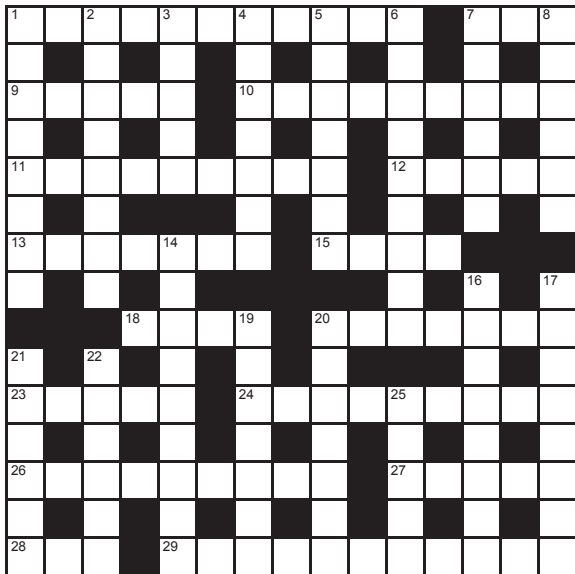


CROSSWORD

No. 13,891 Set by CRUX



A prize of The Good Word Guide by Martin Manser and How to Sound Clever by Hubert van den Bergh will be awarded for the first correct solution opened. Solutions by Wednesday January 11 marked Prize Crossword 13,891 on the envelope, to the Financial Times, 1 Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. Solution on Monday January 16.

NAME.....
 ADDRESS.....

ACROSS

- 1 Cryptic clue brains need time to unravel (11)
- 7 Pull heads off tulips or wallflowers (3)
- 9 Drunk, withholding name, may be punished (5)
- 10 Room the Queen gives the field marshal (9)
- 11 It's eccentric of Crux to keep frogs, primarily (3-6)
- 12 Female duck not recorded (5)
- 13 Chapter of endless saga does, in translation (7)
- 15 Brad, say, last in cabin to go sick (4)
- 18 Part of speech dropped nowadays, for another (4)
- 20 Run with the pack, like Tory at his best (7)
- 23 Faint circle in fresh snow (5)
- 24 Hold up progress, partly thanks to new alliance (9)
- 26 Quality credit (9)
- 27 Tasteless play ends after short 15 (5)
- 28 Press for payment to be completed, we hear (3)
- 29 Could be Jonathan's original sin (6,5)

DOWN

- 1 Having a ball, including one's sweetheart (2,6)
- 2 Swingeing fines involving the pub party (4,4)
- 3 Remove part of bird's crest (5)

- 4,19 Have a chocolaty snack, perhaps, to beat everything (4,3,7)
- 5 A little bird, a bigger bird (7)
- 6 African piano, the one that's playing (9)
- 7 Game of numbers, including 15, oddly (6)
- 8 Drawback taking exercise? It gets you out of shape! (6)
- 14 20% like Pinky, for instance (3,2,4)
- 16 Cold weather headgear, apparently, much reduced (5,3)
- 17 Use drugs? He'd have a job! (8)
- 19 See 4
- 20 Nearly finish working (5,2)
- 21 Yet Man, *pace* Donne, really is one! (6)
- 22 US city leader, short and overweight (6)
- 25 More like one of the crowd (5)

SOLUTION 13,880



The winner's name will be published in Weekend FT on January 14