | A | G | | T | A | R | T |
| | U | | U | | U | | O | | R | | U | |
| A | F | F | I | R | M | | N | E | I | G | H | S |
| | F | | Z | | P | | Y | | X | | R | |

Sol'n WORD SQUARE 6-39

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | A | U | L | E | D |
| A | P | P | E | A | R |
| U | P | D | A | T | E |
| L | E | A | V | E | S |
| E | A | T | E | R | S |
| D | R | E | S | S | Y |

FRAZ WORD SQUARE 7-15 (Solution on p 17)
 Identical words read across and down in this square.
 Clues are not listed in order.

- A name is slippery when one can't remember
- Private bounded by a female deer, one taken into the home
- Head of Art showed up outside of the French campus community
- Least sloppy snack inside snug retreat
- Old Spanish coins placed among green veggies
- Pacific islanders backtracking since ghostly sounds
- Rests hours before father with U.S. space agency returns (3 wds.)

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Slot 7

Cryptic
by
Crowsman

Prize
\$50

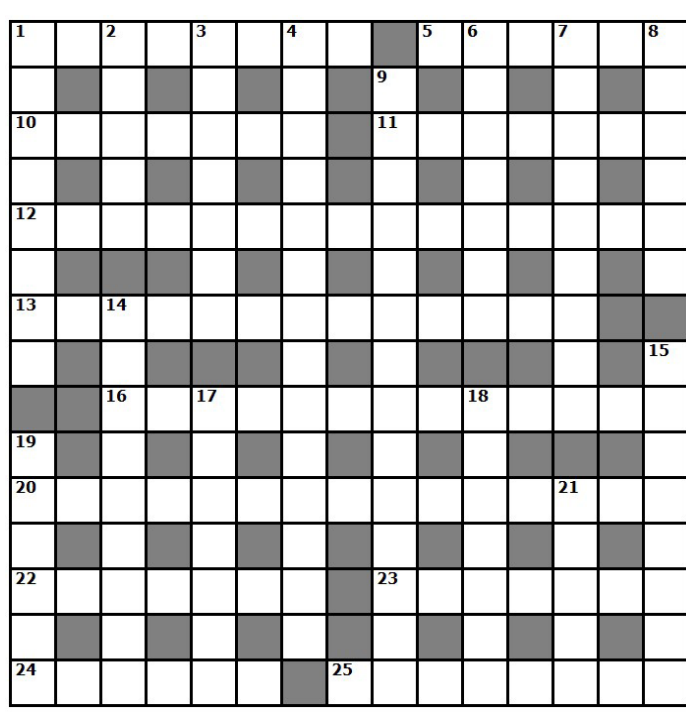
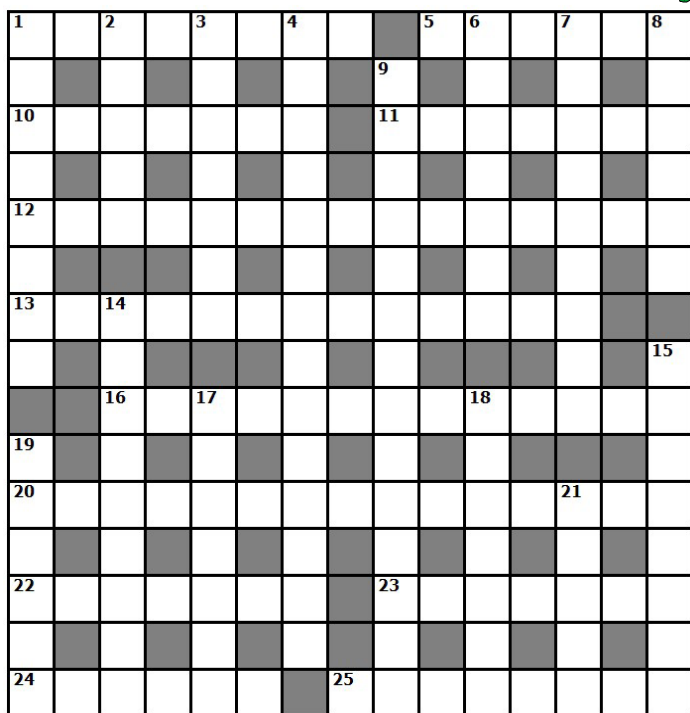
Crowsman's Corner

