



"Grasp the subject, the words will follow." Cato the Elder,
Ars Rhetorica, I [4th c. AD]

GRIDATORIAL

Members will have noted that the puzzle adjudication arrangements have changed this month. The principal adjudicator will now adjudicate slots 6 and 7 as well as slots 1 to 5, which will save a considerable amount of administrative work in the preparation of CrOZworld. Rejoinders by all compilers will from next month be seen in a new feature on the feedback page, where compilers of all puzzles will be able to respond to feedback if they so wish.

We are sure that you will enjoy the month's challenges. NanaKat leads off with an eminently solvable, well-checked Half and Half in slot 1 and is followed by the welcome return of Buzzer. Ninian will maintain the puzzlement in slot 3 with his individual approach to clueing and Manveru is bound to please with his trademark Jigsaw. The old firm of Anon brings you a slot 5 puzzle which we hope will provide a worthy challenge and Robespierre displays his wit and ingenuity in Slot 6. Zinzan's slot 7 requires you to work out instructions for some manipulation when entering your solution in the grid and the entries will not necessarily be checkable, so take extra care!

Saint Jude provides a different quiz with some unusual answers, all of which are in one of our three references and the whole is rounded off by Ian McKenzie's perceptive analysis of your clues submitted for the January Clue-writing Competition.

Once again, our thanks to all members who have contributed to this month's incomparable crop of puzzles and in particular to Jean Barbour, our adjudicator for the month's slot 1 to 5 puzzles.

Ian

FROM THE ADJUDICATOR

A collection of fun and challenging puzzles greeted our solvers this month, with very few recurring problems. Congratulations to all our lovely compilers, and a special thanks for the hard work of our very dedicated committee members.

Slot 1: Leprechaun presented a clever puzzle for Slot 1, with only 2 repeat problems. A couple of members offered ENBOWER for the correct EMBOWER but we couldn't find this spelling option in any of our references. The other problem was POLL for POLE but this denies the clue reading. All other errors appeared to be typos.

Slot 2: This was a most popular puzzle from Valkyrie this month with good entries and very few errors. The only repeat problems came from CURT for HURT (3 occurrences) and SIGN for SIGH (2 occurrences). The remaining issues seem to be spelling (HOOPEE/HOOPOE and OHMMETRE/OHMMETER) or one off errors such as EGAD/ECHO or NUMBER/NETHER.

Slot 3: P-Brane gave us another fun Australian challenge with good entries and few repetitive errors. RUDE for RUED and SMELTOUT for SMELLOUT both caused more than one lost dot. Otherwise, BOLTS for BAILS, INTONED for INTENSE and a handful of typos or spelling account for the remaining problems.

Slot 4: Everything sailed along with this excellent AJ from Crowsman until the X clue where 12 submissions offered XEROGRAPHIC, which fitted the checked letters, but not the definition [a dry abrasion] of the correct answer XEROTRIPSIS. Explanations are provided later in CrOZworld. A couple of other errors included HOOTERS for HOWLERS and INITIATE for INITIALS, neither of which were consistent with the wordplay - close but no cigar!. Other errors seem to be the usual suspects of spelling mistakes and typos.

continued on page 2

LEADING FIGURES

Puzzle No.	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Entries received	84	82	82	80	57	385
Correct Entries	75	68	71	59	35	308
Success rate(%)	89.3	82.9	86.6	73.7	61.4	80
Prizewinners	Kathryn Forward	Peter McDonald	Roy Taylor	Lynn Jarmane	Col Flinkenberg	from 87 members

Prizewinner: February Slots 1-5 correct: David Grainger. Congratulations!

President / Editor	Ian Williams	12 Lindrum Crescent Holt ACT 2615	ph 0417 493 431	president@crosswordclub.org
Secretary	Jenny Wenham	48 Shakespeare Street Comet Qld 4702	ph 0407 643 277	secretary@crosswordclub.org

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Slot 1

**Half 'n Half
by
NanaKat**



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		41							42				
43						44					45		

Across

- 1 Secure (4)
- 4 Decline turn (4)
- 7 Type of aerobic class (4)
- 10 Tuberos root vegetable (4)
- 11 Australian warbler (6)
- 12 Disturb the peace (4)
- 13 Constituency (4)
- 14 Bucks (4)
- 15 Sleeveless garment (4)
- 17 Feel sorry (6)
- 19 Mastery (9)
- 22 Diplomatic or military body (5)
- 24 Rigging (7)
- 26 Semicircular window (7)
- 29 Desire (5)
- 31 Female leader (9)
- 33 Shred (6)
- 36 Minus (4)
- 38 Shadow (4)
- 39 Lowland (4)
- 40 Affection (4)
- 41 Pamper (6)
- 42 False front (4)
- 43 Otherwise (4)
- 44 Straight (4)
- 45 Dark greenish-blue (4)

Down

- 1 Supporting promise?
Reject it! (8)
- 2 Supply weed for the soup maker,
perhaps (8)

- 3 Thanks, and thanks again for the farewell! (2-2)
- 4 Model of mail centre at south-east (4)
- 5 Stings small markets (6)
- 6 Gratify with Thai chicken staple (4)
- 7 Team is right or left of centre (4)
- 8 Unsteady move during committee term (6)
- 9 Our ops failing; full of holes (6)
- 16 Counter-agent at home infiltrating camp? That's appropriate (9)
- 18 Settle a quarrel about rice clone variation (9)
- 20 Constructive support makes this setter smile radiantly! (1-4)
- 21 Brilliance back in the recital centre (5)
- 23 Tilt back to find cavity (3)
- 25 Express strain? (3)
- 27 Broadcast is remote - and boring! (8)
- 28 Insubstantial, but essentially like the real thing (8)
- 29 Strategic move of king to fortified dwelling (6)
- 30 Ann briefly joins jerks in disruptive behaviour (6)
- 32 Expose to air as heads of aeronautical engineering evaluate (6)
- 34 A look at English plant (4)
- 35 Balanced in revenue (4)
- 36 For fear of the French saint (4)
- 37 Small back muscle providing support in bed (4)

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.
All slots via ACCOLADE or post to 62 Wilshire Street, Dickson ACT 2602, SA 5046

