



|N|O|2|5|7| |S|E|P|T|E|M|B|E|R| |2|0|1|1|



www.crosswordclub.org



For words finely used are in truth the very light of thought.
Longinus, (traditional attribution); in fact by an earlier, unknown author), 1st C BC, *On the Sublime* (trans. TS Dorsch, Ch 30).

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

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

We were saddened to hear that long-term member of the ACC — **Ted O'Brien** — passed away on 8 August. Ted joined the ACC in January 1991 and was an excellent solver but will be fondly remembered for his Annual Quiz to celebrate the ACC's Birthday. Ted's cruciverbonym was *Neir B'Odet* (an anagram of Ted O'Brien) and his contributions to the ACC were invaluable and highly original. See p9 for further details.

Our **Crossmas Cruciverbal** on 31 July 2011 was another outstanding success with more than 32 in attendance. ACC members came from various places including Gippsland, South Australia, New South Wales and the ACT not to mention the Melbourne metropolitan area. Our Special Guest was *Mr Dictionary* **David Astle** well-known to us as 'DA' from his challenging weekly cryptic puzzle in *The Age* and the *Sydney Morning Herald* and as the *Wordman* on the successful SBS Show *Letters and Numbers*. See p9 for further details.

Our accomplished Puzzle set-up person, **Ian Williams**, has selected another challenging set of excellent puzzles and quizzes for you this month. Perennial favourites like *Virgo*, *Fortuna 48*, *Manveru*, *Crowsman* and *Praxis* are there for your ongoing enjoyment plus another skilful offering from *InGrid* in Slot 6. In Slot 7 titled 'Duty Bound' the challenging *The Eager Beaver* has devised a clever offering which no doubt will give solvers a great deal of pleasure. We have two Quizzes: one from the Man from SA (*Crowsman*) The ayes have it! and the Bonus Quiz from the priceless *Virgo* – Rivers of the World. Our Clue Writing Competition Adjudicator **Michael Kennedy** challenged clue-writers to devise a clue for the word BRACE (5) and his results from a record number of entries can be found on pp16 and 7. Many thanks Michael for taking on the adjudication of this important feature of *CroZworld*.

Best of Luck with your solving this month. —Patrick

GENERAL: Firstly I'd like to say thank you to all I met at the Melbourne luncheon for being most welcoming. Seeing faces for the names is always a great thing to do. The afternoon was well worth it and hopefully some more Sydneysiders can get organised for next year. The Slot 1-4 puzzles this month were not so problematic. The percentages were quite good and I thought Slot 1 would be 100% until the final days proved otherwise. Slot 5 had a few issues but we'll come to that . . .

Slot 1: The errors in this slot were not very consistent. Three spaces appeared and then a smattering of other issues like ISOBEL, SAGGY, RELT OUT. On the whole it seemed a manageable solution that suffered only from carelessness.

Slot 2: There wasn't a show-stopper in this one. There were only random errors and if anything, PAVAROTTI was spelt out by the clue if not by the solver exactly, three times. ENPHASISING x2, INMIT x2, BRAVE, MEGOBUCKS were tried but not true. MOB-HANDED had a couple of variations.

Slot 3: HYPOCHONDRIASIS arrived in some unwell forms. There were two BEDUIN-SMUGGLERS. BOLONEY appeared four times but even though the spelling is acceptable, it didn't fit the clue which asked for 'A single'. Overall, this puzzle was enjoyed by many which reflected in the numerous votes for COTM, taking nearly two-thirds of them.

Slot 4: The main culprit of lost dots was JOWARI (jow=toll [Scot.], a=about, RI). I'd guess that those that didn't get it, don't have a copy of *Chambers* at home. Many took 'about' as CA and tried JOCARI. In my opinion, the use of a Scottish word to clue an Indian word is bordering on unreasonable. ZOCCOLO and MITOSIS had some variations.

Slot 5: My last effort for adjudication also had a snail (note to the editor). Some commented on Sophia being a capital – or not. I researched little but Sofia seems more likely. The big problem was no.7 MITCHELL. The clue relied on general knowledge as it's a library in Sydney University (maybe elsewhere) and there was a Guy Mitchell ('singing guy') – so Wikipedia tells me. Not a really friendly clue. We try to be independent of internet but that would've been the only course of discovery for several solvers. I sympathised with those who struggled but that's how that particular cookie crumbled.

COTM: Votes for COTM were more numerous than my last report. Slot 2's THEFT was the early leader – it finished with 7. Slot 3's FACTORIAL may have garnered more votes if solvers actually found the definition! It finished with 3. Slot 3's URETHRAL 'wee pipe' tickled a few – it finished with 5. But while people were still thinking downstairs, BUDGIE-SMUGGLERS was very well stocked with votes – 14. Well done *Grottesco* (Iain McCulloch).

—Andrew Patterson

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

Puzzle No.	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Entries received	115	112	103	103	95	528
Correct entries	103	91	85	80	56	415
Success rate (%)	89.6	81.3	82.5	77.7	58.9	78.6
Prizewinners	Jean Evans C Archibald	J McCulloch R Taylor	W Allen J Fowler	F Martin	D McManus L Fry	from 116 members

Prizewinner: August 2011 Slots 1-5: Norman Wilson

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

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

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S	E	P	T		
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S	L	O	T		1

**Half 'n Half
by
Virgo**

Prizes: \$50



Win!

MACQUARIE
AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL DICTIONARY

**CROSSWORD
DICTIONARY**

[2007 edn]

1		2		3		4		5	6		7		8
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A small number of words may not be found in the standard references.

Across

- 1 I am modelling something impressive (8)
- 5 Academic is in the money at the Sultan's fortress (6)
- 9 There's anger in Crofts weapons (8)
- 10 Roddick initially following another player (6)
- 12 It is plain there is nothing like a declaration of intentions (9)
- 13 Set up over Crete (5)
- 14 Runners love muscular frames (4)
- 16 Ironing at supertime (7)
- 19 Present day poetry is set back (7)
- 21 Vientiane Kingdom can change too (4)
- 24 The head on the French coin (5)
- 25 Tail brute out to cause trouble (9)
- 27 Cereal, reportedly from a holiday isle (6)
- 28 Prisoner of war entertained and tribes spoke (8)
- 29 Heard tears of chickens (6)
- 30 Petrified by redhead 'n blue (8)

Down

- 1 Disgrace, odium (6)
- 2 A deadly ferocious fish (6)
- 3 Neck warmer (5)
- 4 Bane, Goddess (7)
- 6 Perception (9)
- 7 Anti-climatic (8)
- 8 Birthright (8)
- 11 Bird, symbol of peace (4)
- 15 Stall-holder (9)
- 17 Flesh eating (8)
- 18 The fruit of the ivy (3-5)
- 20 Newts (4)
- 21 South western U.S. state (7)
- 22 Northernmost Australian city (6)
- 23 Married (6)
- 26 Single or divorced (5)

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

Slots 1-5: Joan Smith, 4 Morley Avenue, Rosebery NSW 2018.
e-mail: joansmi@internode.on.net
Closing mail date: Friday 30 September 2011.
e-lodgment: ianw@webone.com.au
Slot 6: Jean Barbour, PO Box 290, Wonthaggi Vic 3995.
email: william.barbour@bigpond.com
Closing mail date: Friday 14 October 2011.

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

S	E	P	T		
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Cryptic by Fortuna 48



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Across

- 1 Female church in real mess (6)
- 5 Oldies against jumping queues (8)
- 9 Hanna's restrained big shouts of praise (8)
- 10 Prove oneself worthy of release (6)
- 11 Naughty runner-up is a poor sport (3,5)
- 12 Craft of roundabouts (1-5)
- 13 Exposes everything in shoals (8)
- 15 Orders, for example, in Royal Society (4)
- 17 Sounds vain, and to worship it may well prove so (4)
- 19 Escapes via breached gateways (8)
- 20 Regressive party sped back in a plane (6)
- 21 Order to dog to seize part of foot (8)
- 22 Blood factor in very large animals (6)
- 23 Young chicks on very hot days (8)
- 24 Behold Shakespeare, residing in my Italian location (8)
- 25 Girl with honey gloss (6)

Down


- 2 Girl in can is still lovable (8)
- 3 Man at death suffers drop in temperature (4,4)
- 4 Puts down on headland for the scenery (8)
- 5 Ocker pastime to spot this bird (10,5)
- 6 Nightmare for copper travelling by public transport (7)
- 7 Lulu backed wrong date and wailed (8)
- 8 Adjusts rigging and leaves (4,4)
- 14 Below Pt. Robust find carved ebon baleen (9)
- 15 Communist danger lurking under the bed! (3,5)
- 16 Eastern princess in Tree Flower (8)
- 17 She is a beauty in Italy or Spain (8)
- 18 Ancient North or South East in early tongue (3,5)
- 19 Nanna with love for the French cereal (7)

GENERAL COMMENTS

- Thank you Patrick for the wonderful *Shorter OED* with CD-ROM and certificate that I received yesterday. It has already been put to use finding an answer from the puzzles this month which I could not find in any of my other dictionaries. Joan Smith
- I was thrilled to win the Slots 1-5 prize last month. I'm having a great time building up my collection of children's books following the recent arrival of my first grandchild. Alison Shield
- Thank-you for my cheque and certificate for the July Slot 5 puzzle and for the certificate for the Crossmas Cruciverbal puzzle (lots of lucky guesses there!) All the very best to you and the ACC. Robyn Caine
- Many thanks for the wonderful book prize for last month's quiz. Corryn Anderson
- My favourite clue was *Jesso's* "Lifting the foot" – THEFT but there were many clever and unusual clues overall. Bev Cockburn
- Many thanks for my July Slot 3 cheque – an early birthday surprise. The ANZ staff were most impressed with Patrick's superb penmanship. Odette Greenberger
- Some really good crosswords this time. Carole Noble
- I sympathise with the poor snail-mail adjudicator with 48 words in slot 1, 42 words in slot 5 (and going round and round to boot!) giving a total of 179 words to check over the five slots. I hope Andrew recovers and is allowed out of wherever they've had to lock him up soon :) Tony Dobe
- So sad to read that Shirl O'Brien died. I only met her once, but she struck me as a truly gracious lady, and I shall sadly miss her crosswords! Nea Storey
- *Vale* Shirl O'Brien: I found this e-mail address on the ACC website so hope it is correct. Dad asked me would I forward this link on to you. The obituary was published in *The Courier-Mail* on 5 August 2011 which would have been Mum and Dad's 61st wedding anniversary. Mum would really have loved the coincidence. Visit: <http://www.couriermail.com.au/ipad/obituary-shirley-obrien/story-fn6ck8la-1226108250040> Jennie O'Brien-Lutton

S	E	P	T		
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Cryptic
by
Manveru