Across

- 1 Black crystalline mineral around a church (8)
- 5 River rose (6)
- 10 Ex-capital is against one man returning (3,4)
- 11 Gulls sheltered near gulfs (7)
- 12 English periodical is going into food corporation changes (15)
- 13 Section of band supports groups welcoming president (5,8)
- 16 Wacko is operating a rendezvous location in New York (7,6)
- 20 UK county improperly corners a van rental (15)
- 22 Pasta dish has way to include dip (7)
- 23 Cast off fixes pain (3,4)
- 24 Kill or totally set back members of monarch's family (6)
- 25 Greek island overturned deterioration with something to prevent moisture loss (8)

Down

- 1 Garment stand is about a pound (8)
- 2 Discharge member of charitable religion (5)
- 3 John declines soakings (7)
- 4 Witches meeting around oak perhaps in property beside water works (8,6)
- 6 Still wearing former baby's outfit (7)
- 7 State law at last is against crime (9)
- 8 Face is engaged in sleep (6)
- 9 Mean, simple person has debt, scheming with greed (14)
- 14 Emails broadcast secret, but without intent (9)
- 15 Taunt carries fine for dealer in ice? (8)
- 17 County completed northbound trail (7)
- 18 Caller gets it in shade from sun (7)
- 19 Dental aid for mountaineer (6)
- 21 Untimely paint accident (5)



Submit solution via ACCOLADE button on www.crosswordclub.org home page or for mail entries see page 3.
Closing mail date: Friday 31 March 2023.

Members Feedback Slot 5 continued from page 10

- Who would have thought you could include so many OON's in one puzzle. I counted 21 and I had to give YOKO ONO my COTM because it was so cheeky! *Bev Cockburn*
- I loved this puzzle! Caruso and Sinatra got me started. *Hilary Cromer*
- I loved this! POONAC and SHAGROON caused a headache, and filling 21 OONs is a real feat. Thanks, Blue Moon. *Kathy Horadam*
- Egg on to create part word (3) :-) *Alan Dyer*
- So many with 'nothing on' - I didn't know where to look! *Kathleen Harper*
- I was quite chuffed to solve this, as I always have trouble with my sister's clues - not to mention Crowsman! *Anne Simons*
- This was fun to do and I loved the nude OON! *Robyn McKenzie*

From The Daily Telegraph Crossword Newsletter

If you're somebody who solves puzzles on a regular basis, the chances are that you have a dictionary close to hand, ready to wheel out if you need to check the spelling or definition of a word, or just to flick through in search of inspiration when stuck on a crossword and desperately trying to think of a an 11-letter word that begins with 'B', ends with 'R' and means 'puzzle'.

Having read that last sentence, you may now be jumping up and down excitedly and shouting "Brainteaser!" at whatever device you're using to view this newsletter. However, whether you have the right answer depends on what dictionary you are using.

If there's one thing that years of creating and editing puzzles has told me, it's that dictionaries are, putting it politely, inconsistent. A case in point is the word 'brainteaser'. A look in Chambers Dictionary, our usual reference book of choice here at Telegraph Puzzles, shows that it is a single 11-letter word. However, glance at one of the other 'big three' UK dictionary providers, Collins, and they give it as hyphenated, 'brain-teaser', as do Oxford. So, which one is correct? It may seem pedantic to ask this question, but it is important. The difference between having an answer length at the end of a cryptic crossword clue given as (11) and (5-6) is immense as far as many solvers are concerned. Get it wrong, and complaints follow in their dozens.

As if inconsistencies between the different dictionaries aren't enough, each individual tome is often at odds with itself. One of the banes of my life is use of the word 'erne'. While it's a term that rarely comes up in real life, it's a favourite of compilers as there aren't many options when trying to fill a grid and having to find a four-letter word that fits the letter pattern E?N?. You can file it alongside 'ewer', 'olio', 'Erse' and many other pieces of crosswordese.

