CROSSWORD
No. 15,974 Set by NEO

ACROSS
1 Analyst flustered beginning to engage this sporty chap (15)
9 Excellent beer sent round in Crown & Sceptre? (7)
10 Maybe swelling number of reserve forwards (3,4)
11 Husband gets mum’s sister in trouble (5)
12 Enliven by topping with one pizza ingredient (9)
13 In Natal he represented Hawthorne for example (9)
15 One departure after another for Spaniard (5)
16 Something incomprehensible from Tsipras say (5)
18 Fool succeeded with heartless gibe about single aide (9)
20 Infamous old port guarded by other people? (9)
23 Mysterious European Republic wanting revolution (5)
24 Lilac no good planted in troubled country (7)
25 King Henry having an artist over in boozer (7)
26 Lower form runs new school (9,6)

DOWN
1 Reproduction Stonehenge assembled in capital (15)
2 Food unusually tough and extremely rubbery (7)
3 Military vehicle brings force in to stop pain (4-5)
4 Incline encountered after time in hike (5)
5 Such surveys necessarily on the way out? (4,5)
6 Sign that character must be removed by alpha female (5)
7 His name is love (7)
8 Face up to defeat when punch gets through? (4,2,2,3,4)
14 Very soon scoundrel gets a girlfriend (9)
15 Bandit’s gone round holding sellers up (9)
17 Record first signs of indigestion creaking in guts (7)
19 Big plot last from Zola on prison guards (7)
21 Lordless swordsman right ahead skinned mink (5)
22 Wet work agent accepts (5)

Solution 15,973

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