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Across

- 1 It's puzzling to find new word processors don't allow prose (9)
- 6 Catholic bishop needs bypass for one (5)
- 9 Speak highly of but powerless to promote (5)
- 10 Cans and tins repackaged with ecstasy are found in cases (9)
- 11 I retain the ability to change? Actually the opposite! (7)
- 12 In the main, it's buoyant to be a cold and unemotional person (7)
- 13 TV sets earn dime when these are broadcast! (14)
- 17 Designing clogs? Whose idea resulted in such a waste of time? (4-5, 5)
- 21 This creature is just a plain pussy when you listen to its call (7)
- 23 Hollywood's ultimate Sixth Sense character is to throw in the towel (7)
- 25 Undertaking a marketing campaign perhaps (9)
- 26 Berlusconi ultimately needs time with a lady who eschews publicity, here? (5)
- 27 Spells TEMPERATURE backwards on manuscript (5)
- 28 Was uneasy about surgery on deep cut following the onset of septicaemia (9)

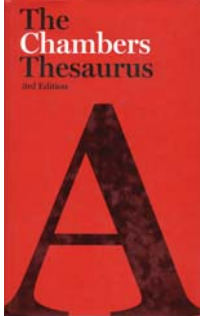
Down

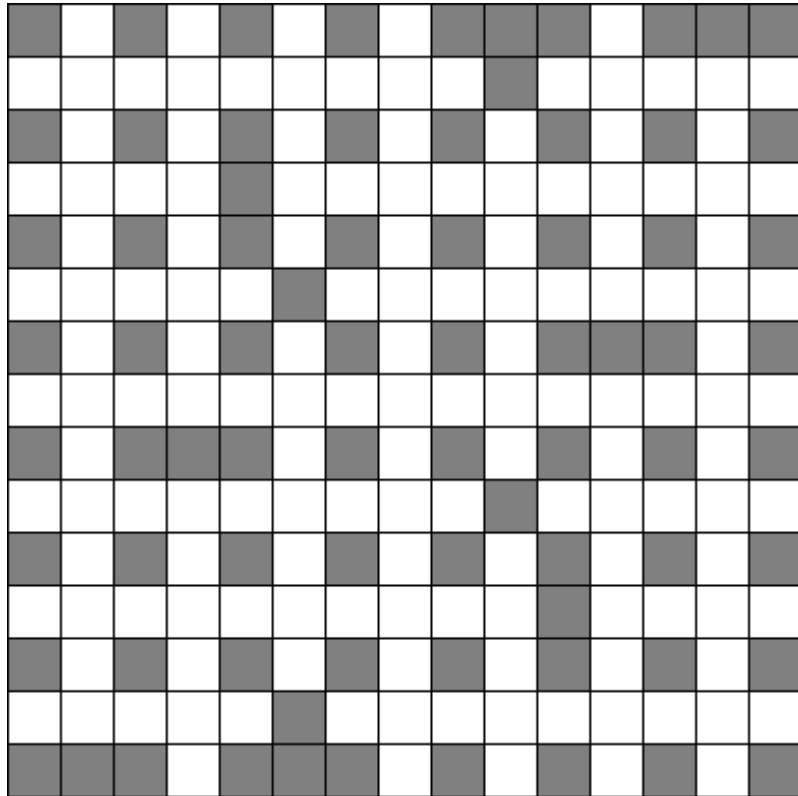
- 1 Roman Catholic feast is unspiritual, playing host to endless sin on the rise (8)
- 2 A shade that needs love to survive (5)
- 3 The Elders to be moved and given refuge (9)
- 4 Paper always bending the rules? (7)
- 5 The beginning of discrimination is similar to hatred (7)
- 6 Dare as a result of bachelor party (5)
- 7 Other cars in need of a tune-up? They're in the pit! (9)
- 8 See fit to include son in plot (6)
- 14 Spoken narration with say, ancient history (5,4)
- 15 It's unnecessary to have old church extremists from Samos elevating the 'boundless' Prince of Darkness (9)
- 16 Grassed garden conceals English dog lost without lead (8)
- 18 Shoots better than old peacekeepers caught in windy gust (7)
- 19 Gets down from ladder using poles instead of hands? Needs harness, ultimately (7)
- 20 Crash is the work of the devil? (6)
- 22 Knapsack is emptied to find two of these pieces? (5)
- 24 Isolated unit lacks army and time (5)

The Washington Post's Mensa Invitational this year once again invited readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition. Here are the winners:

- 1. **Castration** (n.): The act of buying a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period of time.
- 2. **Intoxicaton**: Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.
- 3. **Reintarnation**: Coming back to life as a hillbilly.
- 4. **Bozone** (n.): The substance surrounding stupid people that stops bright ideas from penetrating. The bozone layer, unfortunately, shows little sign of breaking down in the near future.
- 5. **Giraffiti**: Vandalism spray-painted very, very high
- 6. **Sarchasm**: The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.

- 7. **Inoculatte**: To take coffee intravenously when you are running late.
- 8. **Osteopornosis**: A degenerate disease.
- 9. **Karmageddon**: It's like, when everybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it's like, a serious bummer.
- 10. **Decafalon** (n.): The grueling event of getting through the day consuming only things that are good for you.
- 11. **Glibido**: All talk and no action.
- 12. **Dopeler Effect**: The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.
- 13. **Arachnoleptic Fit** (n.): The frantic dance performed just after you've accidentally walked through a spider web.
- 14. **Beelzebug** (n.): Satan in the form of a mosquito, that gets into your bedroom at three in the morning and cannot be cast out.
- 15. **Caterpallor** (n.): The color you turn after finding half a worm in the fruit you're eating.

S E P T 2 0 1 1 S L O T 4	
Alliterative Jigsaw by Crowsman	
Prize:	
	[3rd edn 2009]



All answers commence with the letter S.
Place them in the grid, jig-saw wise, where they fit.

The Clues

- Spot pronounced spot (4)
- Sea-birds turned back a different species (4)
- Tenor loosens without John English following (5)
- Sketch embodies right dress (5)
- Fish was off! (5)
- Steep, therefore gets exercise (5)
- Without doubt has removed Eastern cross (5)
- Spades turned over open land (5)
- Poem for boy rising ten (6)
- Rollers made vessels overturn (6)
- Striking foreigner is blocking street (7)
- Led back singer to Irish waterway (7)
- Marilyn Manson, perhaps, has latest sin at a show partly reversed (8)
- Morally diseased and deviously slick, going after a small amount of money (4-4)
- Sceptic ends leaderless tasks – such acts create divisions (9)
- Scratched outside of vehicle – it’s recorded by golfer (9)
- Warning a conservative endorser (9)
- Furious parties finally joined forces (7,2)
- Noodle soup’s in container from ship’s upper level (6,4)
- Gravelly surrounds where one drives back angrily (10)
- Subjected to internal controls only, lie about imp with a pistol raised (4-10)
- Assert your right to possess lousy camera kit, reconditioned (5,4,5)
- Bursting out with suits splitting – that’s it! (11,4)
- Leadership has delightful, popular disposition (15)

By hook or by crook

Meaning: By whatever means necessary – be they fair or foul.

Origin:

It is sometimes suggested that 'by hook or by crook' derives from the custom in mediaeval England of allowing peasants to take from royal forests whatever deadwood they could pull down with a shepherd's crook or cut with a reaper's billhook. This feudal custom was recorded in the 1820s by the English rural campaigner William Cobbett, although the custom itself long predates that reference. Another commonly repeated suggestion is that the phrase comes from the names of the villages of Hook Head and the nearby Crooke, in Waterford, Ireland. Hook Head and Crooke are on opposite sides of the Waterford channel and Cromwell (b1599 - d1658) is reputed to have said that Waterford would fall 'by Hook or by Crooke', i.e. by a landing of his army at one of those two places. A third suggestion is that the phrase derives from two learned judges, called Hooke and Crooke, who officiated during the reign of Charles I (b1600 - d1649) and who were called on to solve difficult legal cases. Hence, the cases would be resolved 'by Hooke or by Crooke'. Only the first of the above suggestions stands up to scrutiny by virtue of the age of

the phrase. The earliest references to hooks and crooks in this context date back to the 14C – the first known being from John Gower's *Confessio Amantis*, 1390:

What with hepe [hook] and what with croke [crook] they [by false Witness and Perjury] make her maister ofte winne.

Gower didn't use the modern 'by hook or by crook' version of the phrase, but it is clear that he was using the reference to hooks and crooks in the same sense that we do now. The earliest citation of the phrase to be found is in Philip Stubbes' *The Anatomie of Abuses*, 1583: Either by hooke or crooke, by night or day. There are several other theories as to the origin of 'by hook or by crook', all of which are either implausible or arose too late. Taking away those, we are left with two serious contenders: sheep farming and wood gathering.


Crooks are the curved or hooked sticks that shepherds use to catch sheep by hooking their hind legs. Hook is a synonym for crook. It is quite possible that the two words were put together to mean 'one way or another', for no better reason than the alliteration. Either that, or the 'wood gathering' derivation is correct. We may never know which.

[Thanks to *A Phrase a Week* for permission to reproduce this article.]

S	E	P	T		
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S	L	O	T		5

**Cryptic
by
Praxis**

Prizes: \$50



[2006 edn]

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Across

- 1 First of awarded money covered police casualty ... (8)
- 7 ... being in the centre of the boat (4)
- 10 Hard earl sacked set of 5 buffoons (10)
- 11 The morning fuss you heard is making tinder (6)
- 12 Hurriedly leave Yugoslav port (5)
- 14 Narrate poems to make the points ... (8)
- 17 ... show it's turned revolutionary (6)
- 18 But Len's worked in America (6)
- 19 Eminence gets gossip at Indian gate (6)
- 20 Beat with a s-spanker? (6)
- 23 Peg gets drunk around the swine (6)
- 25 Sound attained by British conductor (6)
- 27 Anger's seen after rot's ruined segments (8)
- 29 Charge Italian stalking the girl (5)
- 30 Trick is, measure the piece rejected (6)
- 31 Information varies with this part of vehicle maintenance (10, hyphenated)
- 32 Joy's first to greet the general (4)
- 33 Favourites secure tie in the pools (8)

Down

- 1 Expression of grief; the state denied god (4)
- 2 Officer has spouse catching swans for reward (10)
- 3 Restrain murderer holding his head (5)
- 4 Daughter on up hill track becomes faint (6)
- 5 Ducks ruin suede left inside (6)
- 6 Youngest sheep to go into the Territory (6)
- 7 Pre-audit poor old Greek aristocrat (8)
- 8 CIA's arranged to seize the Italian quartz? (6)
- 9 Guess I'm in a fluster after the drug (8)
- 13 Figure commander's the final heretic (10)
- 15 Security measure has Rudd agog, unhappily (8, 2 words)
- 16 Hammer the staple for her ... (8)
- 21 ... secure a place for the animals (6)
- 22 Deadly obstruction's ahead of the chap (6)
- 23 Calm's finally curtailed by a girl with a racquet? (6)
- 24 Forks for Vietnamese families? (6)
- 26 Fliers cut by 500; everyone's starting to bristle (5)
- 28 Prose possibly covers an epic poem (4)

Clue Writing Comp No 4/2011 (cont'd from p16)

Support the church! **

BRA + CE. Similar to another submitted clue except that 'support' is doing double duty here as the definition, as well as an indicator. In general, such clues breach the *Ximenean* principle of fairness. While the surface reading is preferable to the similar clue above, it's the latter clue that is fairer for the solver. However, had 'support the church' defined 'brace', then the clue would have made a lovely <

Support with faith is twice as strong **

BRA + CE (faith). The idea behind 'twice as strong' is that both a bra and someone's religious belief offer 'support'. The compiler also wanted to hint at the 'pair' definition of brace. While I do commend the compiler on the layers of meaning it really is a *compiler's* clue, rather than a *solver's*. Most solvers would be looking for something to literally define 'twice as strong', and would be scratching their heads even if they understood the clue.

