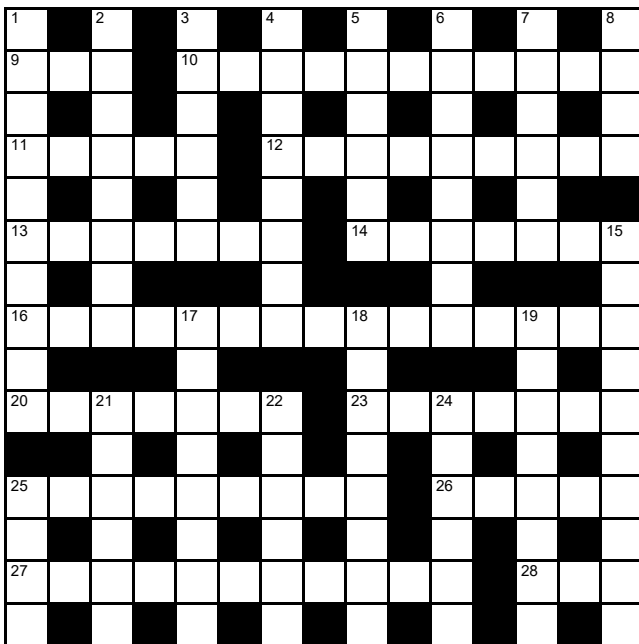


ACROSS

- 9** Member of parliament in bowler (3)
- 10** Not missing any of the competitions whatever happens? (2,3,6)
- 11** A sailor gripping line where knot may be tied (5)
- 12** A truant released large American spider (9)
- 13** See cod? I see flounders! (7)
- 14** Almost heaven after tea, this French wine (7)
- 16** Emblem of Communism in Kremlin made cash when exploited (6,3,6)
- 20** Beginning to develop touch of nerves before climb? (7)
- 23** Unfair treatment in chilly and damp Kent town (3,4)
- 25** Cursory survey of English river led by famous explorer (5,4)
- 26** Blow in bursts with old zest (5)
- 27** Scrooge, say, as represented in metaphors (11)
- 28** Mostly considerate family (3)

DOWN

- 1** Occasionally won hand with ten high (3,3,4)
- 2** Basis of short drama initially taking shape (8)
- 3** Scottish writer in pub about to imbibe one (6)
- 4** Livestock finally destroy a beautiful orchid (8)
- 5** Unusual circle for member of the clergy (6)
- 6** Songstress ultimately wrong leaving du Maurier character (8)
- 7** Regular publication? University breaking record (6)
- 8** Huge amount of land in Kansas I acquired (4)
- 15** Imply skip is riveted (10)
- 17** Service still very good around middle of evening (8)
- 18** Fell over below unpleasant photographer's place? (8)
- 19** Reminder to hang on to rice wine (8)
- 21** Husband maybe needs support after blowing top (6)
- 22** Work hard in attempt to make pot (6)
- 24** Bet involving northern composer (6)
- 25** Conservative politician describing a holiday complex (4)



Jotter pad