BLANK GRIDS PAGE 16

Closing mail date is 27 March 2026. ACCOLADE entries close at 00.01

Slot 2

Cryptic by Buzzer



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Across

- 6 Try hard before penning a first couple of verses (4,1,2)
- 7 Reinterpret extraordinarily captivating show (7)
- 9 Gathering by word of mouth, leader being deposed (5)
- 10 Following anger, singular temper. What can withstand such heat? (9)
- 11 Solvent one reckons needing more nitrogen and less potassium (7)
- 13 Movie maker shot outside except for climax (6)
- 15 Lose heartbeat, no less (7,4,4)
- 17 Left behind holding parking sign for a new driver (1-5)
- 18 Benevolent accommodating government, mantra for monarchy (7)
- 21 Essay roughly about a page, that is extremely simple (4,2,3)
- 22 African tribe's character is trusty, said to be seen now and again (5)
- 24 Satan be regressive bounder? Nothing odd (4,3)
- 25 Compose a sad song for example, one piercing otherwise (7)

Down

- 1 Love area surrounding very large cricket ground (4)
- 2 Caught one at leg gully (6)
- 3 Baby's dummy thrown from cot again, picked up (9)
- 4 People book sights, so to speak and places to visit, on-line (3,5)
- 5 Old timer's pointer for ticks (6,4)
- 6 Voltaire, he'd be imaginatively implausible (4,2,7)
- 7 Incidental benefit for each workday in essence (4)
- 8 One among equals symbolically essential factor? (3,6,4)
- 12 Understanding between two, bond nearly seen as perfect (10)
- 14 Secret housing stock for small hotelier (9)
- 16 A piece of concrete trap, odds-on protection against waves (8)
- 19 Name say for a weirdo (6)
- 20 Recess in retreat, European spring (4)
- 23 Aces from Tsonga's racket ignited opening set (4)

General feedback for February

- All very much enjoyed *Lyria Bennett Moses*
- I didn't realise I was on the leader board for both crossword and quiz solving for 2025 until a friend rang to congratulate me. What a thrill! *Kath Harper*
- Thanks for my Slot 7 prize from January. I look forward eagerly to each new Crozworld issue and send my appreciation to all the club members who assist in its production. *Jeremy Barnes*

Slot 3

**Cryptic
by
Ninian**



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Across

- 1 End of subject catalogue? (4)
- 3 They lay on the road stopping snakes? (10)
- 9 Unknown author shakes head at nothing, positive or negative (3-4)
- 11 Cover up when in California (7)
- 12 Bolted in, still perfect (8)
- 13 Close borders of Hungary? (5)
- 15 Corresponding conclusion from report that you are too wise to mix with nice lessor? (5,9)
- 20 Cause a car table to shift - perhaps two degrees (14)
- 27 Form a gel with zero gravity and lift up (5)
- 28 Standard vessel crossing river (8)
- 30 How to write ix (and xix) in Arabic, stupid! (7)
- 31 Way home on the farm reserve (7)
- 32 Fidelity has current bird covered in sweat (10)
- 33 Darn folks at the end of the world (4)

Down

- 1 Las Vegas reputedly heard from Ohio metropolis after Ann backed out (3,4)
- 2 Fixed verse, sorted around end of rhyme (7)
- 4 Implement checks for US birds (10)
- 5 Wine joint (4)

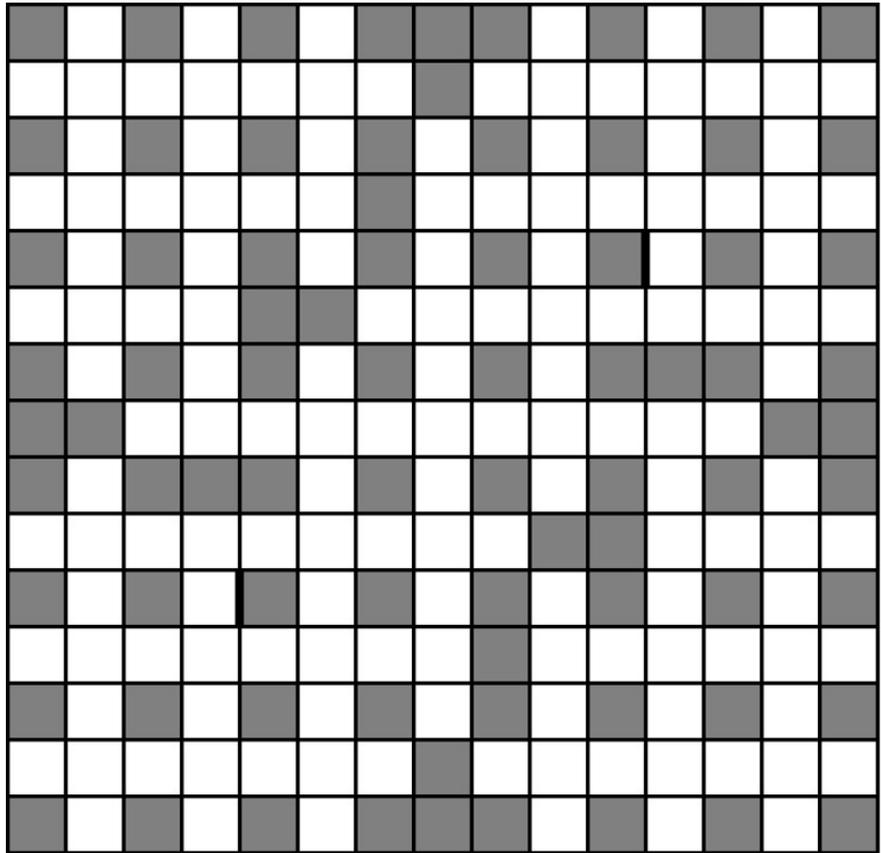
- 6 One who hangs with ladies (7)
- 7 Clipped eagle with others about, going on and on and on (7)
- 8 Fans of comedy say aboard ship (6)
- 10 Slater, short of ton, out at Lords (5)
- 14 Habitual offender allegedly smuggled cat (10)
- 16 Circle back brother (3)
- 17 Cooked ostrich, wanting this legendary bird (3)
- 18 Age contributor to Herald (3)
- 19 You're (not you are!) on call to local lamb producer (3)
- 21 Tick order for a Manx cat before rainstorm (7)
- 22 Mysterious exotics live together (7)
- 23 Dash dash dot initially correct (5)
- 24 Swell part of costumes centre (7)
- 25 Showered and moved quickly around bar (7)
- 26 Point and see dope (6)
- 29 Confined sty and its contents (4)

