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, enthraling 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

KING S RANSOM DEW
I O W N W O E E A
C A L V E G U A R D S M E N
K O A E N I E G
B A N K R O L L S F L A I L
A G U E Y N E
C R E T A N S A X I S
K R N N O G P
O D E S R A G D O L L
P F R O T A
R H I N O N U T S A B O U T
O L M R T M C O
F A L S E M O V E I N F U N
T I D O R S A I
T I N A T M O S P H E R I C