The pair also support tossing the caber ***

An unusual clue as it contains two definitions and an anagram. I've never seen such a clue and I'm assuming that's because they are both difficult to write and even more difficult to solve. However, I do compliment the compiler on using 'also' to indicate two definitions, as well as providing a relatively simple anagram

that does make this clue solvable.

The pair ran away from tumultuous Canberra *½**

Anagram of CANBERRA minus RAN. A refreshing clue that uses a subtraction from an anagram. The surface reading makes perfect sense. My only criticism is that the anagram indicator is lacking in subtlety, but perhaps it is the most fitting one to describe our political centre.

	Poor	Satisfactory	Excellent
Definition	0	1	2
Secondaries	0	1	2
Fairness	0	1	2
Surface Reading	0	1	2
x-factor	0	1	2

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

Clue Writing Competition No 5/2011

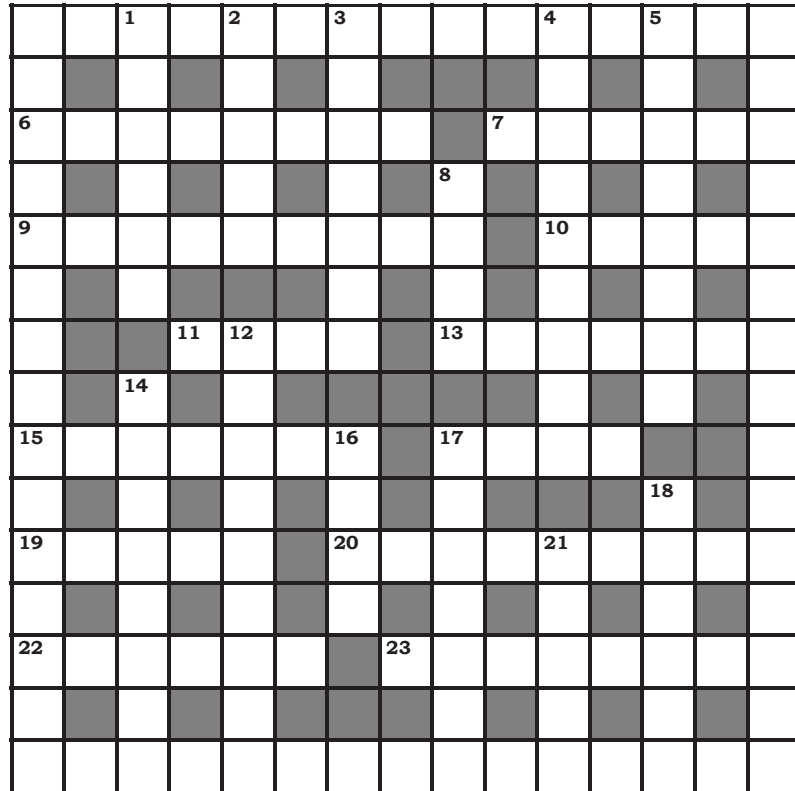
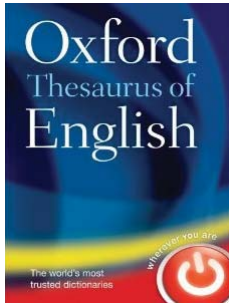
For the next competition, please write a clue for the phrase **SEARCH ENGINE (6,6)** complete with explanation. Note: only one clue per person. Send your clue and explanation to the adjudicator: Michael Kennedy, 27 Hennessy Lane, Figtree NSW 2525 or by email to: mlk@activ8.net.au
Closing mail date: Friday 14 October 2011. Book prize.

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S	L	O	T		6

Cup Half-Full by InGrid

Prize:

3rd ed: 2009 rrp \$99



A singularly appropriate adage will be seen in the perimeter starting at the top left hand corner and proceeding clockwise

Across

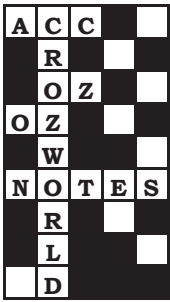
- 6 To extol holy bread, not a bishop's restricted territory (8)
- 7 First to uneven channel (6)
- 9 No plainer turnout than the best (9)
- 10 Beautify location without promotion (5)
- 11 Called on the step (4)
- 13 Measure Italian support of cycle by spy group (7)
- 15 I hang on flawed Japanese painting (7)
- 17 Assemble for food discussion (4)
- 19 Poet on drip sits oddly (5)
- 20 Sore at big idiot yanking at leading Arab's cloak (9)
- 22 Help has right to argue (6)
- 23 Climber has as cold a purpose as the monarch (8)

Down

- 1 Operational over the bar (6)
- 2 Draw God for sultan's monogram (5)
- 3 Girl in government got lost (7)
- 4 Shine light on the empty air raid damage (9)
- 5 On a single occasion, cry held as a luxury (8)
- 8 Young scout learner held by society (4)
- 12 Annual rut represented as fake (9)
- 14 Series viewed with implement (8)
- 16 Seaweed held by zoological garden (4)
- 17 Pumps operator about weakling (7)
- 18 Gable perhaps will express pain after blow (6)
- 21 Muslim prince has lively Eastern mare (5)

Post
Solution
to:

Jean Barbour,
PO Box 290, Wonthaggi Vic 3995.
email: wiliam.barbour@bigpond.com
Closing mail date: Friday 14 October 2011



Vale Ted O'Brien (*Neir B'Odet*)

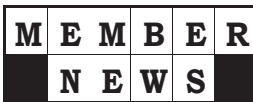
We were deeply saddened by the passing of one of the ACC's most valued members — **Ted O'Brien** — on 8 August 2011. Ted had not been enjoying good health for some time. Ted joined the ACC in January 1991 and was an excellent solver often having a perfect score. He won his first ACC prize for the Slot 3 July 1991 puzzle. For the January 2001 *Crozworld* Ted devised a puzzle called "Since 1901" which called for solvers to insert names of Federal politicians who had been given "derogatory, demeaning, condescending or completely appropriate appellations". For example, "8 He was a "Silver Bodgie" not a tailless rep (5) HAWKE." By April 2001 (the ACC's 11th Birthday), Ted began his memorable ACC Birthday Quizzes this one titled *Legs Eleven and All That!* and he continued this valuable contribution for many years. Ted's funeral was held at Caringbah on Friday 12 August where he had been an Acolyte prior to his moving to the Retirement Village at Ashfield NSW. ACC member **Del Kennedy** told us that Ted was in the same year at Wagga College with ACC member Bill Bennett and Del's late husband John Kennedy. ACC Secretary **Bev Cockburn** said: "It's like losing a member of one's own family. Ted was an enthusiastic and valued member of our Club whose annual Birthday quiz, reminding us of our club's longevity, was always a highlight. We'll miss him. Our sincere condolences to Ted's sister, Barbara and all his family." Bev sent a sympathy card "To Barbara, With caring sympathy on Ted's passing. We'll miss him very much – he was a wonderful club-member and contributor and a loyal attendee of our annual get-togethers. Vale, Ted O'Brien. (Signed) Patrick Street, Ian Williams and the members of the ACC".

—pds

Crossmas Cruciverbal 2011

It was another successful occasion for the **Crossmas Cruciverbal** held at the Royal Oak Hotel on 31 July 2011. 33 keen crossworders attended including David Procter, Max Roddick, Alison Shield, Alison Martin, Mike Potts, Valerie Howard, John Davey, Robyn Caine, Wendy Villiers, Gary Lemon, Cheryl Wilcox, Cheryl Gleeson and Margaret Raw all from metropolitan areas. The country visitors included Jean Barbour, Gillian Champion and Chris Heenan and from interstate Len Colgan (SA), Andrew Patterson (NSW) and Nea Storey (ACT). Our Special Guest was *Mr Dictionary David Astle* known to crossword lovers as 'DA'. The food and wine were enjoyed by all and there was a neat little puzzle and Quiz devised by *stroz* to challenge and entertain. **Cheryl Gleeson** wrote: "Thank you for a lovely ACC get together at the Royal Oak this afternoon. It was very nice to see so many members gathered and to put faces to names. As I have not been 'active' in the club for some time, there were many people whom I had never met. I thank you, also, for being such a welcoming host and for making everyone feel included. The food was delightful, the puzzles fun and the atmosphere warm and friendly. I had a great time. PS: I enjoyed meeting David Astle – even though the way his mind works leaves me in awe." **Chris Heenan** said: "Thank you for organising our Crozzmass Chrizzword. It was a great lunch and good brain food. It was pleasing to see a record crowd. Michael was thrilled to have equalled the illustrious DA's score in the quiz and I'm sure the family won't hear the end of it. We're looking forward to DA's return to the 'box' this evening, together with the Lovely Lily." And **Robyn Caine**: "What a great time we had at "The Royal Oak": good food, good company and lots of fun. Thank you for organising the day and how super to have David Astle in attendance." **David Astle's** note of appreciation: "It was a pleasure: thanks to you and Sandra for the company – and to the ACC for all the engaging conversations. Smart bunch too – and genial – but what else would you expect?" Until next year ...

—pds



New Members: We extend a warm welcome to **Liz Hatcliffe** of Eaglehawk, Vic, **John Baylis** from Toorak, Vic and **Marion Gavan** of West End, Brisbane Qld. Welcome to the Wonderful World of *Crozworlding!*

Puzzle adjustment: June Slot 6 *midships* "Summer" crossword: **Jan Wood** joined the elite band of correct solvers and is awarded a dot. Our apologies for the omission from the original list.

Missing name: No name was put on a solution to August Slot 6 puzzle. Below is a scan of the envelope. If you recognise it, please contact the Adjudicator Tony Dobe, 10 Sharpe St, Norman Gardens Qld 4701.



Explanations for clues in August grids, where provided by setters. Thanks to Joan.

August Slot 1: *Timid Terrier*. Down: **1** N(arr)ation, **2** G + y + p(s)ies, **3** T(r)oy, **4** Anag, **5** S(l)ow, **6** Leg + less, **7** Twin + tub, **8** So(gg)y, **12** Anag, **19** Anagram idly + l, **20** DD, **21** bright - b, **24** hidden, **25** listen + sin, **28** King> ree + king, **29** Again + st, **31** Belt + out, **33** Sit + u + ps, **34** Ar + son, **37** sten <, **38** Ruse - r, **39** hidden.