Slot 4

AJ
by
Manveru



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



- A** Marina is relocated around old peninsula (4,5)
- B** Old blessing used occasionally in cryptic! (7)
- C** Will it provide a rock-solid well-rounded view? (7,4)
- D** Undertaking to host maiden test is crushed (11)
- E** Electric vehicle key requiring electromotive force to go (8)
- F** A tidy fact reassessed by one from chemistry class? (5,4)
- G** Weather-beaten garden transformed with input from head of landscaping (7)
- H** Sacrifices in Macbeth, tragically involve end of Banquo and son (9)
- I** It's uncertain, need hint perhaps (2,3,3)
- J** Jack - a fool or a care taker? (7)
- K** Piece integral to checkmate? (4)
- L** 51kms east, then west and 1 southeast also (8)
- M** Storm is happening - that's a bit of bad luck (6)
- N** They report directions with reduced list of courses (7)
- O** Those using V or headless chickens (6)
- P** Picked President by chance with Delaware getting up (7)
- Q** Powerful board member threatening the clergy and military? (5)

- R** Optical attachment is concerning with a thousand lost from stroke (7)
- S** Step in something climbing up to trap bird (5)
- T** Times cryptic is ultimately fan-bloody-tastic, say (6)
- U** On horseback, charge to the top (6)
- V** Climber eating cooked seal with preperation (8)
- W** Aussie flower covering a green uprising (7)
- X** Tongue kiss with passion occasionally returned (4)
- Y** Having a desire for spending money wilfully, but mopeds are out (7)
- Z** Mazda lover starting to *Zoom* round, putting acceleration into roll (9)

Slot 5

**Cryptic
by
Anon**



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Across

- 1 Reports body found in acts of anarchy (5,5)
- 10 Oxford, for one, retrospectively framing matched Stone Age implements (7)
- 11 Compiler turned around Greek musician to advocacy of the Gospel (10)
- 12 Very large one with very small measurement. Sense? Not initially (7)
- 13 Affected region held back not even a single scallion (10)
- 14 Close relations when securing release (7)
- 15 Ship carrying popular food for horse (10)
- 16 Angel keeps away from anagi spokesperson (7)
- 20 Sneezing confused about Grumpy's fourth group of proteins (7)
- 25 Released missing leader outside basic dwelling (10)
- 26 Rigidity is returning in part of joint (7)
- 27 Not working, Hazel embraced martial art (6-4)
- 28 A sort of paper in dispute (2,5)
- 29 Caliph beat anagi into a type of order (10)
- 30 Use mica blend to produce alkaline metal (7)
- 31 Team distributes type of salads maybe (4,6)

Down

- 2 Overturning popular interpretation (9)
- 3 Extended musical embodying yen for a great age (9)
- 4 Around fringe, make drunk scrape (9)

- 5 Old restrictions on thoughts (8)
- 6 Discussion groups for disorderly South Australian miners (8)
- 7 Furious old bird (8)
- 8 Useful things for instrumentalists in performance, but not St Martin! (8)
- 9 Judge molasses sorbitol constituents (8)
- 17 Church involved in sign, one detailing seating arrangement (5,4)
- 18 Bare headland exhibiting lack of cover (9)
- 19 Replace excess with ceremony (9)
- 20 Transport gateway (8)
- 21 Stubbornly persistent bloke coming off bulldozing names minerals (8)
- 22 Following a degree in Principles of Submarine Assembly, the Italian created a propulsion device (8)
- 23 Count Marrowsky expressed his view that the sweet bread roll appears light (8)
- 24 Legally prevented ex-leader parking in storehouses when turning up (8)

Slot 6

Cryptic by Robespierre



Across

- 1 Daughter with cosmetic obscuring face - it's hidden under bonnet! (8)
- 5 One who fled Robespierre's cruel regime! (6)
- 9 Playing around, twiddling lute during promotion track (8)
- 10 Late transport picks up close to home (6)
- 12 Quaker throttled by English magician in back part of plane (9)
- 13 See 14
- 14,13 Spooner's cut was painful, irritating habit (4, 5)
- 16 Dog's breakfast for a mongrel kid kept inside (7)
- 19 Spooner's left rib is warning sign (3,4)
- 21 Now important to protect weakling (4)
- 24 Good eggs repelled cheat (5)
- 25 Scant cover left over in hospital to cover bloody mass (9)
- 27 Noble philosopher denying almost all knowledge at the end (6)
- 28 Two partners stop priest playing Old Maid (8)
- 29 English flower planted in front of largely lacklustre portico (6)
- 30 Plan homeless housing to expand gradually at first (8)

Down

- 1 What the continent won't need recompensed in return (6)

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- 2 Goes for soft fruit on the outside (6)
- 3 Brown bears bit head off giant (5)
- 4 My gas stifling, at first, surreptitious booty-grabber! (7)
- 6 Powerful current conductor left inside motor starter (9)
- 7 Revolutionary month good for technology introduction in airport building (8)
- 8 Response of excited member in ballot where Right displaces Left?! (8)
- 11 See 20
- 15 Animal runs under a log, tail thrashing (9)
- 17 Men-only organ writing about article in Times (8)
- 18 Supplement said in France to be found in a disreputable bar (8)
- 20,11 Foil rigged deal in on-course activity (4,4)
- 21 Cat and dog or cat and dog! (7)
- 22 It pierces winged god making return flight (6)
- 23 Ticklish model getting sexually aroused (6)
- 26 In crisis, lied to evade genocidal party line? (5)

Slot 7

Cryptic by Zinzan



The initial letters of clues, sorted in alphabetical order of their solutions, spell out an extra instruction to be carried out before submitting the grid. Some words in the grid may therefore not be recognised by spell-checkers, therefore please take care before submission. initial letters of clues, sorted in alphabetical order of their solutions, spell out an extra instruction to be carried out before submitting the grid. Some words in the grid may therefore not be recognised by spell-checkers, therefore please take care before submission.