Why do I single out 'erne'? Well, Chambers defines it as being 'a sea-eagle'. Note the hyphen. However, if you head to the actual dictionary entry for 'sea-eagle', it's two words, with no sign of a hyphen. There are hundreds of such inconsistencies.

As if that isn't enough, things get worse when

comparing different editions of each dictionary, especially print and electronic versions. The free online version of Chambers is based on the Chambers 21st Century Dictionary, which was published in 1999; when it comes to deciding whether certain entries are one word, two words or hyphenated, it often bears no relation to the full print version.

Despite the inconsistencies (and the fact that the Chambers imprint has apparently been scrapped, meaning that the most recent 2016 edition of the dictionary may well be the last), we'll do our best to muddle through the labyrinth of traps set for us by the various dictionary providers. Sometimes we are reminded of the episode of Blackadder the Third in which Edmund tried to rewrite the dictionary created by Robbie Coltrane's Samuel Johnson. Sample entry for 'C': 'Big blue wobbly thing that mermaids live in'. At least things have improved since then.

We thank *The Daily Telegraph* for permission to reprint this article

From the Crossword Centre March newsletter - continued from page 9

Can an AI chatbot solve a cryptic crossword? Chris Lancaster put it to the test in a Telegraph article. You can read it [here](#). Also on the AI bandwagon was Guardian crossword blogger, Alan Connor, who, apparently, interviewed a chatbot setter, [Lady Labyrinth](#). I think there has to be a big improvement before the robots can compete with the human setters. OpenAI's ChatGPT has apparently invented a new game called Sumplete that has the potential to dethrone Wordle. The artificial intelligence model did receive some human help to develop its game from a human user, Daniel Tait, who guided the chatbot and created a website for the game so anyone can play. Sumplete is similar to Sudoku, although its rules are different. Players are given grids with numbers that vary in difficulty. The basic one for beginners has three rows and three columns, increasing in difficulty to 4x4, 5x5, 6x6, and so on. The most advanced grids are 9x9 and are really hard to solve. <https://sumplete.com/>

You can access and subscribe to **Derek Harrison's Crossword Centre newsletter** [here](#)

For interest. the origins of the eponyms in Quiz 2023-3 are detailed below:

| | | |
|----------|-----------------|--|
| A | Axel | Axel Paulsen, Norwegian figure skater (1856—1938) |
| B | Bakelite | Its American inventor, Leo Hendrik Baekeland (1863-1944) |
| C | Catherine wheel | Saint Catherine, who was condemned to death on a spiked breaking wheel, but who was actually martyred by decapitation |
| D | Dobro | Dopyera brothers, American guitar makers, 1920s |
| E | Epicurean | Epicurus, Greek philosopher (341—270 BC) |
| F | Ferris Wheel | GWG Ferris, 1859–96, US engineer |
| G | Gobelin | Created in a manufactory established by the 15 th century family of dyers |
| H | Hobson's choice | Thomas Hobson, 1544–1631, of Cambridge, who hired out horses, and obliged each customer to take the horse nearest the stable door or none at all |
| I | Ignoramus | A lawyer in George Ruggle's play <i>Ignoramus</i> (1615) [also from Latin] |
| J | Jacuzzi | Invented by Roy Jacuzzi, a 3rd-generation member of the Jacuzzi family, Italian immigrants to the US in 1907 |
| K | Knickerbockers | Deidrich Knickerbocker, Washington Irving's pseudonym in his humorous History of New York |
| L | Lacoste | Rene Lacoste, French tennis player 1904-1996 |
| L | Leotard | Jules Leotard, French aerialist (1830—1870) |
| M | Mentor | Greek Mentor, whom Odysseus entrusted with educating his son |
| N | Nicotine | Jean Nicot, French diplomat and scholar, who sent tobacco seeds to Paris in 1550 - died 1600 |
| O | Orrery | Charles Boyle, Fourth Earl of Orrery (1676—1731), for whom one was made. |
| P | Plimsoll line | After Samuel Plimsoll, a 19th Century British MP, whose work led to the first regulations requiring a load line to be marked on ships to assist in the prevention of overloading |
| Q | Quisling | Vidkun Quisling(1887-1945), Norwegian traitor |
| R | Rafflesia | Sir Thomas RAFFLES, British Governor in Sumatra 1818, where the first specimen was found |
| S | Saxophone | Adolphe Sax (1814—1894), inventor |
| T | Tontine | Lorenzo Tonti, Italian-born French banker (1635-1690?) |
| U | Uzi | Designed by Major Uziel "Uzi" Gal |
| V | Venn Diagram | Named after John Venn, 1834–1923, English logician |
| W | Winchester | Named after Oliver F Winchester, 1810–80, US manufacturer |
| X | Xanthippe | Socrates' wife |
| Y | Yapp | William Yapp, London bookseller |
| Z | Zapata | Emilio Zapata (1879—1919), Mexican revolutionary, who wore a moustache of this shape |

