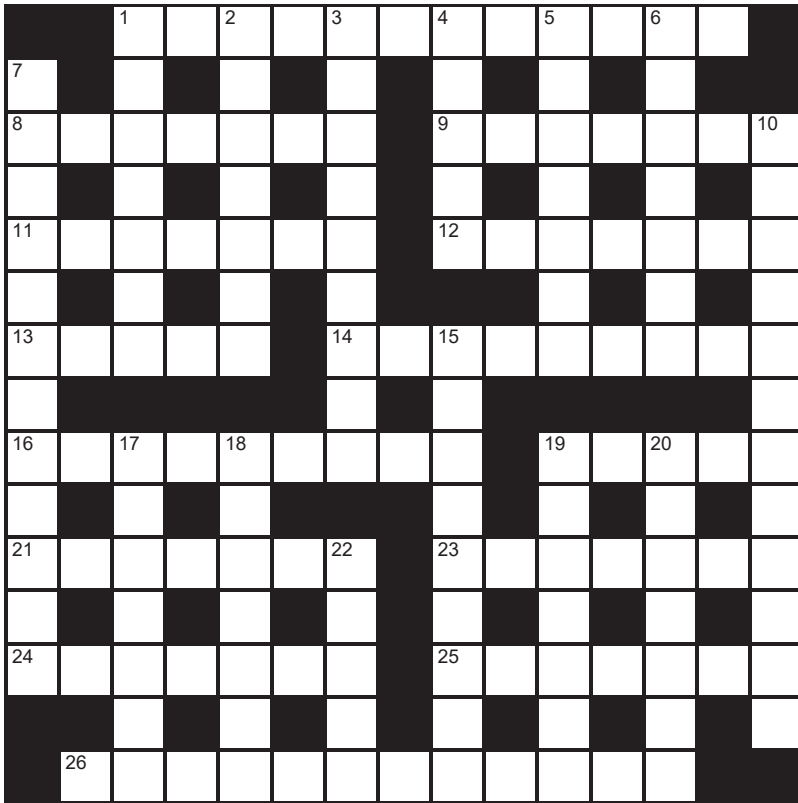


CROSSWORD No 17,711 by STEERPIKE



ACROSS

- 1 A cold fish admitting she shows weakness (8,4)
- 8 Truss stands by Ombudsman's initial assessment (7)
- 9 Clergyman denied surgery following stroke? That's awful! (7)
- 11 Natural extract of garlic in a grocer's on the counter (7)
- 12 Lad claiming European heavyweight is a beast (3,4)
- 13 Burnt out writer lying in street (5)
- 14 Oddly void look concealing one's mindful state (9)
- 16 Runner reaches out to clench gold (9)
- 19 Small charge to go around attractions (5)
- 21 Sums originally spent backing Article 16, perhaps (7)
- 23 Like a galaxy close to engulfing most of Taurus (7)
- 24 Assist naive victim of fraud in hearing (7)
- 25 Have more stripes than pants on a Turk! (7)
- 26 Expert drunkenly toasting society's heroes (12)

DOWN

- 1 Titillating letter's content gets one quivering with excitement (7)
- 2 Locks sent up fly-half's headgear (7)
- 3 For Spooner, Barbie's romantic rival is paparazzi's accessory (4,5)
- 4 Makes money picking up drinks dispensers (5)
- 5 Bachelor in Hanoi carelessly left something in boot? (7)
- 6 Issue of rising tide overwhelming island town periodically (7)
- 7 Masked man heartlessly butchering stars in a religious group (12)
- 10 King Uther's upset about queen's protest (6,6)
- 15 Rookie crime-fighter striking alien (9)
- 17 Higher quality vocalists entertaining clientele on vacation (7)
- 18 Charity and love filling humble dwelling (7)
- 19 Young lady laid bare most recent controversies (7)
- 20 Very interested in description of cereals without stalks? (3,4)
- 22 Revolutionary political organisation's defending migrant's middle child (5)

Solution 17,710

S	E	T	O	F	F	S	T	I	C	K	L	E	R
T	E	I				I	U	A	A				
R	A	R	I	N	G	A	N	G	S	T	R	O	M
A	M	I	R	Y	T	G	P						
N	A	I	N	S	O	O	K	B	O	D	E	G	A
G	N	H	U	B	M			R					
E	X	A	M	S	T	R	I	K	E	S	O	U	T
T	E	I	Z	R									
T	H	E	O	M	A	N	I	A	C	S	I	G	N
E													
A	S	S	E	S	S	O	R	G	A	N	I	S	T
R	M	S	H	E	U	N	U						
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A	L	O	G					C	T	A			
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JOTTER PAD



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