CROSSWORD
No 17,562 Set by BRADMAN

ACROSS
1 Certain cheats — zany characters with musical instruments (4,6)
6 Pole left over, a bit short (4)
9 Publications not mainly in the pink! (10)
10 Necklace is light, not hard (4)
12 Professional criterion apt to be flexible (12)
15 Hospitality old writer Henry established by river (4,5)
17 Very foolish person by Great North Road (5)
18 Rebel with hesitation in river? (5)
19 Hesitant princess starting operatic cycle (9)
20 I repeatedly get romance wrong — I cannot square the circle! (12)
24 Skilful learner taken on board by former President (4)
25 Very bad adult, one with common sense, very bad (10)
26 Yen to be in specialist fighting unit in States (4)
27 Sweet chap, me, 24, roughly (5,5)

DOWN
1 Jargon philosopher’s spoken (4)
2 Lines of angry exchanges? (4)
3 Senior cop rushed, full of emotion (12)
4 Jelly with a flavour that’s inadequate (5)
5 Appropriate as some expert in entertainment (9)
7 Forecast offered by professional theologian regarded as heretic (10)
8 My daughter is entertained by funny singer in studio productions (10)
11 Slam Blairite involved in two-sided negotiations (12)
13 New signora excited certain natives (10)
14 Upset tot a yeller? I’ll bring a drink round (3,7)
16 Maybe propping up team that is bottom? (9)
21 Officer in charge is a pain (5)
22 Hospital hooter making a beastly noise? (4)
23 Like one area, an area very large (4)

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