Sol'n WORD SQUARE 7-15

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| H | A | S | A | N | A | P |
| A | C | A | D | E | M | E |
| S | A | M | O | A | N | S |
| A | D | O | P | T | E | E |
| N | E | A | T | E | S | T |
| A | M | N | E | S | I | A |
| P | E | S | E | T | A | S |

In Memoriam

Vale Del Kennedy: Betty Siegman writes "I am very sorry to have to tell you that one of our past members, Del Kennedy, passed away in March. In the late '90s Del convinced me to join the ACC; we attended several of the Sydney Christmas lunches together, where we met many of the members, including Patrick and Bev.

Del loved her crosswords, and was seldom without one; she was a regular contributor to the ACC, and members enjoyed her often humorous comments. Unfortunately, failing health and poor eyesight made it difficult for her to continue her membership. Del loved people, and she spread big hugs, happiness and laughter wherever she went. She will be greatly missed by everyone who knew her."

Vale Doreen Jones (Red One): Greg Jones and Fay Copland write:

It is with great sadness that we advise the club of the recent passing of our mother and aunt, Doreen Jones. Whilst never a sporty outdoors type, Doreen was more than a match at any indoor pursuit, from cards to Chinese checkers to cryptic crosswords. These pursuits were never played for fun but rather sheep stations. Contests originally centered around Mah Jong and Solo at her sister Ena's house and were never played for anything less than money – bragging rights were insufficient. Woe betides the child that was invited to play if they were short-handed as your pocket money was soon gone. No prisoners were taken but valuable experience bought.

After crossing the continent to Perth, bridge became the 'go to' card game and Chinese Checkers the way to fleece the pocket money (and then wages) out of the kids. Doreen became one of Western Australia's most experienced bridge players and was still a force at the bridge table on her passing. She represented Western Australia at the Australian National Championships in both the Women's Teams (6 times) and the Seniors Teams (2 times). Whilst still hard to beat at bridge, the 'kids' got better at Chinese Checkers and would more often than not get a bit more of their pocket money back each time they played.

The never-ending constant, however, was crosswords. These were always done at night as a way to relax and wind down. What started as 'straight' crosswords soon morphed into cryptics and an always expanding reference library – not that she needed it. Doreen was the easy 'go to' for help but you had to endure the 'Oh, <insert name here> you should know that!' before you received the knowledge. The beginning of each month saw a flurry of crossword activity with the Australian and English crossword clubs' latest offerings landing. Although she compiled a number of puzzles as "Red One", her greatest love was solving and trying to discover/unravel the mindset of other compilers.

The love of crosswords must have been infectious (or maybe genetic) as family members on both sides of the continent soon acquired the taste and were then 'encouraged' to play the sport of cryptic crosswords as evidenced by this email –

"Dear Greg

I won \$100 in the Crossword Club so today I signed you up as a member. How good is that?

I think that you will love it.

Your Loving Mother

Dor"

Doreen's influence was also responsible for a small group of solvers from Far North Queensland, namely Shelia, Rebel, Dave and Kate. We will miss you Aunty Doreen. Your help was invaluable.

Doreen passed away peacefully on February 24 aged 90 years.