The Australian Oxford Dictionary

WORD OF THE MONTH

Gurindji *n. & adj.* **1a** an Aboriginal people of the Victoria River area, Northern Territory. **b** a member of this people. From the mid-nineteenth century their land was occupied by the British pastoral company Vestey Ltd. Many of the Gurindji worked for Vestey's and lived at Wave Hill pastoral station. In 1965 they walked off the station, protesting against working conditions and claiming ownership of their land. Their claim was unsuccessful, but in 1975 the Whitlam government granted the Gurindji leasehold rights to 3300 sq. km of their land, and this was converted to inalienable freehold title in 1986. **2** the language of the Gurindji.

The Australian Oxford Dictionary, Second Edition, 2004.
Edited by Dr Bruce Moore. \$115.00 ISBN 9780195517965

BONUS QUIZ September 2011

Rivers of the World Quiz by *Virgo*.

Anagrammed names of two rivers go to make up each question. Answers are in alphabetical order. Ignore punctuation. Send your entry to Audrey Austin, 35/55 Carter Road Nambour Queensland 4560.
e-mail: audreyaustin@bigpond.com.au

Closing date 14 October 2011. Book Prize.

- 1 Vat of Nona (5 & 4)
- 2 Lies burn off Abba (8 & 7)
- 3 Dollar decoy Co (5 & 8)
- 4 Ute bender wand (6 & 7)
- 5 Eel tube shaper (4 & 9)
- 6 Fir thorn flank (5 & 8)
- 7 Egg, greens, sago (6 & 7)
- 8 Shrub mode Hun (6 & 6)
- 9 Insulin oils, Di! (8 & 5)
- 10 Major J S Dean (5 & 6)
- 11 Trek hunky Becky (8 & 6)
- 12 Implore polio (7 & 5)
- 13 Merry May ruse (6 & 6)
- 14 I learn again (7 & 4)
- 15 Nearer, O God (4 & 6)
- 16 Camp leapt too (5 & 7)
- 17 Urchin in robe (5 & 7)
- 18 Eyes win, son (5 & 5)
- 19 Better as him (6 & 5)
- 20 Vital corgi AVO (8 & 5)
- 21 A washy web (6 & 3)
- 22 Loyal, we worry (6 & 6)

August 1-2011: Half 'n Half by Timid Terrier (Joan Smith)

- A good Half 'n Half from Joan. Slightly trickier than usual. *Margaret Davis*
- One of the first clues entered was 40ac but as I thought it was 'svelte' it did not get me very far. A well clued puzzle. *Peter Dearie*
- Terrific, as usual. *Carole Noble*
- Thanks Joan for a most enjoyable Slot 1 puzzle. *Alan Walter*
- Happiness is a not-too-difficult start to the month. *Jenny Wenham*
- Some lovely clues here – favourites were 2, 7 and 8dn. *Nea Storey*

August 2-2011: Cryptic by Jesso (Noel Jessop)

- Great to see Jesso's puzzles still coming. *Margaret Davis*
- Jesso continues to entertain and challenge. *Peter Dearie*
- 24dn: I just don't understand the clue but no doubt all will be revealed. *Doreen Jones*
- The Master keeps on giving. *Carole Noble*
- Found this one hard. Unsure of 21ac and 17dn. *Anne Simons*
- THEFT is very clever. *Brian Symons*
- Not one of Noel's gentler offerings but I liked 22dn Lifting the foot = THEFT. *Brian Tickle*
- Learnt two new words GUM-MYRTLE and MOB-HANDED. Had only previously heard of a CREPE-MYRTLE. *Alan Walter*
- I don't understand 24dn [EASE + D (eg billiard table marking) Adj]. *Len Colgan*
- Loved 22dn "Lifting the foot". *Jenny Wenham*
- I liked 22dn – lifting the foot (THEFT). Disarmingly simple. Not really hard to solve but very neat. My COTM. *Jim Fowler*

August 3-2011: Cryptic by Grottesco (Iain McCulloch)

- I found this very difficult and feel it would have been more suited to Slot 5, or even 6. *Margaret Davis*
- I assume 'dreng' is the solution not found in the normal references. Has 'budgie-smugglers' made it into the dictionary yet? *Peter Dearie*
- 17dn appeared to lack a definition until the penny dropped on the factorial sign (!) thanks to my maths background. Very clever!! *Bob Hagan*
- 17dn seems to be missing a definition. *Doreen Jones*
- So many good clues but I opted for BUTTERCUP as my COTM. However 8dn lowered the quality with 23 words in the clue. Admittedly it was a difficult word but the clue was so tedious I just cut to the chase and answered your brilliant definition, 'Clayton's disease'. In FACTORIAL, is the definition missing? *Carole Noble*
- Some lovely clues. Took ages to work out 1ac, and 1dn was hilarious. *Anne Simons*
- Excellent cluing. FACTORIAL is fiendishly clever and gets my COTM. *Brian Symons*
- I thought 22ac had to be GRENADINE which slowed me down! NINETIETH I thought COTM. *Roy Taylor*
- What a clever way to get from 'inventive' to 'incentive' (Gain ninety five – 7dn) and I like the use of 'of a wee pipe' for 'urethral' in 19ac but look at 8dn! This must be a record for the ACC – a 23-word clue. Noel Jessop used to say he thought Lindsey Brown must have been paid by the word – a reference to that legendary setter's lengthy clues. *Brian Tickle*
- This puzzle was challenging to solve especially the BALONEY SANDWICH and the BUDGIE SMUGGLERS. In 17ac, where is the definition for FACTORIAL?! *Alan Walter*
- A number of superb clues worthy of COTM which I awarded to 16ac GRAFFITO ahead of 7dn INCENTIVE and 29ac SENSATIONALISTS. A few surface readings could be improved (1ac, 24ac, 4dn) and I don't countenance "initial drive", "lead Norway's government", "lead story" and "first drug". Nevertheless, greatly enjoyed and of high quality. *Len Colgan*
- Some very clever clues, particularly liked 1ac, 16ac, 28ac, 3dn. *Tony Dobebe*
- A "meaty" puzzle. 17dn: What is the definition in this clue? [!" is the symbol for "factorial": see Macquarie and below: Adj] Loved 29ac & 21dn. *Jenny Wenham*
- "wee pipe" gave me a good laugh. "Budgie smugglers" are

- definitely a "costume", but "national"? *Nea Storey*
- Chambers didn't have 6dn Dreng but SOED did. So that's alright then. Took me a while to find a definition for 17dn – Factorial. Then, in what may be called a mathematical joke it hit me with a "Bang". The ! as factorial is called bang by some, eg 5! is called 5 Bang. Rare to have mathematical usage in a clue – and well done indeed. *Jim Fowler*
- My COTM, for all the wrong reasons is Slot 3, 1dn. Anyone who can put BUDGIE SMUGGLERS in a crossword should be duly rewarded. *Jean Barbour*
- A good puzzle spoiled by the obscure DRENG. *Doug Butler*

August 4-2011: AJ by The Co-Op (Bev & Mal Cockburn)

- The W clue had me stumped for a while. TS had only one L in Eliot so I thought I must be mistaken but behold – it was the clue which was wrong! *Margaret Davis*
- My understanding of 'vexing' is that it means hiccupping (in the literal sense) so that 'faltering' did not lead me to the answer. A challenging AJ. *Peter Dearie*
- Lots of new words to add to my vocabulary in this one. GARDYLOO was my favourite. *Carole Noble*
- I could not confirm I, X, Y and J so hope they are correct. *Anne Simons*
- A good AJ with some unusual words. The clue for XINING is intriguing and the warning about UTI was helpful. *Brian Symons*
- Thanks to the Co-Op for an enjoyable AJ containing one of my favourite words GARDYLOO (*gardez l'eau* in French) = 'watch out for the water'. *Alan Walter*
- This one was challenging but ultimately solvable. Favourite was the S clue. A question about YEXING – does hiccupping necessarily mean "faltering"? It's shown in dictionaries that it can mean falter, but my concern is that another word meaning hiccupping cannot necessarily be substituted for faltering without some sort of indication in the clue. *Jenny Wenham*
- My COTM is Slot 4 gardyloo – just because it's such a wonderful word! *Alison Shield*

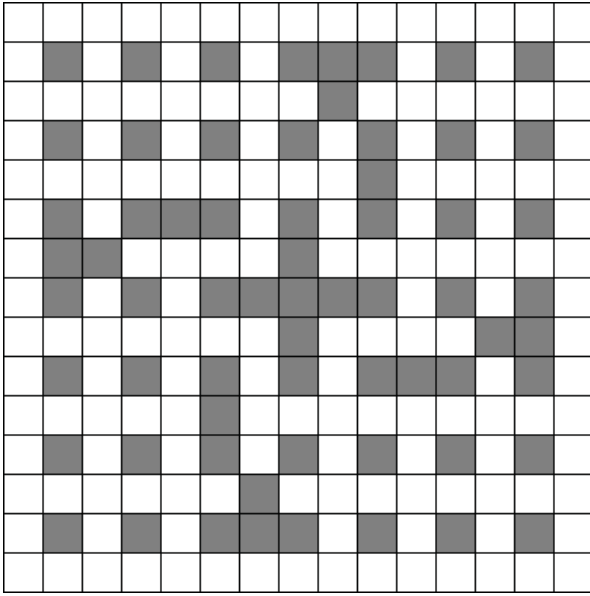
August 5-2011: Snail by Virgo (Audrey Austin)

- I don't really like 'snail' puzzles. Nevertheless clue no.1, PISA, is my nomination for COTM. *Denis Coates*
- Virgo was clever to incorporate "People and Places" in both diagonals. A piece of good fun and not hard for a Slot 5. *Margaret Davis*
- Plenty of people and places! Clue no. 7 has me beaten – I just can't connect 'library' to any answer. I settled for 'minstrel' which fits 'singing guy' but was tempted by Montreal for the places theme but does not fit the clue. [Apparently there was a singer Guy Mitchell and the Mitchell Library is in Sydney Uni. This is not a very friendly clue – Google needed, I suspect: AP] In clue no. 27, I am not aware that 'Sophia' is a capital unless the spelling of 'Sofia' has been changed. *Peter Dearie*
- I seem to be dyslexic when it comes to solving 'snail' puzzles – I keep getting an urge to write letters backwards! *Pat Lord*
- My head is still spinning. *Carole Noble*
- A tough one but perseverance paid off. *Anne Simons*
- These 'snails' are surprisingly hard. Especially liked the clue for GORKY. *Brian Symons*
- This was a really entertaining puzzle. No. 7 I put MITCHELL for the NSW Library and Joni Mitchell the singer but can a gal be a guy? MARSHALL is also a library and a singer. MINSTREL is a singer but a library? No. 26 NUNS was almost COTM. *Roy Taylor*
- Good luck adjudicating this puzzle. I hope you don't end up with eyes like Catherine wheels. *Brian Tickle*
- What a wonderful journey for the snail meeting all these people and places. *Alan Walter*
- I give up on this one! *Lorna Waites*
- Some very nicely crafted clues here. Sorry, but I think diabolio is not a devil, it's a spinning toy. *Tony Dobebe*
- Slot 5: Hope I've managed to transcribe this correctly. Some nice clues. I particularly liked 36dn. One concern in 41dn: does "man" = M? I can't justify it. *Jenny Wenham*
- Audrey, as usual, is brilliant – just hope I've got them all right! *Nea Storey*

