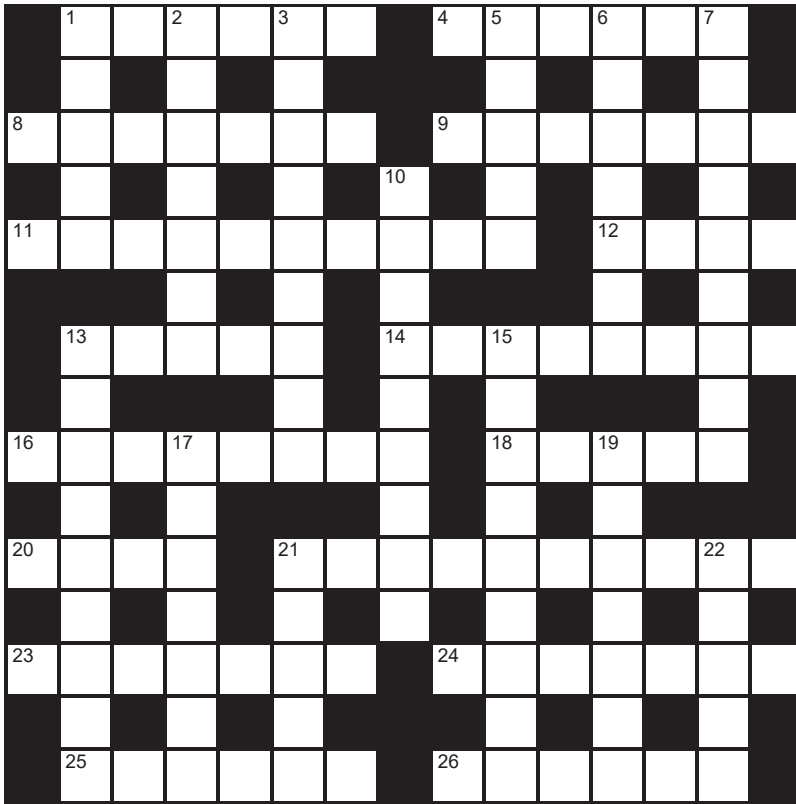


CROSSWORD

No 16,995 Set by BOBCAT



ACROSS

- 1 Youngster half-heartedly declines berries (6)
- 4 Poke fun at Steffi's second service (3,3)
- 8 Swallow, rook and other birds heading west (7)
- 9 Police lacking power to stop page being edited (7)
- 11 See 12
- 12, 11 Following realignment, no real hope then for Mutual Assistance Directive (4,3,7)
- 13 Possible bad hair day? Sleep on it (5)
- 14 Gum Alice mixed is sticky stuff (8)
- 16 Teacher's pet heard to use words wrongly (8)
- 18 Cry from blackface leaving fold? (5)
- 20 Lose head in no time? Not sure (4)
- 21 Adrian Chiles gutted about conveyance held up by Poles (5,5)
- 23 Amendment by one willing to bring retired detectives into loop (7)
- 24 Artist concealing personal information joins company in Spanish city (7)
- 25 Proclaim order to destroy vehicle (6)
- 26 75% of liar's admission is key (6)

DOWN

- 1 Top brass (5)
- 2 ABBA's ignoring Björk's tip to boogie with Tim Rice (7)
- 3 Fool and Fairy Queen upset drink over Will's Bottom (9)
- 5 Measurement unit always abbreviated in ruler (5)
- 6 Carrier pigeons at Chelsea billets (7)
- 7 Spinner's trajectory is outstanding (3-6)
- 10 Japanese leader's lurking in the wings here (3,6)
- 13 Changes policy following spin failures (4-5)
- 15 Junior sailors about to reject marks for navigating in sound (5,4)
- 17 High level view of broadcaster's policy (7)
- 19 Doctor suffocated by record high temperature losing footing in arid bush (7)
- 21 Trap to catch poisoner? (5)
- 22 Fix papers to procure decoration (5)

JOTTER PAD

Solution 16,994

