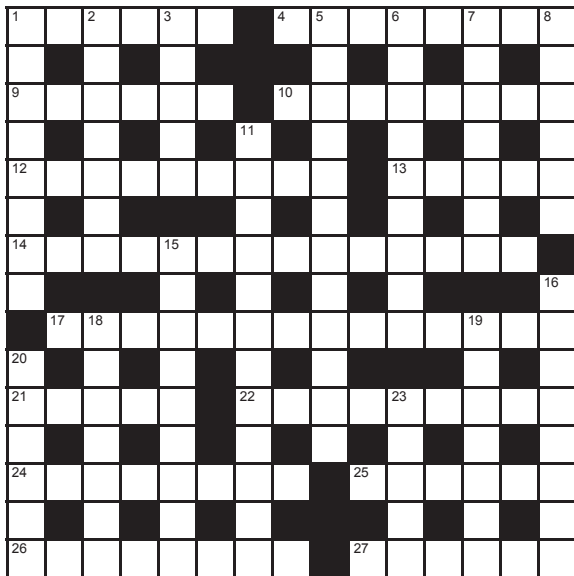


CROSSWORD

No. 15,870 Set by FALCON



JOTTER PAD

ACROSS

- 1 Understand leader of faction, in briefly (6)
- 4 Close deal over late drink (8)
- 9 Feel sorry about Garbo losing article? (6)
- 10 Cola: a cup ordered in famous beach resort (8)
- 12 Turmoil caused by wizard holding Latin mass (9)
- 13 Manage to protect small thicket (5)
- 14 Perhaps a half fire complaints off (6,8)
- 17 Suspicious deaths, enthralling a politician and former PM, in part of London (9,5)
- 21 Soundly criticise a form of light entertainment (5)
- 22 Reptile runs by a log, tail twitching (9)
- 24 Model soldier, like leader of military (8)
- 25 Picture producer, one leaving America in disguise (6)
- 26 Wandering in Lincoln, Rolls-Royce worker? (8)
- 27 Conjecture made by those people hoarding gold (6)

DOWN

- 1 First and second in woodland (8)
- 2 Pair of wrestlers, game couple (3,4)

- 3 Famous American athlete turned up fresh, entering round second (5)
- 5 Unrivalled, earnings involving short story (12)
- 6 Drink after social game (9)
- 7 Combo's leader plays new love song (7)
- 8 Place above for small bird (6)
- 11 Net gain? Import faring badly (6,6)
- 15 I see what you're saying (3-6)
- 16 Cleaner cautious about young man (8)
- 18 Unfavourable, a part of poem about duke (7)
- 19 Style of interior design having red coat applied (3,4)
- 20 Brandy produced by good performer of popular music, reportedly (6)
- 23 Group's first hit, top of hip-hop chart (5)

Solution 15,869