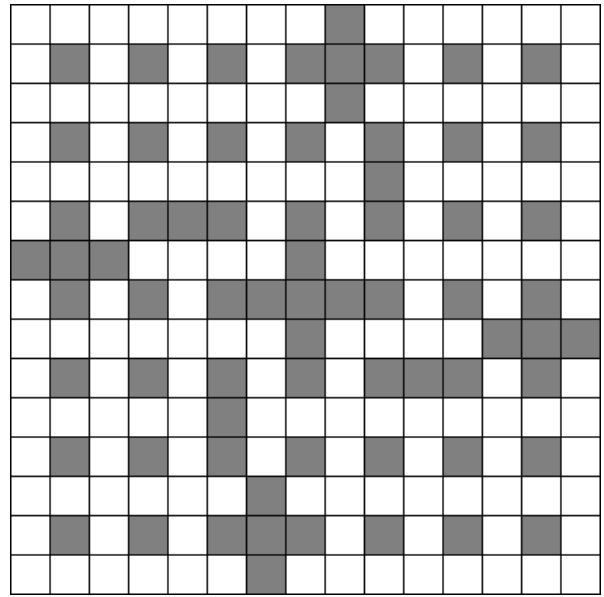
Send solution to: Jean Barbour
 PO Box 290, Wonthaggi Vic 3995.
 Closing mail date: Friday 14 October 2011
 NAME:



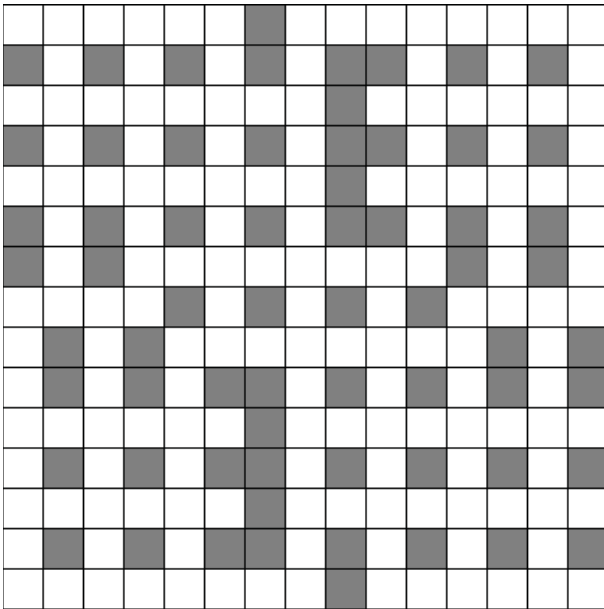
|S|E|P|T| |6| |2|0|1|1|



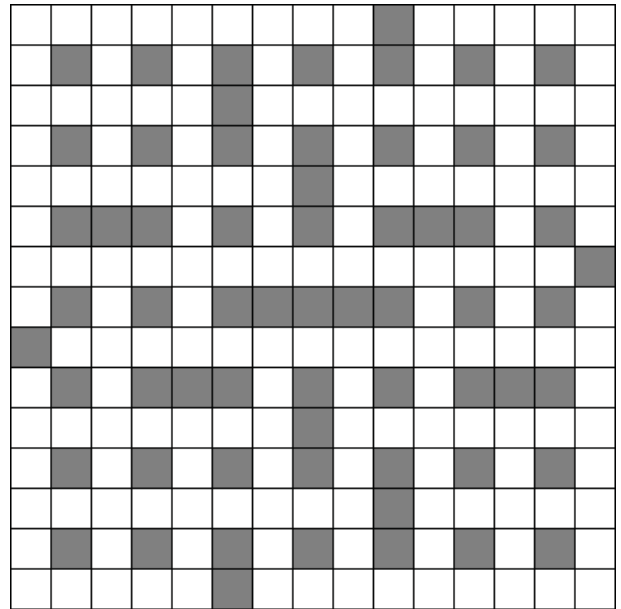
|S|E|P|T| |1| |2|0|1|1|NAME.....



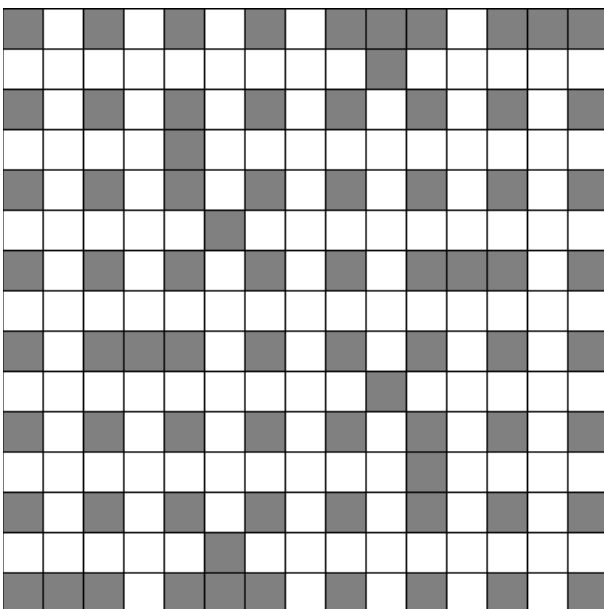
|S|E|P|T| |2| |2|0|1|1|



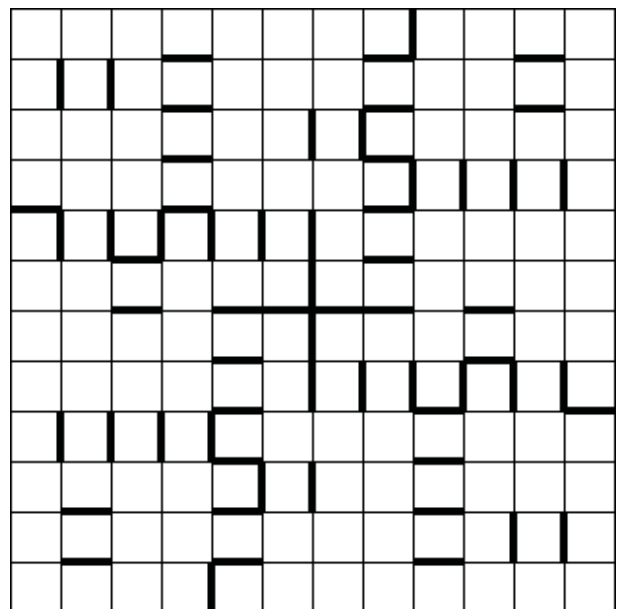
|S|E|P|T| |3| |2|0|1|1|



|S|E|P|T| |4| |2|0|1|1|



|S|E|P|T| |5| |2|0|1|1|



Clue of the Month

July 6-2011: Cryptic by Crowsman (Len Colgan)

Entries: 94. Correct: 86. Success rate: 91.5%.

Prizewinner: Daphne Greening. Congratulations!

Adjudicator's Comments: A few members queried the clue for 21ac SCORSESE, the movie director. The expression "a large number of people" is equivalent to "scores of people" and so, in this context, "a large number" is synonymous with "scores". In *Chambers*, under "score", it says: "(in **pl**) applied also to an indefinitely large number;". Consequently, "a large number surrounded South Eastern" is "scores" surrounding "S", followed at the end by "E". In other words, you need to split the South Eastern, giving scor(S)es/E. A few solvers were unsure of 14ac IRON PIPE. The clue begins with "main conductor, perhaps", and *Chambers* defines "main" to be: "a principal pipe or conductor in a branching system distributing water, gas, electricity, etc;". In the wordplay, "smooth"=IRON and "instrument"=PIPE. In 2dn, "shopkeeper ringing in", the word ringing must be reinterpreted as "encircling", a containment indicator.

Explanations: Across: 1 star/(a)ches; 6 double definition; 9 l(a)wful author(it)y; 10 on/uses; 11 anag; 12 double definition; 14 iron/pipe; 15 r(ally)ing; 16 don/key; 17 blue/bell; 18 c(r)ease; 19 anag; 20 anag; 21 scor(S)es/E. **Down:** 2 tra(in)der/ailment; 3 refuse/col/lector; 4 Annie Hall, Ben Hall; 5 s(tumbling) blocks; 6 s/p(H) ygmoid; 7 double definition; 8 an/tide/press/ants; 13 s(vin(rev)) ell; 18 sa(CRED O)rders. —**Crowsman (Len Colgan)**

Solvers' Comments:

- Many thanks Len for another superbly entertaining cryptic. Especially liked ONUSES and TRAIN DERAILMENT. *Brian Symons*
- Many thanks for a superb puzzle, Len. 9ac was a gem clue L+AWFUL+AUTHOR+IT+Y. 19ac: FERTILE CRESCENT took a while to deduce. Liked 5dn STUMBLING-BLOCKS. *Alan Walter*
- A bit of throwback to the UniSA days! Took a little longer than I was comfortable with putting pen to paper, but a few fell in and then the cascade began! 9ac best! *William Ryan*
- It was devious as usual, and hence thoroughly enjoyable. I especially liked 5dn STUMBLING-BLOCKS. *Bhavan Kasivajjala*
- Thank you for your brilliant puzzle. Loved the clues and your use of the 15 letter lights is quite impressive. *Roy Wilson*
- Lots of well structured clues with good surface readability. *Drew Meek*
- Thanks for another entertaining cryptic. So many 15 letter answers made it a little slow to get started but once under way all was well. *Jeremy Barnes*
- Thank you *Crowsman* for another most enjoyable and challenging puzzle. The clues excellent as usual. *Gillian Champion*
- Another great puzzle from you. I've been singing "My old man's a dustman" ever since! *Col Archibald*
- Although I loved your clue for REFUSE COLLECTOR and several others, my favourite was for STUMBLING-BLOCKS. I received a set of those for Christmas last year. One falls down a lot but one gets up again. (My sincere best wishes - LC) *Carole Noble*
- Thank you for another brain teaser with many excellent clues. My favourite was 4dn HALLS but there were many others I really enjoyed. SPHYGMOID was the only new word to add to my mental list and I rather like normal words rather than strange new words in abundance. *Bev Cockburn*
- Thank you for a challenging puzzle with great clues. My favourites were 17ac, 2, 3 and 4dn (especially 3dn). *Joan Smith*
- As usual, another very nice crossword. I had no issues with anything and still admire your perseverance with 15-letter answers. *Andrew Patterson*
- Good clues as usual - loved 3dn. Not certain about IRON PIPE or 19ac. *Anne Simons*
- I liked TRAIN DERAILMENT as an 'on-line disruption'! *Tony Dobelev*
- Your puzzles always test me out - seven 15-letter solutions was particularly challenging. *Nea Storey*
- Enjoyed tackling one of your skilful puzzles again. Not too bad once I got into it, though IRON PIPE and SCORSESE had me thinking. I thought ANTIDEPRESSANTS was a top clue. *Graeme Cole*
- Thanks for a challenging slot 6. It took me a while to work out that "dwarf" can also be an adjective. Loved 2dn TRAIN DERAILMENT. *Jenny Wenham*
- Thank you for another excellent puzzle. I really do enjoy the way

you manage to put in a few (almost) easy clues before you fire your big guns! There were too many really good clues for me to pick out my favourites, but the ones which took me longest to solve were 10ac ONUSES and 21ac SCORSESE. Keep them coming!

