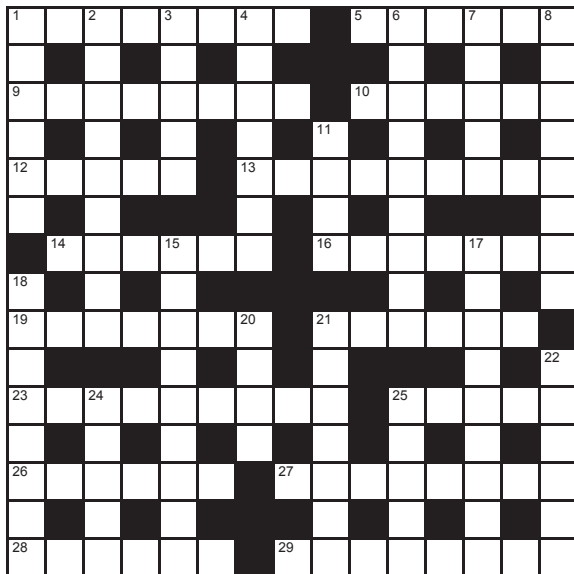


CROSSWORD

No. 16,428 Set by GOZO



JOTTER PAD

All the Across clues and 3 Down lead to a thematic solution and each lacks a thematic definition.
ACROSS

- 1 Black or white in the States – one and the same (8)
- 5 Morning in the sticks, for starters (6)
- 9 Made out leading racing hound (8)
- 10 German, not bad. That's odd (6)
- 12 Cockney fellow's present (5)
- 13 A little lost, when old – losing one's head (5,4)
- 14 Half the season's over for sure (6)
- 16 Suspend wife inside house (5,2)
- 19 Role which includes Romeo and Joiner, in French (7)
- 21 Tennis champion knocking back drink by bar (6)
- 23 Reports of posh cargo on Stockton's river (9)
- 25 Some terrain owls return to regularly (5)
- 26 Front runner coming second (6)
- 27 Young girl, topless siren (8)
- 28 The same practice areas (6)
- 29 Singer at spa (8)

DOWN

- 1 He'll take drivers round the course (6)
- 2 Strangely regrettable that non-drinker leaves this drink (5,4)
- 3 Sound of horse or injured heron (5)
- 4 US actress dispensed with on the radio (7)

- 6 Stuffing husky and rodent, we're told (9)
- 7 New name given to one strait (5)
- 8 Remained and organised video nasty, but six left at the start (6,2)
- 11 It's almost dark – almost! (4)
- 15 Examination of slide, most clever to conceal drug (5,4)
- 17 Appreciation of view expressed by King George? (9)
- 18 Transpired to have copied bearing fruit (8)
- 20 Thank you note for collection of pictures (4)
- 21 Footballer Lionel, a hot favourite at Christmas? (7)
- 22 Lowly soldiers face losing leader (6)
- 24 Leader's lodge (5)
- 25 Not the winner in a close race (5)

Solution 16,427

