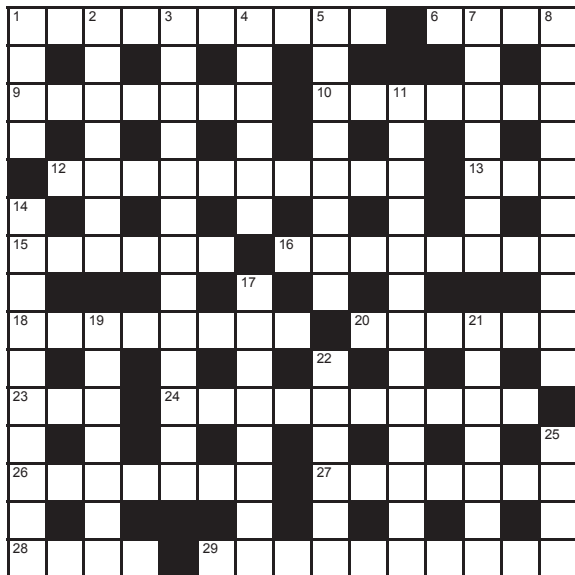


CROSSWORD

No. 16,144 Set by FALCON



JOTTER PAD

ACROSS

- 1 In complete opposition, some central Europeans excepted (5,5)
- 6 Beginning to seem backward in culture, behind the times (4)
- 9 Get in touch with shrink right way (7)
- 10 Rank outsider? Work inside on her jumping (2-5)
- 12 Thoroughly at home, always? Surely not! (4,1,5)
- 13 Climber in cream, not gold (3)
- 15 Wily, like ancient king, leader of Egyptians (6)
- 16 Labour pains (8)
- 18 Drink freely by left luggage facility at 27 (8)
- 20 Get the message about ending of aid, and lose one's temper (3,3)
- 23 Pair, uneasy at first, entering party (3)
- 24 Almost her age, nun worried about head of order (4,6)
- 26 Ban therefore must include doctor, American (7)
- 27 Perhaps John Lennon tune on piano, or beginning of "Thriller" (7)
- 28 Say nothing about a small band (4)
- 29 On tenth lap, running in athletics event (10)

DOWN

- 1 Speed of expert under pressure (4)

- 2 Tolerant of knight that is breaking fast (7)
- 3 Climber in vivid red, athletic type (7,6)
- 4 Very strong, round number in gym (6)
- 5 To give a facelift to US city, tax highest of earners? (8)
- 7 Bird got in annexe after friend turned up (7)
- 8 They may relieve tension in derby as row erupts (5,5)
- 11 Detective in our helicopter, squirming (7,6)
- 14 Take a shine to groom in fun costume (5,5)
- 17 Not to mention bird's claw found in shelter (3,5)
- 19 Figure runs home, not quite ahead of coach (7)
- 21 Toy dog lost during short mass meeting (3,4)
- 22 Meal about finished? (6)
- 25 Enthusiasts pulled up in shock (4)

Solution 16,143