- Margaret Davis*
- Did enjoy the puzzle - delighted to complete it. I don't often manage a Slot 6. *Cheryl Wilcox*
- In 10ac, "weights" is a good synonym for ONUSES. I do not understand 14ac, and I question the correctness of the clues for 21ac, 2dn. (See comments above - LC). A marvellous puzzle! *Tony de Gry*
- Another devastatingly devious puzzle. 8dn - "alternating current" equalling "tide" - very clever. I almost gave up hope of finishing this, so was pleased with myself when all was revealed. *Peter Dearie*
- Thank you for yet another difficult puzzle. You make me work so hard. *Gabrielle Leeds*
- Thanks for this. Seven 15-letter words nearly scared me off, but were not so bad after all! *Valerie Howard*
- Thoroughly enjoyed your #6 but found it, perhaps, a little easier than some of your offerings. Perhaps it's the sheltered life I have led but the association between SOCIAL and security took a long time to surface. I am unsure what to think about the answer to 3dn. LD's dad was, of course, a Dustman. Crossword wise I am sure that there is no problem synonymising that with REFUSE COLLECTOR, but I do have a bit of a problem with some of the modern naming and gobbledegook. *Jim Fowler*
- REFUSE COLLECTOR might have been a hard one for those under 55! (But that's not many of us!) *Mike Potts*
- Such compact clues for 15-letter answers yet still accurate and concise. Favourite was TRAIN DERAILMENT. *Jack Stocks*
- Not confident about 6dn. Really enjoyed ONUSES and ANTIDEPRESSANTS! *Alan Dyer*
- Good to see another brain-teasing *Crowsman* puzzle. I particularly liked the misdirection of "on-line" in 2dn - after I'd worked it out! *Kath Harper*
- ANTIDEPRESSANTS. There's a hidden gem in this clue - alternating current=tide. Clever! *Max Roddick*

July Slot 7: Solvers' Comments cont'd from p15:

- Took ages to finish the top left corner. FRANCESCA was a clever clue that led to a chuckle or two. *Jack Stocks*
- All I can say, initially is "wow". I had fun trying to confirm "snifty" [I don't have all the usual references at my finger tips]. Finally found a suitable definition at wordnik, the only suitable example on the page was from the Wizard of Oz! Once I had confirmed that, NIFTY (3dn) fell right into place. The use of ESC for a key is an inspiration of the modern time (14dn - FRANCESCA). I also had never heard the term "simple" being used in the context of herbs before (1dn - FENNEL). 9ac (NEED) - is the clue a reference to "baggy-kneed"/knickerbockers? *Alan Dyer*
- 3dn is still a mystery but I filled it in. Liked 28ac too. *Robyn Wimbush*
- Once again you've provided us with a great puzzle. I loved the clue for 'hit again', and have visions of rugby players looking worn out on the bench while the other team runs riot in the field. *Robyn Caine*
- Challenging and enjoyable. Hope I got it right! *Denis Coates*
- Thank you for hours of excruciating *diversion in winter*. It's not often I come close to solving one of your puzzles, and I'm not confident with this one. Cannot justify my answers for 1dn, 3dn, 4dn & 9ac, look forward to explanations. Favourite clue was PATIO. *Jan Wood*
- 1dn: OK, call FENNEL simple - but it wasn't! *Max Roddick*
- Thank you for the interesting puzzle. *Jean Evans*
- Thanks for another challenging puzzle, made slightly easier when I worked out PARSNIPS (not many proverbs about this vegetable!). *Kath Harper*
- I always find your puzzles challenging so was surprised to get off to a flying start with this one. My joy was short-lived and I was soon floundering again. I won't tell you which two clues took me longest to solve or you will think me a complete idiot! All the squares are finally filled in and I can only hope correctly. *Margaret Davis*

S	E	P	T		
2	0	1	1		
S	L	O	T		7

Duty Bound
by
The Eager Beaver

Book Prize

The across solutions, which are not defined, are consistent with a theme except for two which are closely associated.

Post solution to:
Bev Cockburn,
12 Norman Street,
Merrylands West NSW
2160
or by email:
bevco4@bigpond.com

Closing mail date:
14 October 2011.

- Across**
- 7 Good advice broadcast (7)
 - 8 Benefit auditor's function (7)
 - 10 Enter backwards (6)
 - 11 For and by means of timely limits (8)
 - 12 Gain ground (4)
 - 13 Under an obligation by all accounts (2,4,4)
 - 14 Surprisingly nice hairnet! (11)
 - 18 Appraise chaps before time (10)
 - 21 I hear bird performed his regular evening flight (4)
 - 22 Outmoded sound of content before the race (8)
 - 23 Direct from Douglas, perhaps (6)
 - 24 Two's OK. Three's a crowd (7)
 - 25 Caldwell's literary path (7)

- Down**
- 1 Measure of gold in dickey seat (7)
 - 2 A French turf next to the office is unsaturated (8)
 - 3 Commonplace amount for a dozen items! (4)
 - 4 Arrangements Al Gore made are in abundance (6)
 - 5 Fiend usurps right. What a pal! (6)
 - 6 Moves lightly past fly with broken bits (5,2)
 - 9 Diametrically differing gender. Jack and Jill, say (8,3)
 - 15 Pearl can develop health programme (4,4)
 - 16 Opponents reported renown is worth money (7)
 - 17 Irish halfpenny for the President (7)
 - 19 Exclude condensed extract containing mushroom (6)
 - 20 Breeds southern crustaceans right away (6)
 - 23 Shady toey characters led to small island (4)

ROUGH COPY

GOOD COPY - Name

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

Quiz No 9/2011



by **Crowsman**

- 1 Not permitted (7)
- 2 Lacking flavour (7)
- 3 Consuming a liquid (8)
- 4 Attractive (8)
- 5 Extreme sceptic (8)
- 6 Spicy sauce (4-4)
- 7 The art of literary judgment (9)
- 8 Lack of responsive passion (9)
- 9 Aslant (9)
- 10 Slighting treatment, often unwarranted (9)
- 11 Physical weakness (9)

Quiz 9/2011: The ayes have it! by **Crowsman**

Each answer contains the letter I at least three times, but no other vowel. For example, "Shyness (8)" is TIMIDITY, and "Making as small as possible (10)" is MINIMISING (or MINIMIZING). Where answers have the same length (e.g. the six 10-letter answers), they are in alphabetical order.

Solutions to Len Colgan, 1 Ailsa Avenue, Warradale, SA 5046
or by email to len.colgan@unisa.edu.au

Closing mail date: 14 October 2011. Book prize.

- 12 Arousing enthusiasm (9)
- 13 In-built by its very nature (9)
- 14 Satirically taking off (9)
- 15 Short dress (9)
- 16 Uncertain and apprehensive feeling (9)
- 17 Pure maidenhood (9)
- 18 Inflammation of the gums (10)
- 19 Without being expressly stated (10)
- 20 Discourteous behaviour (10)
- 21 Out of focus (10)
- 22 Playing a faulty tennis shot (10)
- 23 Straightforwardness (10)
- 24 Becoming smaller (11)
- 25 River/state (11)
- 26 Teaching someone a lesson (12)
- 27 The potential to be set on fire (12)
- 28 Affectedly delicate and mincing (6-6)
- 29 In a demoralizing way (13)
- 30 The inability to be mixed (13)
- 31 The power of Superman (except for kryptonite) (13)
- 32 The property of lacking mathematical factors (14)

Quiz No 7/2011: 'Reel' Women by **Virgo (Audrey Austin)**

Solutions: 1. Gothic 2. Shakespeare in Love 3. Million Dollar Mermaid (Neptune's Daughter accepted) 4. Not without my daughter 5. Star! 6. Conquest 7. Golden Girl 8. A song to Remember 9. The Sword and the Rose 10. White Mischief 11. Julia 12. Anne of a Thousand Days 13. (The) House of the Spirits 14. An Angel at my Table 15 Bonnie Prince Charlie 16. The Unholy Wife 17. Scandal 18. (1492) Conquest of Paradise 19. The Rose 20. Carve her name with Pride.

Entries: 31: Scores: 20: B. Cockburn, P. Dearie, V. Dinham, J. Evans, R. Gardiner, P. Garner, B. Glissan, K. Harper, B. Ibbott, A. Jermy, G. Leeds, J. McGrath, T. McPherson, A. Miles, C. Noble, S. Pinder, M. Potts, D. Procter, S. Roulston, B. Siegman, J. Smith, M. Steinberger, N. Storey, B. Symons, B. Tofoni, A. Walter, J. Wenham, C. Wilcox and R. Wimbush. **19:** A. Dyer and C. McClelland.

Winner: Margaret Steinberger. Congratulations!

Members' Comments:

- This quiz 'reely' gave us a good run through! *Alan Walter*
- A bit confused over No. 3. You've given the storyline of one film and the number indicator for another, so I've just put both. I loved Esther Williams movies when I was young. *Carole Noble*
- With reference to No. 3, I think Esther Williams was known as America's Mermaid. It's a lot harder to find answers when they are not in alphabetical order. *Claire McClelland*
- An interesting quiz – more methodical than challenging. I was surprised to search some names ("never heard of them...") that have had extensive careers! And then surprised to see how wide-ranging their repertoire is and why should I have heard of them?! I often scan credits at the end of movies. *Alan Dyer*
- What a great collection of women – the good, the bad, and the gorgeous! *Kath Harper*
- Brought back memories. Margaret and David are reviewing an old movie each week on *The Movie Show*. I just wish they'd show the movie afterwards, so we could have the entire movie rather than just the shorts. *Trish McPherson*
- No. 13: All I could find on this movie was that it was called *The House of the Spirits* and Meryl Streep played Clara del Valle Trueba but it was written by Isabel Allende and Billie August. *Ann Jermy*
- Some of the films and some of the heroines are new to me. *Bev Cockburn*
- I'm afraid I had to turn to the internet for most of the answers as I'm not very knowledgeable about films. However, you seem to have an enormous fount of knowledge. When I retire I will attempt to write a few more quizzes but find that present work, grandchildren and tutoring for the U Third Age leave me with very little time even to finish the crosswords. *Barbara Ibbott*
- I did enjoy the research! *Cheryl Wilcox*
- No. 17: Bridget Fonda played Mandy Rice Davies in *Scandal* but

I can't find any 4-letter movie in which she did so. *Betty Seigman*

• NB: 18 is usually preceded by 1492. I have only seen 5 of these. *Brian Symons*

• I was disappointed by the number of errors which detracted from my enjoyment. I know there is a lot of work in constructing a quiz and checking the answers before submission but it is really frustrating for solvers to have to work through mistakes in addition to the quiz itself... *The Rose* is based on the life of Janis Joplin but Bette Midler's character is Mary Rose Foster. *Jenny Wenham*

Setter's comments: Jenny also pointed out errors already mentioned by other members. Word lengths for No. 3 and No. 17 were amended in the next *Crozworld*. I have seen all but 4 of the movies. Names used in the movies escaped my memory while the characters they were based on remained – and the characters they were based on were REAL women. You would not have known who they were had I used the movie alias. In fact I'd have omitted those questions altogether and found replacements. Not that anyone was fooled by the errors. So my compliments to everyone who attempted the quiz – 31 entries, 29 of whom scored the maximum 20 points!
—**Virgo (Audrey Austin)**

Results of July 2011 Bonus Quiz.

