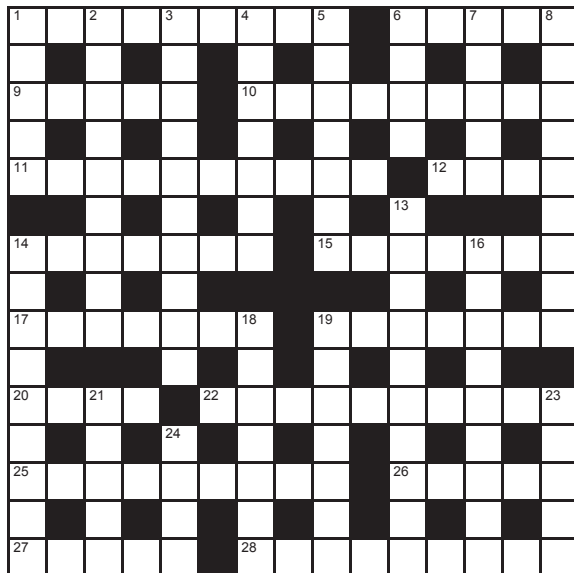


# CROSSWORD

No. 16,291 Set by CRUX



**JOTTER PAD**

## ACROSS

- 1 Second coach is behind the scenes (9)
- 6 Apart from starter, cooking hailed as perfect (5)
- 9 FA aim to break up such gangs (5)
- 10 Extremely faint signal at sea (4,5)
- 11 What belongs to you, really, is ... me! (5,5)
- 12 Sponge conceals head of reef, a danger to shipping (4)
- 14 Sign on back of last runner that fails to start! (7)
- 15 Decline to take one's cue? (2,2,3)
- 17 Map or scheme car designer's involved with (7)
- 19 Help someone who's taken in, we're told (7)
- 20 There's danger in not starting fast (4)
- 22 Leave me some books in the office (10)
- 25 What some players need on reaching forty? (6,3)
- 26 Female singer should make a comeback (5)
- 27 Long, long story about Spain (5)
- 28 Jaguars eg might be caught in it (5,4)

## DOWN

- 1 Irregular pay for retaining a politician (5)
- 2 Business collapse of Rolls or Royce, for example (2-7)
- 3 Thrilled by celebrity, or attacked by one! (10)
- 4 Unfavourable jingle? (7)
- 5 *The Listener* takes promo for sleep aid (7)
- 6 Indulge oddly in such gossip, maybe (4)
- 7 Bird-dog, not black (5)
- 8 To a girl it could be someone in a suit (9)
- 13 One who must count as a rustler? (10)
- 14 May 24 be an old colonial celebration? (6,3)
- 16 English pupils sit in correct part of aircraft (9)
- 18 I choose whether spades lead or not (7)
- 19 Endless rush made an impression (7)
- 21 South Island's contribution to marine exploration (5)
- 23 Secure summit provides protection for EU (3,2)
- 24 Spirit starts to ebb long after nightfall (4)