CROSSWORD
No. 15,877 Set by JULIUS

ACROSS
1 Gather Julius confesses to being an idiot (5)
2 According to Spooner, Barcelona superstar “past it”, reduced by 10% (9)
3 Sun, French wine – good for doing a crossword! (7)
4 Outstrip coach to London (7)
5 Beguiling women apply henna to locks of hair, introducing a hint of colour (13)
6 He saved animals without hesitation (4)
7 Bury the greatest American among the others (5,4)
8 As van Helsing (as van Winkel)? (3,3,3,5)
9 Hook’s bo’sun regularly simpered (4)
10 That’s a perfunctory item; ITN doesn’t hang about! (3-5,5)
11 This month’s universal download (7)
12 Camera in Manchester loaded with film (4,3)
13 Where Kane reportedly wandered, having been sent off? (2,3,4,2,3)

DOWN
1 Endless errors of judgment in Recess (4)
2 Radical Caliphate? The West’s not paying attention! (6,2,3,6)
3 Doctrinaire character to pursue Mike at first (9)
4 For starters: hummus, artichoke, labneh, vinaigrette; afters: semolina carrot cake . . . . (5)
5 . . . . eat up, madam (4)
6 Guns shot tusker in the outskirts of Mandalay (8)
7 After extra time upset in the cup! (3)
8 Shift worker tailoring seams in darker environment getting afternoon off (10)
9 Much-loved, Trump’s leadership restored confidence having abandoned the centre (9)
10 Ponder a time in century-old French cottage (8)
11 Turning up on 1ac. round the back of Julius Caesar’s Palace? (6)
12 Female damns crude arriviste (4-4,3)
13 Herculean? No; do minimum accepted in our time (4,6)
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Solution 15,876