Crossword 15,773 Set by Mudd

ACROSS
1 Pa supple, however, for a dog? (7)
5 Last worker to get a drink (7)
9 Admiral, male taking instinctively to water? (5)
10 Horrible participating in a putsch? (9)
11 Awkward tangle in middle of web after weaving (9)
12 Block when batting, then caught (5)
13 Casualty after fine thread (5)
15 Opponent very sad, a competitor finally beaten (9)
18 Someone eating very little fruit (9)
19 Arrest Catholic extremists, did you say? (5)
21 Token nocturnal animal having tail docked (5)
23 One swallowing a tree drinking western liquor! (9)
25 Rigid tails, nice when wagging (9)
26 D-desire to dump (5)
27 Novel held, I'm not sure book held will be put down (7)
28 Beginning to eat fast, Mudd getting trapped wind, perhaps (7)

DOWN
1 Tummy, if here? (7)
2 Players' entrance, where male journalist and Australian native turned up (5,4)
3 Fury, one having no head for peace (5)
4 Safety device I placed on concrete in rural property (4,5)
5 Heading for cheetah, I check out catlike carnivore (5)
6 Third of poachers feeling awful standing among pheasants perhaps, pocketing game (9)
7 Dishonest swimmer given unknown injection? (5)
8 Girl they upset having expended energy, for good reason (7)
14 Green Party supporting leader in scandal, one involved in sleaze (9)
16 Bodily chamber opening, contamination's first found in gall (9)
17 Great thinker once designing toilets south of the centre of Kilmarnock (9)
18 Local liberal is last to finish, so put out (7)
20 One's heard within this ethos a right to change (7)
22 Vision, draft initially put on paper (5)
23 Foul in football? Expect trouble in derby, all kicking off (5)
24 Club, where wife evidently nervous? (5)

Copies of How to Sound Clever by Hubert van den Bergh and The Superior Person's Book of Words by Peter Bowler, published by A&C Black and Bloomsbury, will be awarded to the senders of the first three correct entries opened on Wednesday February 14 Entries marked Crossword 15,773 on the envelope, should be sent to Weekend FT, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. Solution on February 17.

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Jotter pad