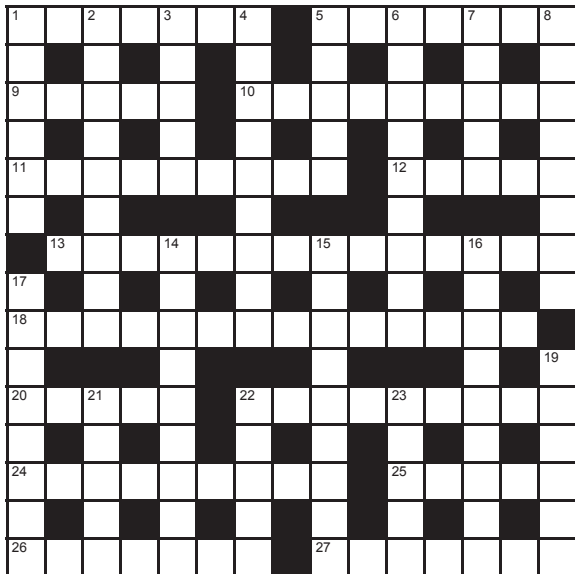


# CROSSWORD

## No. 15,973 Set by JULIUS



JOTTER PAD

### ACROSS

- 1 Rejecting argument monarch is effective (7)
- 5 Desalinated production abandoning troubled int'l waters (4,3)
- 9 Transfer about to be tied up (5)
- 10 22 down's simply-cooked tuna served in bay leaf starter is off the menu (2,7)
- 11 This WWI mess sounds like a grim tale (4,5)
- 12 Current bishop to exclude retired religious scholar (5)
- 13 Bolingbroke contracted HIV (5,3,6)
- 18 Egyptians relax at work in an infuriating manner (14)
- 20 Yogi's morning in Belgravia (5)
- 22 Meal of lean chicken meat featuring American Kentucky-fried prime cuts (9)
- 24 Compulsory exercise for the players (9)
- 25 One gets stoned in Napoli, Ventimiglia (5)
- 26 Devilish oriental appetiser left unfinished, though mostly agreeable (7)
- 27 Old Nigel's retiring, going out for a drink (4,3)

### DOWN

- 1 Broad stumped; most difficult for the wicket-keeper? (6)
- 2 Tommy could be playing poker with Cora (4,5)
- 3 Find flaws essentially in partner's mother? (2-3)
- 4 Small alligator eats boy, one brave fighter (9)

- 5 Dutch pawnbroker ripped off lecturer; he's a slow learner! (5)
- 6, 17 PM joins the US attorney-general for long liquid lunches (9,8)
- 7 Quiet massage for Rosemary? (5)
- 8 No-one's left, OK? (3,5)
- 14 Contemptible salesman turning up drunk with Scotsman (9)
- 15 Fumbling encounters taking cocaine in Paris kept between ourselves (5,4)
- 16 It's liberating, signing a new tenancy agreement! (9)
- 17 See 6
- 19 Broadcast troubling news about Turkey (6)
- 21 Strategic move leaving government scope (5)
- 22 Mel Brooks's debut on Network of the Century? (5)
- 23 1,000 yen over? Time for old Japanese city! (5)

Solution 15,972

