

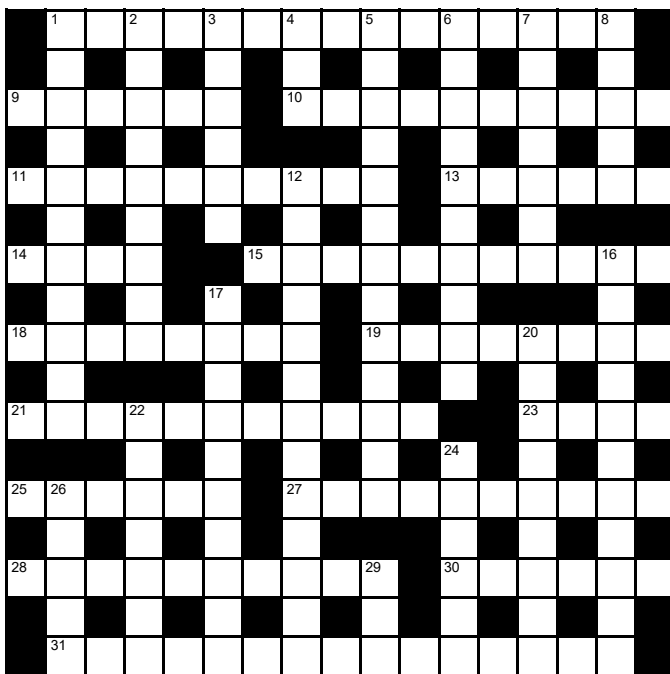
POLYMATCH 1,282 by SLEUTH

ACROSS

- 1** Containers for retail goods (8,7)
9 Cressida ___, children's author noted for her book series *How to Train Your Dragon* (6)
10 The emigration of highly qualified people from a particular country (5,5)
11 A hairstyle in which hair is tapered in layers (7,3)
13 Lord ___, Lyra Silvertongue's father in the *His Dark Materials* trilogy (6)
14 Bishan Singh ___, left-arm spinner who took 266 Test wickets for India (4)
15 Chains, cords or ribbons for securing timing devices worn on the person (5,6)
18 Director, born in 1957, whose films include *BlackKkKlansman* (5,3)
19 Covered Japanese sedan chairs carried by men (8)
21 A dessert of custard topped with caramelised sugar (5,6)
23 A rod passing through the centre of a wheel (4)
25 A Spanish dish of rice, chicken, seafood etc cooked and served in a pan (6)
27 A musical direction meaning 'with a gradual decrease in speed' (10)
28 A small rural residence composed of clay and chopped straw (3,7)
30 Mole-like mammals whose collective noun is a colony or drove (6)
31 Conflict of the Middle Ages that included the Battle of Agincourt (7,5,3)

DOWN

- 1** An official who keeps a tally in sports matches (11)
2 To spend too much time in cogitation (9)
3 Harry ___, fictional spy created by Len Deighton (6)
4 The central point of a matter (3)
5 Informal term for a competition decided on the basis of popularity (6,7)
6 Song by Blondie released on their 1978 album *Parallel Lines* (6,4)
7 Stoke-on-Trent suburb where Josiah Wedgwood opened a ceramics factory (7)
8 1996 film based on the life of pianist David Helfgott (5)
12 A thick steak cut from grilled fillet of beef named after a French statesman (13)
16 Labour politician who became Scotland's inaugural First Minister (6,5)
17 One who manages a gentleman's social institution (10)
20 Actress who played a young mother in 1968 film *Rosemary's Baby* (3,6)
22 Broad esplanade and seawall in Havana (7)
24 George MacDonald ___, author who created the Flashman series of novels (6)
26 The name for mercury in alchemy (5)
29 Eberechi ___, midfielder who joined Crystal Palace FC in 2020 (3)



Solution 1,281

C	A	S	S	O	C	K		U	T	T	O	X	E	T	E	R
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	N		C		N		W		S		A		P		R	
J	A	C	K	K	E	R	O	U	A	C		A	L	P	E	N
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W	E	L	S	H		S	M	O	O	T	H		H	O	U	N
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