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Across

- 8 Sunny side feature of wooden frame as stated (4)
- 9 One catches cattle at display heading West (5)
- 10 Nuptial assent line from beloved (4)
- 11 Is loveless actor Bridges reverting inside scenes that are delightful? (6)
- 12 Important guests at the front have tears from some moving scenes (3,5)
- 13 Is being 40 'past it'? (6,2)
- 15 A victory in Europe possessing England to even the score (6)
- 17 Tad late initially and is wandering farthest from the Centre (6)
- 19 Location in the Caribbean has some heated sessions divided on trading spots (6)
- 22 Teem over edges of iron furnace and spilt (6)
- 24 Common elands possibly run after chips to start with (8)
- 26 Nasty sledge that is written, on reflection (8)
- 28 For example, sins betray bigots regularly (6)
- 30 Easily float when all flotation tanks initiated (4)
- 31 Designated place facing bridge opponents used occasionally (5)
- 32 Undue haste to skin walrus hide (4)

Down

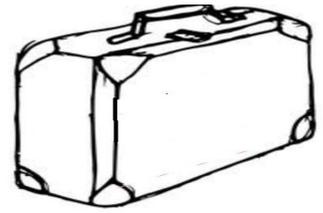
- 1 Taking note, overwhelm uploaded piece of software (4)
- 2 Pervert mostly sent silky silhouettes from Paris and others (8)

- 3 Even parts of Accra upset by being ill-humoured (6)
- 4 Report of levy one almost adds belatedly (5,2)
- 5 Not exactly pacy type of horse goes around animal on the river bank (8)
- 6 Secure about holding constant defensive position (6)
- 7 Reflects on masterful political leaders' easy run (4)
- 14 No addition to cricket score? Spread out! (5)
- 16 Imbibing alcohol, doctor's a sourpuss (5)
- 18 Hyundais possibly on short roadway back up without thinking (8)
- 20 Seeing benefits in pay system that collects unpaid tax initially (8)
- 21 Golfer keeping a record of damage to their vehicle? (7)
- 23 Exercise session in the gym overlooked women's crews (6)
- 25 Extra sharp skill displayed in tense hospital setting (6)
- 27 Act unhelpfully cut short by a fuse out of operation (4)
- 29 Sack judge from sporting contest (4)

The blank grid for this puzzle is on page 11



Quiz 2026-3 by St Jude. All answers are in alphabetical order and have something in common. Only one clue contains a definition, which points to the commonality. For the other clues, solvers should find a word that matches this commonality from the wordplay. Every answer can be found in at least one of the three club references. Send your solutions to drewski1@hotmail.com [or mail to 6 Levien St Scullin ACT] Closing mail date 27 March 2026.



- 1 Crazy dare about short war (6)
- 2 Brother to consume healthier- including introduction of yeast and zinc (12)
- 3 Company spread (7)
- 4 A wee drop to education before you start (7)
- 5 Coin tour disputed after vote (13)
- 6 French take several measures (7)
- 7 Good light in left side of glade (8)
- 8 Put up with rally? Not all! (6)
- 9 Manlier coif created (11)
- 10 Nonsense -- old queen not trans earl (10)
- 11 Kentucky also initially needed (6)
- 12 Report on learner trapped in ice (8)
- 13 The Spanish foreword? (5)

- 14 Developing quiet tenet (10)
- 15 A bar cameo needs movement(9)
- 16 Container harbour staff beginning to arrive at French water (11)
- 17 Punt endlessly to have turn (6)
- 18 Unites gypsy man and commander (6)
- 19 Details pamphlet's content (4)
- 20 Upset git working (5)
- 21 Sly US - Irani disturbance (10)
- 22 With speed, the Spanish company accepted right (6)
- 23 Almost complete sphinx (lacking extremities) (8)
- 24 Nothing said on chart with one axis (10)
- 25 Female principal heard by head girl to have about fifty? (8)
- 26 Trim girdle most important (6)

Quiz 2026-2 Voluptuous words by Michael Vnuk
Entries: 32. Maximum score: 26. Prizewinner: Richard Skinner. Congratulations!

Results

26 W Allen, U Axelsen, L Colgan, J Crowe, C Flinkenberg, K Harper, R Jarman, M Kennedy, J Leigh, A Martin, F Martin, R McKenzie, A Miles, A Millard, A Paterson, D Rosendorff, F Simpson, R Skinner, R Wimbush, 25 M Blake, K Francis, D Meek, A Simons, R Taylor, C Wilcox, 24 S Goodman, L Jarman, S Pinder, W Ryan, B Siegman, 22 D Bennett, P Garner.

Answers

1 luau, 2 tubular, 3 cucumber, 4 fraudulent, 5 liqueur, 6 dufus, 7 arugula, 8 uhuru, 9 colloquium, 10 juju, 11 ukulele, 12 calculus, 13 tumultuous, 14 unusual, 15 tumultuous, 16 acupuncture, 17 bouquet, 18 uhuru, 19 unusual, 20 future, 21 Uuu, 22 vuvuzela, 23 uwu, 24 luxurious, 25 kikuyu, 26 yuzu

Setter's Observations

The number of clues (26) suggested that answers tracked the alphabet. After some easier answers (eg LUAU, LIQUEUR, ACUPUNCTURE), the relationship should have become clearer. That is, each answer includes the sequence U?U, where ? is a unique letter of the alphabet and the answers are alphabetically ordered on this letter. Doubling-up of answers (eg UNUSUAL for N and S) was an opportunity not to be missed.

Points were lost due to typos or answers not meeting criteria. Some answers looked like placeholders, eg UVU, as if the writer knew the pattern but failed to find the full answer or forgot to return to it. One alternative was accepted, LUXURIANT, as some sources list it as a synonym for LUXURIOUS, though others differentiate the words' meanings.

Solvers' Feedback

- You clever quiz writer you! Quite an enjoyable alphabetical romp. It helped that I knew the answer to #23 from the get-go. *Fraser Simpson*