Our Mobile Society by **dB (Doug Butler)**.

A good response and, from comments received, enjoyed as something different. Only sour note was my inclusion of several members who were active at the time of conception, but not recently, so unfamiliar to newer members. —**dB (Doug Butler)**

Solutions: CALLAN, BARNES, ALSTON, COATES, COLGAN, CROMER, AUSTIN, DEARIE, DE GRYS, DENNIS, FOWLER, DUCKER, IBBOTT, GARNER, HARPER, HAZELL, GILLIS, HOWARD, LOBSEY, KNIGHT, MCADOO, O'BRIEN, MERCER, SHIELD, SIMONS, SYMONS, TAYLOR, TICKLE, TOFONI, WAITES, WALTER, WENHAM, WILCOX, WILSON, WINDOW.

Winner: Rosemary Dorrell; and Paulina drew **Claire McClelland's** name for the *Franklin* electronic dictionary. **Congratulations!**

Results: 35: Corryn Anderson, Bev Cockburn, Hilary Cromer, Peter Dearie, Tony De Gry, Verna Dinham, Rosemary Dorrell, Jean Evans, Rosemary Gardiner, Pat Garner, Barbara Glissan, Bob Hagan, Barb Ibbott, Gabrielle Leeds, Claire McClelland, Joan McGrath, Trish McPherson, Carole Noble, Jan Pearce, Michael Potts, Marian Procter, Betty Siegman, Roy Taylor, Jenny Wenham and Robyn Wimbush. **34:** Graeme Cole, Anne Simons, Joan Smith and Cheryl Wilcox. **33:** Helen Annand.

"Hello 3684. Thanks for taking this Window of opportunity Dearie, no matter How 'ard, being no Ducker from a dare, nor needing a Shield, to Taylor this challenge and Tickle our brains for a Knight or more. 43536 266263 . . . Wilcox, over and out".

July 7-2011: Parsnips by *Betelgeuse* (Gillian Champion)

Entries: 65 entries; correct: 56; success rate: 86%.

Winner: Tony Dobeles. Congratulations!

Adjudicator's Comments:

Thank you all for your letters, cards and comments. Sorry about the wrong number of letters given for 11ac. Hopefully this didn't hold any of you up for too long. The quotation surrounding the periphery was "Fine words butter no parsnips" attributed to a character in *The Legend of Montrose* by the underrated Sir Walter Scott. There were queries regarding some of the clues. In 1dn "simple" is a herb used for medicinal purposes. As is the way with most culinary herbs, they also have a long history of medicinal use (ref. Mrs Grieve's *A Modern Herbal* (1931), a fascinating book of historical bits and pieces.) 4dn EARTHEN. There were some comments as to whether this actually means "Vile"? According to *Chambers* "Earthen" means "made OF earth" or "Earthy", which in its turn means "belonging TO the earth" or "Vile", but the only meanings given for "vile" are worthless, loathsome, foul etc, so whether "VILE" and "EARTHEN" have an accepted correlation or not is arguable. It is possible that in a direct translation of terms, the fine meaning has become stretched and distorted. 5dn WELL GLUED was not an accepted phrase, but presented no problem to any of the solvers. That and ONCOME were the result of the set peripheral letters severely restricting the setter's available words (and how!). 24ac AVOCET: apparently there is an alternative spelling with S instead of C. Both have been accepted.

Solutions:

Across: 8. REACTIVATE = CREATIVE(anag)+(-AT-)thanks recalled 9. NEED(want) =baggy (knead)homophone 10. INFANT=cooler(-FAN-) wearing fashionable(IN-)shirt(-T) 11. TELEOSTS(fish)= LET YSTERS(anagminus YR(tails of "your") 12. SLURP=slight(SLUR-) +soft(-P) 13. BEELZEBUB=FEEBLE (anag)+fellow left(minusF)+baby(-BUB)+zero input(-Z-) 15. SPIN DRY=long and thin(SPINDLY)change hands(exchange L for R) 17. SEPPUKU = PUKES UP(anag) 19. PRE WINTER=anag of R+PRIDE WENT+not down(minusD) 21. SCOTT 23. INFLUENT=easy (-FLUENT) following one Northern(I+N) 24. AVOCET=expressly set (-CET) earlier eggs to return(OVA- reversed) 25. NEVE=hidden word 26. CRUCIFERAE =cross, bearer(CRUCIFER-)+even hates(A+E)

Down: 1. FENNEL(simple)=names(-NN-)in experience(FE-EL) 2. ICE APRON=pear shaped (-(-E APR-)+figure about(IC-ON) 3. NIFTY=SNIFTY(with a tempting smell)+no seconds (minusS) 4. EARTHEN=anag of 23dn(THENAR)+energy(E) [See above] 5. WELL GLUED 6. ONCOME(Scots approach) =over(ON-)+business(-CO-)+Middle East(-ME) 7. RESTRUCK=rest ruck 14. FRANCESCA =currency(FRANC-)+key(-ESC-)+A 16. PYRENEES=fires(PYRE-S)+born in(-NEE-)18.PICK OPEN=pluck(PICK)+old(-O-)bird(-PEN) 19. HEATS UP=penny(-P)under hot suet(anag of H+SUET) 21. WALTER 23. THENAR(palm of hand)=make black(T-AR)bird in(-HEN-) 21. PATIO=parking(P-)+at(-AT-)+number 10(-IO).

Solvers' Comments:

- A super puzzle as usual. Always feels good to complete even if not all right. *Norman Wilson*
- Thanks Gillian. Amazing as usual. Very satisfying to solve and understand. I think AVOCET is best fit for 26ac but perhaps AVOCET is OK. *Brian Symons*
- Wow! What a tough nut to crack! 3+ hours in one sitting really had my brain hurting! Great clues all round, but best for mine was SEPPUKU! *Raoul*
- May I say how much I enjoyed this fiendish puzzle. Until the proverb around the perimeter fell into place I had a real tough time with the top right corner. I especially liked these clues with 12ac being the best of the lot: Across 10 (INFANT), 12 (SLURP), 13 (BEELZEBUB), Down 5 (WELL GLUED), 16 (PYRENEES), 24 (PATIO). At the same time, if I'm parsing this clue the way it is intended, I feel it is unfair: 23dn: Make blackbird in the palm of the hand (6) THENAR. Make black = TAR bird = HEN in = containment indicator, palm of the hand = definition. *K Bhavan*
- Thank you, Gillian, for this most enjoyable puzzle – a sheer pleasure to solve while pushing me every step of the way. The words, of course, are those of Sir Walter Scott from *The Legend of Montrose* (1819): "Fine words butter no parsnips, Sir". Thanks again, Gillian. *Roy Wilson*
- Can they get harder than this? My admiration has been maintained. SPIN DRY and RESTRUCK have great clues. *Len Colgan*
- Thanks for your enjoyable puzzle. The syntax of your clues had

me stumped for a while but once I made some inroads, it became easier. Some new words for me, which I always like in a puzzle. [seppuku, névé, oncome, thenar and crucifer (as a cross bearer)]

Drew Meek

• A very cleverly woven proverb. Nice thought! 17ac: Loved your SEPPUKU clue, a true gem! V humorous. 1dn: Hope FE+NN+EL equates to 'Simple'? 11ac: Indicator should be (8). 4dn: Hope EARTHEN equates to 'Vile'? *Chambers* gives EARTHEN=EARTHLY=VILE or WORLDLY. Thanks, Gillian, for a v. challenging puzzle. *Alan Walter*

• An interesting lot of clues, some far from easy and a bit of literary education! *Roy Taylor*

• Enjoyed this one, thanks. *Margaret Steinberger*

• How tricky was this?! I can't imagine how hard it must be for you to compile your puzzles. I always find them challenging, rewarding and enjoyable. *Pat Lord*

• I do not quite understand 14dn (i.e if I have it right) also 23dn. *Doreen Jones*

• Another masterpiece of difficulty from you! It's a case of one step at a time for me or little by little but eventually all the spaces were filled and a proverb appeared around the perimeter. There were several new words for me: TELEOSTS, SEPPUKU, NEVE, THENAR and CRUCIFERAE. EARTHEN meaning of VILE was a surprise. Thank you for the mental exercise. *Bev Cockburn*

• Good heavens, Gillian, I didn't think I would ever solve this! Solving each clue was like giving birth exceedingly difficult, but a joy to behold once I had managed to get it out. Incidentally, Scott came from Berwick-on-Tweed, his mother was Barbara Halliburton. My father was John Halliburton from Berwick-on-Tweed, so I feel a bit of kinship with old Sir Walter. Hard to find a favourite clue, they were all so good, but 7dn, RESTRUCK (or REST RUCK) did give me a smile. *Betty Siegman*

• Found it difficult and took ages; nearly gave up; couldn't believe I got a solution; very satisfying, whether right or wrong. *Ro Ducker*

• I haven't heard the expression 'Fine words butter no parsnips' since my Mum used to use it, many, many years ago! *Ann Jermy*

• This was a tough one! Liked clues for 12 & 15ac. *Anne Simons*

• Found N-W corner a bit tricky: 1dn: How does fennel = simple, something to do with dill? 2dn: I wasted time trying to work with 'spoon' for pear-shaped figure! Nice work with the quotation round the outside. *Tony Dobeles*

• Your puzzle completely stumped me for a long time. Getting "Fine Words Butter No Parsnips" certainly helped with the answers in the top left side of the puzzle. But I'm still not sure I've sussed them all. And I don't have the G from Nigel Rees in the linked solutions, so I guess there is something wrong in there somewhere. Loved 10ac even though it took me ages to get and once solved I wondered why I had been so thick. It was an incredibly imaginative puzzle. Lots of new words for me, which I always enjoy. Problem is I don't keep them all in the head any more. *Trish McPherson*

• Great puzzle: got myself tied in knots for a while by making a false assumption, but all good now – I hope. *Pat Garner*

• Herewith your very challenging slot 7. Quite a few words to add to my vocab. A most enjoyable exercise. *Bob Hagan*

• Another star crossword. Very enjoyable and nicely hard but, as ever, totally fair although I am very unsure about 5dn. I cannot find a reference to 'well glued' so will have to hope for the best. *Jim Fowler*

• Your fiendish puzzle was a real work-out for the brain! Fortunately I was familiar with the quotation (apparently dating from the 17th century), although I can't say I have ever had occasion to use it. "EARTHEN" is defined in *Chambers* as EARTHLY which in its turn is defined as "VILE" (amongst other things), but I do have to wonder if "EARTHEN" is ever used in this sense? None of my other dictionaries connect EARTHEN and VILE in any way. I sometimes think that *Chambers*, by compressing definitions sometimes distorts them or creates ambiguity. I spent some time trying to find a 7-letter answer to 11ac before having a closer look at the grid! *Peter Dearie*

• I enjoyed the puzzle: I discovered a new meaning for "simple" (1dn), and thought the 17ac clue was clever (and graphic!). *Mike Potts*

• I enjoyed the challenge but do not feel confident! Fingers crossed. *Valerie Howard*

• Thanks for a fun cryptic. I hadn't heard of the proverb, but a little computer research helped fill the blanks. *Jeremy Barnes*

[Solvers' Comments continued on p12]

Results of the Clue Writing Competition No 4/2011.