- What a clever quiz! I hope you had as much fun in devising it as I have had in solving it. *Alison Martin [Yes indeed! MV]*
- What a great concept. Had to Google Uwu, so the penny dropped early, and most flowed quickly – I was most dubious when nearing U! Outstanding. I tried to find 26 unique words, but gathered you doubled up on purpose. *William Ryan*
- Thanks for the quiz, which happily you could go all 26 elements of the set! Thought it was three Us per word but not quite so. *Andrew Paterson*
- As usual, the title made sense once I solved a few clues. Thanks for the fun – and a few new words. *Kath Harper [Title was originally 'Unusual words', but I wanted 'unusual' in the quiz. MV]*
- Uwu was new to not just you! Hopefully, I have spelt vuvuzela correctly. I often wrongly transpose the letters! *Andrew Miles [Hm, how often does one need to write vuvuzela? MV]*
- Thanks for putting together this fun quiz. It took me a little while to see the alphabetical pattern and the reason for the repeat words, but it all makes sense. *Michael Kennedy*
- Another fun quiz, unusual with three double-up answers, plus your new word. As a matter of interest, was it applied to you? *Ken Francis [No. Saw it when it was allowed in Scrabble. MV]*
- Thanks for an enjoyable quiz. *Con Flinkenberg*
- Unusual! Thank you. *Julie Leigh*
- Futureweb indeed! Thank you for a very interesting quiz. I learnt more than one new word so that's a plus. That was fun! *Robyn Wimbush [I've had a Futureweb email address since 1997, but the original company that handled those addresses is no longer around. MV]*
- Most interesting property and arrangement. *Richard Skinner*
- This was a most enjoyable exercise. Became much easier once I realised what the similar property was! *Cheryl Wilcox*

March 6-2026 Cryptic by T-boy (Toby McLeay)
Entries received 73, Correct 62, Success rate 85%.
Prizewinner: Jenny Madden. Congratulations!

Compiler's observations: Thank you for the kind words. A reasonable success rate apart from the inevitable typos. No real problems otherwise, except for NANOMETRE, which didn't have an indication of a US origin that would have allowed the METER form. The intersecting CONCERTISING is perhaps an unusual term but is in our references.

Explanations - Across: **1** BANES in ALE, **5** hw, **10** (TONK + POT)<, **11** gIrL + L + NESS, **12** MASSA<, **13** SID + ELI + NED, **14** TARTS< + O + HERPES*, **18** C + CORNET* + I + SING, **21** MET + AMERICa, **23** TRUe + MP, **24** EMBeR + OIL, **25** AI + LETTERs, **26** SHEiK + EL, **27** ROSE in KEEN*. **Down:** **1** ASHTRAY, **2** dd, **3** NAN + O + METRE, **4** (ROYALISTS + ACT + IF)*, **6** ALLY + L, **7** CLEo + ANSwER, **8** MUSK + homoph "dear", **9** (SEE + CHAOS + GO)* rev anag, **15** UNPOLITIC*, **16** SCAM + REPS*, **17** co<>U NSTABLE, **19** A + UNTIE, **20** PIE in ACE, **22** MOOS + E.

Solvers' Feedback

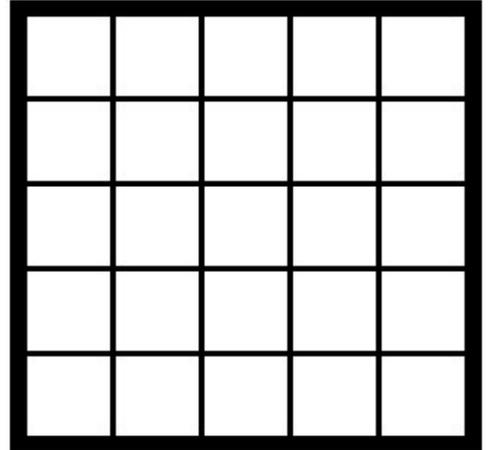
- I appreciated WILD GOOSE CHASE an uncommon reverse anagram. I also liked PUNCTILIO and AUNTIE. Most enjoyable! *Len Colgan*
- In CLEANSER, is "without" meant to function as with(w)/out? [Yes - T-b] In WILD GOOSE CHASE, usually there's an indicator that the answer is treated cryptically, and a '?' *Andrew Patterson*
- Nice one !! *Craig Blundell*
- Good clues, many difficult. I had no idea a topknot could be a fish. *Roy Taylor*
- A good challenge although took a while to work out word play for CLEANSER and WILD GOOSE CHASE. *Ulla Axelsen*
- You nailed it Toby! Much as I hate to do it, my COTM vote has to go to TRUMP. *Betty Siegman*
- Enjoyable challenge - still not sure how UNSTABLE parses. *Michael Fitzgerald*
- Enjoyable puzzle loved the AUNTIE clue *Joan Smith*
- Lovely puzzle. *Krittibas Dasgupta*
- Lots of great clues here. I loved AUNTIE and TRUMP, and thought CLEANSER very clever. *Julie Crowe*
- AILETTE took a little while to unravel - clever wordplay. *Mal Cockburn*
- Challenging! *Kathryn Forward*
- I've encountered TOPKNOT pigeons, but didn't know there was an aquatic equivalent. You learn something new every month. *Kath Harper*

FRAZ WORD SQUARE March 1

(Solution on p 12)

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

- On the same level, time part of a track meet
- Desert holiday
- Engagements filling in some squares
- Reportedly pulls away billiard cue supports
- Bush senior

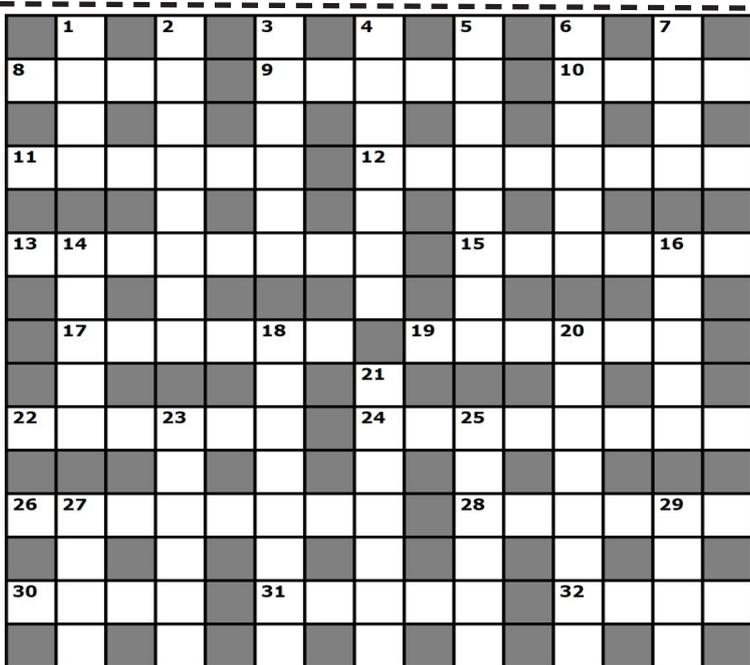
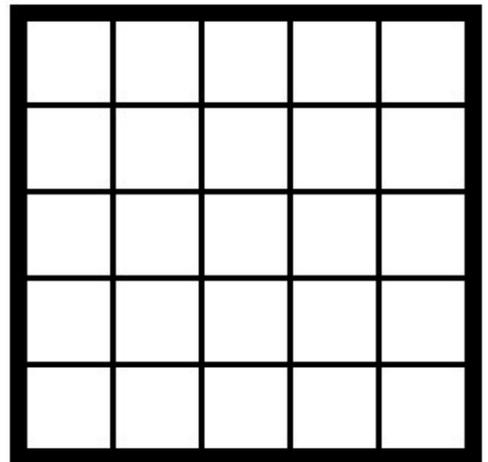