Write a clue for BRACE (5) Adjudicated by Michael Kennedy

Definition of BRACE from Chambers (11th Edition)

n anything that draws together and holds tightly; an instrument of wood or iron used by carpenters and metalworkers for turning boring tools; a type of bracket, { or }, connecting words, lines, staves of music, indicating that they are taken together, and also used as a third level of bracket in algebra, after round and square brackets; a pair or couple (*esp* of game shot); (in *pl*) straps worn over the shoulders for supporting the trousers; (often in *pl*) an appliance made of wire fitted over the teeth to straighten them; (in *pl*) ropes for squaring or traversing horizontally the yards of a ship; armour for the arm (*Shakesp*). **vt* to tighten or strength, to give firmness to; to steady and make (oneself) ready for a blow, etc; to tone up; to embrace, encompass (Spenser). [OFr *brace* (Fr *bras*) the arm, power, from L *brachum*, *brachium*, Gr *brachion*]

Thank you for all your entries this month. I received 22 e-mails, four letters, two cards, and one recipe. I think too that there was only one clue without an accompanying explanation. Again, it is encouraging to see many first timers, as well as born again compilers having a go. I mean what have you got to lose? Most people seem to have enjoyed the word BRACE due to its various meanings and clueing possibilities. All up there was a record 28 clues. With so many entries I'm also listing the runners-up but of course there can be only one winner. The winning Gold clue goes to **Jack Stocks** with his excellent &lit.

Support around front of eye-teeth (5)

The silver clue goes to Bob Crossman's top class double definition, while the bronze is to be shared between Peter Dearie and Bhavan Kasivajjula. The clues are listed in alphabetical order and the definitions, where appropriate, are *italicised*.

A pair of birds from Brazil – outstanding! ***

(Bronze winner – Peter Dearie) BR (Brazil) + ACE. Outstanding indeed! This was one of the last clues to be submitted but it was worth waiting for. A simple charade but with skilfully chosen elements that are integrated into the clue. The definition is certainly not incorrect, but it's also not absolutely specific, given it's not just a pair of 'any' birds, but a pair of 'game' birds we're after. However, the wordplay is very gettable. It would have rated highly in any case, but it certainly did the clue no harm by conjuring up a delightful image from Copacabana perhaps.

Aerobic movement, without onerous, isometric preliminaries may strengthen a bit, partner ***

An anagram of AEROBIC minus O and I as indicated by 'isometric preliminaries'. The remainder of the clue (as in brace & bit) serves as the definition. I really like the definition and the way it is disguised, but the overall surface reading is somewhat stilted and really needs to be finessed.

Appliance to correct the 7th note ***½

This clue is highly unusual as it is essentially an indirect definition which you will discover once you have solved a partially indirect anagram (IA)! Mechanically, one is to solve an anagram of THE and TE (the 7th note) to give you TEETH. The clue *then* serves as the definition as something that corrects the teeth. Admittedly, the partial IA is not a difficult one, but IAs are for the most part unacceptable as a tool of the trade for the compiler. The clue is not lacking in originality and thought so for that I've given it an extra half star. My generosity is boundless.

Be first, run fast, get stronger ***½

B+RACE. A nice motto-esque idea, although from a surface reading point of view it would seem more logical to say 'Get stronger, run fast, and be first'. Of course this wouldn't work with the wordplay. 'Be first' for the letter 'B' does not sit comfortably with me as it does not literally mean the first letter of 'Be'. In saying that, I also know that the use of this initial indicating method is used elsewhere.

Bit companion. Two bits too? ***

This clue didn't come with an explanation but I assume it's a double definition with the second half of the clue alluding to the 'pair' definition of brace. The ? is a welcome addition. I actually think the mechanics of the clue work well enough, but the surface reading needs some tweaking.

Caber-tossing gets support ***

An anagram of CABER. Finding and using an anagram indicator that fits seamlessly with the fodder is not always easy to do, so it was great to see that the opportunity to use 'caber-tossing' wasn't missed. In fact it wasn't missed half a dozen times!

Couple got spliced in the Main ***½

'Spliced in the main' refers to 'splicing the mainbrace', which is apparently a reference to having a tot or so of rum in the navy of old (Indeed, it is even referenced in *Chambers*). I love the fact that the compiler thought the clue was either brilliant, rubbish or even mediocre. I'm tending towards the latter as the directions to find 'brace' fall short in their accuracy. 'Brace' needs to be united (spliced) to the 'main', not *in* the main. Still, I'm sure many an old salt would appreciate this clue.

Couple leather loops to increase the tension of the rope ***1/2

A quadruple definition! An ambitious attempt for sure and its only failing is the strained surface reading at the beginning of the clue. If you read 'couple' as a noun, one would want to say 'A couple of...' (this would have worked well!) If you read it as a verb, it also needs a filler or two to smooth it put (eg. 'Couple leather loops *together*.....')

Game couple toss the caber ***

An anagram of CABER. The definition 'Game couple' is well disguised and integrates well with the clue's surface reading.

Game pair of birds caber toss ***

Similar to the above clue! In fact I could start my own matchmaking service. The definition is intended to be synonymous with a 'pair of game birds'. Toss is the anagind. "The surface is intended to suggest a couple of females engaging in what is doubtless, historically at least, a Scottish male undertaking". It does make you wonder how two people, male or female, would go about tossing the caber.

It does a boring job – orthodontist's creation? ****

A double definition. What I like about this clue is how the compiler has used two quite distinct definitions and created a single image (albeit an unpleasant one!) of a dental drift. It's a shame the actual link wasn't achieved without the hyphen as it obstructs the surface flow a little. A very nice clue!

Lesser nation or two ***

This is a cryptically rendered indication with 'lesser nation' referring to 'B race'. Nothing wrong with the wordplay, although I'm not sure what a lesser nation could refer to.

Naked note accidentally connected staves **

An anagram of Naked (BARE) + Note (C) as indicated by 'accidentally'. I usually have a shot at solving the wordplay myself before reading the compiler's explanation, but this one had me flummoxed until it was revealed as an indirect anagram. While, 'naked note' works wonderfully with the clue's musical theme, it highlights why indirect anagrams are so difficult to solve and also not allowed in most established crossword centres such as *The Times* and the ACC. There's also the added level of difficulty of coming up with the correct note to mix in with a synonym of NAKED. Despite that, it was the only clue bold enough to tackle the musical definition of BRACE, as well as using a perfectly disguised indicator.

Queen left chamber in a mess :) ****

(Bronze winner – Bhavan Kasivajjula)

Take HM (Her Majesty) from an anagram of CHAMBER and you have BRACE. So where's the definition I hear you ask? It's the }. The brace is cleverly disguised by the ubiquitous smiley face emoticon. Of course the colon serves no part of the definition or wordplay, and is essentially redundant. However, just like a link word, I think this colon serves well enough here as a punctuation link, separating the two entities of the clue. Queen usually refers to ER which had me initially working on an anagram of CHAMB. To be fair, the HM really needs to appear as such, because otherwise it's simply a subtracted indirect anagram! Also, a) is normally used for a smiley face... at least when I make one but this is a minor quibble really for a gettable clue that is uniquely entertaining.

Ready for the repechage ****½

(Silver winner)

Double definition of sorts! 'Repechage' is a supplementary or 'B' race, as opposed to the A race. Obviously, 'B Race' requires a greater degree of lateral thinking by the solver and as such I think some indication of this (eg. A ? or 'perhaps') would be welcome. Otherwise, this clue is a gem.

Second rate artist goes to church for vice? *** B+RA+CE with vice being a clamp. There's nothing wrong with the wordplay of this clue and the compiler has cleverly disguised the definition. I think the question mark is being overly generous to the solver and I would omit it. The overall surface reading is okay but I am still wrestling with the image of a depraved or immoral hack visiting a church!

Second-rate contest for two game birds ***

B + RACE. A solid clue that uses the popular B+RACE. I'm still undecided if the clue is referring to a dodgy game of chess between two grouse, or a fight between two brave female mud wrestlers.

Steady for the Caber Toss! ****

This one tossed the caber the greatest distance. It's simple but has the smoothest of surfaces. I am envisaging a caber toss commentator about to call the throw – a trunk call perhaps.

Steady pair ***

A simple yet elegant double definition. The trick with a double definition is to create a surface reading that makes sense and stands on its own where the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. This clue succeeds in that, conjuring up an image of a dating couple. Excellent!

Strengthen church support first ***

Another clue using the BRA & CE elements. I think the wordplay is just acceptable as directions to place BRA at the beginning of the clue. The surface reading is also satisfactory.

Support around front of eye-teeth ****½

BRA+C (around)+E. So where is the definition? It's the entire clue which makes this clue an &lit (I wish they had taken the time to come up with a better term!). Eye-teeth, eyeteeth or eye teeth – take your pick as they all seem equally valid depending on your dictionary. I found the hyphenated version in the *SOED*, but not in *Chambers*. I should add that an &lit doesn't automatically make it a winning clue either, but I just felt that this one was particularly neat.

Support church support ***½

BRA + CE. The most simple of clues! It is mechanically sound but is lacking some flair, and perhaps a well disguised definition.

Support second class people ***

B + RACE. A perfectly sound clue that the compiler suggests may be found on a bumper sticker.

Support needed for Caber Tossing? ***

Another anagram of CABER. Nothing wrong with this clue, although there's no need for the question mark as it's an orthodox clue and it's not asking a question.

[Continued on p7]