FRAZ WORD SQUARE March 2

(Solution on p 12)

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

- Repulsed Eastern European wed in secret
- Nonconformist bishop drawn into lively dance
- Bigwig returned an angler's float
- Landlord won in casino city to the west...
- ...with robust high roller



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

Explanations for clues in February slots 1 to 5: Note: cd = cryptic definition; dd = double definition; rev or < = reversal; homophones shown 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 Leprechaun. [Cryptic clues] **Across:** 1 anag, 11 rOUTER, 12 MAGic, 19 anag, 25 anag. **Down:** 3 homoph "poll", 5 CAT+FLAP, 6 FOOD+STUFFS, 7 cd, 8 dd, 9 IP in CHER, 14 SWITCH+(NODE)*, 18 DE+SPAT+CH, 20 heads, 22 (EL+I) in HUM, 24 hidden<.

Slot 2 Valkyrie. **Across:** 7 STRUT+H, 8 (THEM MORE)*, 10 CAR+T+W+RIGHT, 11 Double, 12 HARD + CURR(E+N+C)IES, 14 H(OOP<)OE, 15 A + LIGHT, 18 (UNSIGHTLY TINEA)*, 20 nETHER, 21 (SIN + NET)< + SHOE, 23 HE(A+DA+C)HE, 24 (N<>s)IGHTS. **Down:** 1 ATTACHE + TO, 2 (c<>H)URT, 3 CHAR + (CRATE IS)* + TICK, 4 HOG+GER+Y, 5 BE(SEE+CH)ING, 6 Hidden, 9 MAT+HE+MA(T<>g)ICIANS, 13 REP+RE+H+ENDS, 16 (TOO FLASHY - O)*, 17 H(A)UNTED, 19 N+ETHER, 22 Homoph "psi".

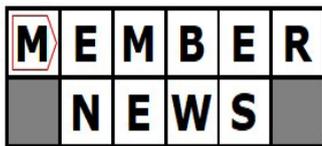
Slot 3 P-brane. **Across:** 1 dd, 4 spooner "yard hacker", 9 hidden, 10 (LOST MULE)*, 12 dd, 14 Homoph "rude", 15 cd, 18 (IMPALE HERO)*, 20 GAPS<, 23 KANGAROO + COURT, 26 (OR BE IDLE)*, 27 FOI + [ta]BLE, 28 FUNNEL + WEB, 29 cdd. **Down:** 1 (GREEN BREAD)*, 2 IN + TENSE, 3 SCRAWLs, 5 hidden, 6 YELL + OWER, 7 K + NOT + TED, 8 fAt CaTs + S, 11 I in BLUSH, 13 B + RIGHTNESS, 16 GALLOn>P, 17 DOWN + SIDE, 19 (L + HONKER)*, 21 P + LUMBER, 22 A + COS in CT, 24 tALLOW, 25 Homoph "surf".

Slot 4 Crowsman. A A + homoph of 'stair', B (a)BUSES, C CAS(SET)TE, D NERD< + C H, E FE< + FETE, F rev anag 'sift', G RANG< + LIES + T(hem), H H(OWL)ERS, I IT in (I + SLAIN<), J homoph of 'duke' + BOX, K KA(LAMA)ZOO, L LAVA-(lava) + S, M MAY + FAIR, N NE(AREAS)T, O OP(ERA)TION, P PORT(RAY)AL, Q homoph of 'cwacker', R cd, S S(IN)ECURE, T (I + PA) in TAN, U UNW(ARRANT)ED, V VOUS around ICI, W dd, X (TORE< + RIPS) in SIX<, Y YU(CAT)AN, Z SUEZ< around B(ig).

Slot 5 The Mythtics. **Across:** 7 hidden<, 8 (R)ATTI(r)ES+T, 10 SAT+IRIS+T, 11 A+BELIA(L), 12 bOATER, 13 (CAPE+M) in SENT, 15 AD+AS+TRAm, 17 UNE+N+D+E+D, 19 homoph "ferry tail", 20 OR+B+IT, 22 AGO+N+I+C, 23 PARA+STEP<, 25 LOVE after FREE, 26 OBE+R+ON. **Down:** 1 CLOAK+AND+DAG+GER, 2,21 (TOP BRIDE PRICE - T)*, 3 ER in PI, 4 ER(O+T)ICA, 5 HG Wells TEAM in SPUNK, 6 Spooner "mines LAN", 9 anag, 14 PROJECTOR, replace J with T, 16 ST+RANGER, 18 PALE<+SES, 24 ROOKy.

Feedback on Quiz 2026-2 cont from page 15

- Thank you for a most interesting quiz. Definitely not non-u!! Once the penny dropped re the similar property it was great fun although not without its challenges. Three of my answers are repeated ... but I presume this is ok as repeated words were not forbidden. *Maureen Blake*
- I hope the repeated solutions are allowed - I could not find another Swahili word for independence! *Warren Allen*
- Salutations Michael, thank U for a salubrious quiz consuming much of a Saturday. *Betty Siegman*
- Thanks, Michael, for a very uwu quiz. *Roy Taylor*
- A brilliant quiz but you had me tricked for a time with the clever idea of double entries where the word had u*u twice. *David Bennett*
- A clever, enjoyable quiz. It's not often you get to use the same word twice. *Ulla Axelsen*
- I thought this was a terrific quiz. It took me a while to get the way it worked - I could see the abundance of u's, but couldn't quite put it together. Many thanks. *Julie Crowe*
- A very challenging quiz. It took ages to work out! *Anne Simons*
- Thank you for the quiz - an excellent challenge. Well done you! *Ron Jarman*
- Who would have thought it possible that this collection of words was in the English language! Thank you. *Ann Millard*
- All went swimmingly until I reached #22. Vuvuzela is surprisingly not in my older edition of Chambers, but is in Collins. I knew the word, but it took a while for my overworked brain to recall it. *Len Colgan*
- Thanks for the quiz. Although solving a couple straight off, the repeated words had me puzzled and it took a while to notice the pattern. Very clever! *Drew Meek*
- What an unusual puzzle! Thank you. *Sue Pinder*
- Thank you for setting this quiz to keep us awake! It certainly presented some challenges. *Pat Garner*
- Thanks for a very entertaining quiz. *Scott Goodman*
- Thanks for the quiz, Michael. I learned a few new words in doing this, including your UWU expression. *Robyn McKenzie*
- This was a bit of fun finding a few lesser known words, and also realising there were words which had TWO common elements within them! Thanks for the good work. *Frank Martin*



Subscriptions A reminder to members that prizes may be set against future subscriptions. This may be particularly useful for those whose preferred payment method relies on cheques that are being phased out by many banks. Just contact Jenny if this would be of assistance.

Donations to the Prize Fund Many thanks to David Bennett for his generous donation to the Prize fund.

ACC Facebook Page The facebook page shown opposite provides a forum for discussion of cruciverbal matters crossword related banter in a friendly environment and timely reminders (thank you, Jenny) of closing dates and gremlin activity. Click on the link and join the fun!

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 advice and assistance Email Ian for more detail and some helpful information.

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](#) on Facebook or click the above hyperlink.

February 1: Leprechaun (Larry Kennedy)

- Some nice material here, but 24dn is missing a hidden indicator ('buries' is not one in this clue). *Len Colgan*
- Great to start another month of Croz after the Christmas break! *Ann Millard*
- Very enjoyable!! *Craig Blundell*
- Loved slot 1. Thank you, Leprechaun. *Kate Williams*
- Love your work Dad...as long as I gain a dot. *Michael Kennedy*
- A nice mixture, many thanks. *Betty Siegman*
- Thanks for a challenging slot 1. *Ulla Axelsen*
- 19ac could I believe be either setter or tester? Plumped for tester as a little more likely, but... *Richard Skinner*
- A good start to February. Thank you, Leprechaun. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Nice start for the month, favourite clues CATFLAP and CIPHER. *Joan Smith*
- A very enjoyable puzzle - well done Leprechaun. *Mal Cockburn*
- CATFLAP was a lovely clue. *Kathy Horadam*
- That was different having wordy clues in italics. I prefer the one word clues. *Lynn Jarman*

February 2: Valkyrie (Ulla Axelsen)

- Nice - for a while I had 'bewitching' pencilled in for 5dn before solving 11ac. The alt spellings in the wordplays for the two long answers ('char' and 'mat') gave me a bit of a 23ac. *Michael Fitzgerald*
- A handsome helping of H's! *Fraser Simpson*
- STRUTH, I haven't heard that word for years. *Betty Siegman*
- How's that! Every word has an aitch (which has one too). *Roy Taylor*
- Liked HAUNTED! *Toby McLeay*
- Enjoyable puzzle favourite clue was HOOPOE. *Joan Smith*
- I do love long words. Some good clues here. Thanks Ulla. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Lovely clues. I had much trouble with 5dn caused by me putting in EYES for 11ac. (Which I thought a reasonable answer to the clue, e-yes, homonym for ayes) ECHO way better, of course, and then TECHIE became obvious. Also loved 2dn, HURT. *Julie Crowe*
- Good clues, especially 10, 14, 23 across & 22 down. *Anne Simons*
- Crikey, I did like STRUTH and now know there's a bird called a hoopoe. *Ken Francis*
- Some fun word-play to crack. TENNIS SHOE took me a while to understand but sin-net< made sense of it. *Mal Cockburn*
- Everywhere an H! (Not seen till submission.) I couldn't parse the clues for 20ac and 21ac. *Kathy Horadam*
- Long answers are a pleasure offering help with intercepting answers. 7A was a banned word for me as a child I was told it was blasphemous. *Lynn Jarman*

February 3: P-brane (Roger Hearn)

- Good puzzle. I especially liked KNOTTED. Grammatically, 'first priority' is not P, even though some compilers use such; 'first of priorities' is grammatically correct. *Len Colgan*

- The clue to 14ac was ambiguous. The answer could correctly have been RUDE or RUED. *David Bennett*
- Top, left corner was tricky, then I came to the bottom right! *Ulla Axelsen*
- Liked BAILS, INTENSE, RINGLEADER (COTM). *Toby McLeay*
- Loved the clue for KNOTTED. *Joan Smith*
- A nice Aussie flavour. *Ian Thompson*
- 2dn, INTENSE, had me stumped for ages, as did 18ac! *Kathryn Forward*
- 12ac & 2, 3, 16, 21 down best clues. *Anne Simons*
- I really enjoy these Australiana-themed puzzles. Thanks, P-Brane. *Mal Cockburn*
- INTENSE was a great clue, and I love the Australiana. *Kathy Horadam*
- Lots of Aussie terms here, to follow on from STRUTH in Slot 2. *Kath Harper*
- Thank you to cryptic buddies who helped with this slot. *Lynn Jarman*

February 4: Crowsman (Len Colgan)

- Lots of fun! *Fraser Simpson*
- What a great puzzle with some beaut clues. Especially liked DRENCH and HOWLERS. Thanks, Len. *Ann Millard*
- Enjoyable AJ. *Roy Taylor*
- A good challenge, some interesting definitions. *Ulla Axelsen*
- Favourites VICIOUS (très bon), SUPPLIES (RA?), MAYFAIR, HOWLERS. *Toby McLeay*
- Please explain X clue. *Brian Symons*
- All clues were clear and fair. No complaints. *Andrew Patterson*
- Kalamazoo? Well, going back in time now. Unfortunately, my wife and I remember using same! *Richard Skinner*
- I liked HOWLERS. UNWARRANTED too. Thank you, Len. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Great clues especially HOWLERS, INITIALS, QUACKER and VICIOUS. *Joan Smith*
- I particularly loved QUACKER, MAYFAIR and OPERATION. *Julie Crowe*
- Testing. Have my fingers crossed! *Anne Simons*
- Q made me smile and K brought back memories of using the system 50+ years ago. *Ken Francis*
- I really enjoy these Australiana-themed puzzles. Thanks, P-Brane. *Mal Cockburn*
- INTENSE was a great clue, and I love the Australiana. *Kathy Horadam*
- Lots of Aussie terms here, to follow on from STRUTH in Slot 2. *Kath Harper*
- Loved RED SEA. Maybe 'played' could have been used instead of 'produced' but either/or. Gets my COTM. *Mal Cockburn*
- So many great clues in this AJ. Particularly liked HOWLERS. *Hilary Cromer*
- I loved the H and Q clues. *Kath Harper*
- The Q clue reminds me of a cartoon where Elmer Fudd is walking to his mailbox wearing thongs going FWIP-FWOP FWIP-FWOP... *Jan Wood*
- OPTION and HOWLERS were favourites; but the 13 letter solutions took me ages. *Kathy Horadam*
- Liked the clues for TAIPAN; QUACKER and HOWLERS. *Ron Jarman*
- X was puzzling as I needed to get a few horizontal answers first and my final answer may still be incorrect. I particularly enjoyed HOWLERS and JUKEBOX. Len also gets my COM. *Lynn Jarman*

continued on page 15

Feedback on February Slot 5 -cont' from page 14

February 5: The Mythtics (Ulla Axelsen & Ian Williams)

- A challenging puzzle with an innovative definition concept and a theme that once divined still kept the solver hard at work. I count 7, not 6, genre clues. A couple of quibbles: 19ac (Hans Christian) Andersen is the correct spelling. FAIRY & FERRY are not true homophones. 6dn, I can't find any dictionary or other reference support for LINESMAN equating to the definition "author". *Ian McKenzie [a little literary poetic licence - M]*
- A literary theme is always a treat! *Fraser Simpson*
- This was a challenge. Finding the theme wasn't too tricky but had never heard of OATER or STEAMPUNK - both great clues. *Ann Millard*
- I found this difficult but enjoyed the theme of various authors and genres. 6dn seems to have definition "author" but LINESMAN is the series of SF books by author Dunstall. *Roy Taylor*
- Where would we be in a world without books. *Betty Siegman*
- A terrific challenge with some super clues (including all of the themed clues). Still unsure of my answer to 3dn. OATER and AGONIC both new to me. OBERON was one of the highlights. *Michael Fitzgerald*
- That was a difficult one. AD ASTRA was a bit far out. *Toby McLeay*
- An unusual theme methodology. OATER means Western film? Who knew. *Richard Skinner*
- A few unfamiliar words there, but most enjoyable. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Found this puzzle a little bit hard, liked the clue for STEAMPUNK (though had to look it up) and STRANGER. *Joan Smith*
- For the 19ac clue, 'Anderson' should be 'Andersen', if it is referring to the author Hans Christian Andersen. *Michael Vnuk*
- I stressed over 19ac, but eventually decided that the spelling of Anderson was a typo. My answer to 16ac is incorrect otherwise! I wasn't familiar with STEAMPUNK as a literary genre. A very interesting puzzle. *Julie Crowe*
- I didn't think that I would ever finish this. Took a long time to twig literary genres. *Anne Simons*
- Brilliant Theme - definitely had the grey matter working overtime. Liked OBERON. A few took a while to parse - (B)OATER & ROOK(Y). Well done, The Mythtics. *Mal Cockburn*
- Quite a tough challenge, especially for a slot 5. Interesting theme. *Ian Thompson*
- What a quirky set of literary genres - especially OATER! *Kath Harper*

beginning of the two successive synonyms DREW + SKIVER - doesn't quite work. To get DRIVER, you drop SK from SKIVER and replace the SK by DR from DREW. This means the companion word is SKEW, which is not a homophone of SCREW. (Alternatively, you could generate SCREW by taking only D from DREW but then, in replacing SK in SKIVER, you get only DIVER.)

Writer mistakenly drew inside using *this implement* *^{1/2}**

Parsing is: SCR (DREW)* IVER. Surface reading works well. A question mark relates to the obscurity

continued on page 12

Clue-writing competition for January, adjudicated by Ian McKenzie

The principal dictionary definitions of **SCREWDRIVER** are:

- an instrument for turning and driving screws
- a cocktail whose main ingredients are vodka and orange juice

The winner is Ulla Axelsen's

Cocktail party to follow opening of sex club ****

Parsing is: S + CREW + DRIVER. A simple, elegant clue with seamless surface and nice misdirection with the use of "club". Congratulations!

The other entries are listed in alphabetical order with each definition *italicised* as usual.

After the start of summer, men on the Nile say "Consume daiquiri first, then another cocktail" *^{1/2}**

Parsing - S + CREW + (D) RIVER - is effective. Surface reading works, with the example and containment indicators and the definition cleverly integrated. A quibble is that the inactive "on" serves as a link only for a down clue.

Cocktail of vodkas & richer red wines: do not keep in shade, ok *^{1/2}**

The wordplay is an accurate anagram of (VODKA + RICHER RED WINES) less (IN SHADE OK). The innovative anagram fodder continues the alcoholic beverages theme of "cocktail", which does double duty as both definition and anagram. Double duty is unconventional and arguably unfair when without any alert to the solver, who might reasonably look for the definition at the RH end of the clue. The logic of the literal instruction to *not* store drinks in the shade is perhaps perplexing to the reader but nevertheless this is fundamentally a good removal/anagram clue.

Implement scam with Moldova's central banker? *^{1/2}**

Parsing - SCREW + D + RIVER - and surface reading are good, with a misleading use of the definition word. The setter commented that the question mark is included because the definition is by example. But "implement" is a hypernym, not an example, so - to my mind - the question mark is not required. A Ximenean might quibble re the grammar of "Moldova's central" but I don't think solvers would have difficulty with the intended instruction and the construction achieves "central banker", enhancing the surface.

This is for Turning Point team before split between Democrat and Republican ****

Parsing - S + CREW +D (RIVE) R - is effective. An innovative clue with the definition smoothly integrated with the wordplay. Some solvers may not fully appreciate the extent of the US political theme: Turning Point USA is the conservative political movement founded by the late Charlie Kirk. The setter wryly noted that the definition not only applies to the meaning of the tool but could perhaps also refer to the cocktail used for a different type of turning!

Vodka and orange enticed slacker, according to Spooner ***

Good surface reading. The problem is that the spoonerism - the switch of consonant clusters at the

