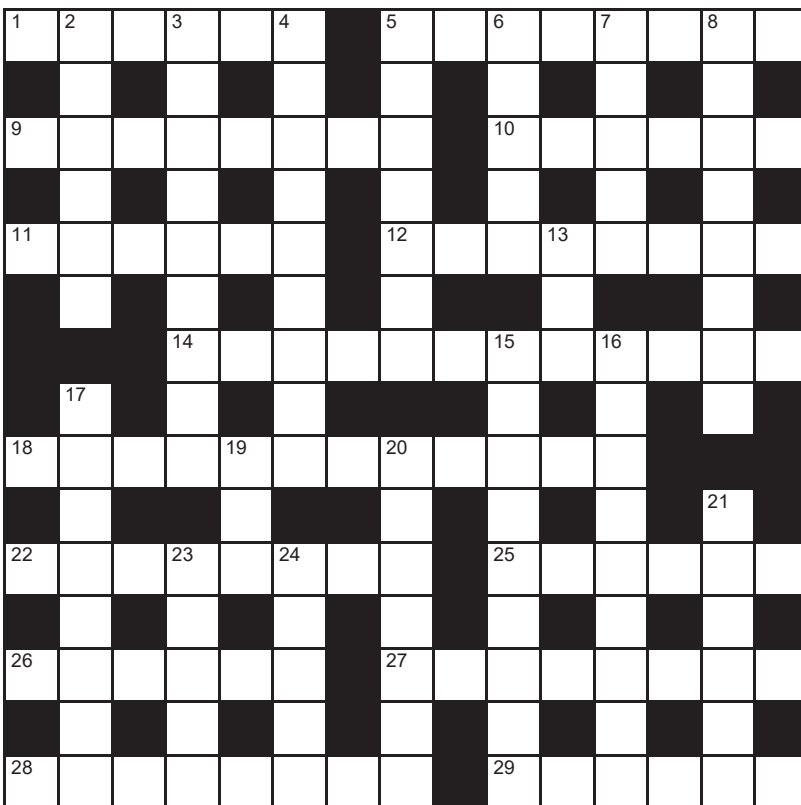


CROSSWORD No 17,979 by NEO



Solution 17,978

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

ACROSS

- 1 Some of the finest fur coats displayed around here? (6)
- 5/20/26 Quarrel somewhat drunkenly among the gods? That's Carol! (4,4,7,2,4)
- 9 Quintessential Englishman can talk nonsense (4,4)
- 10 Back yard fencing weak and sagging (6)
- 11 Licentious criminal Blair indicted at last (6)
- 12 Still good to receive Novak's first service (8)
- 14/3 Dance article, not serious, sensational with spin applied (4,3,5,9)
- 18 Float in E Med and Corsica, stormy area (3-5,4)
- 22 Muse to incarcerate old woman in scented container (8)
- 25 Plato finally co-ordinates knowledge — it's inspired (6)
- 26 See 5 Across
- 27 One couple going without sex: daughter followed suit (8)
- 28 Save friend Romeo stabs, showing cruel aspect (8)
- 29 On level terms with the Spanish team (6)

DOWN

- 2 Eggs to include acceptable one and one green (6)
- 3 See 14
- 4 Memorable phrase in confined area attributed to Spooner? (5,4)
- 5 US airport over time becomes most dreary (7)
- 6 Going in starkers is grand way to attract attention (5)
- 7 Very easy task bringing in river debris (5)
- 8 Write article to support nearly-new drink that relieves sorrow (8)
- 13 Where Neagh is, lough showing duck? (3)
- 15 With online scam over, tightwad endlessly cut spending (9)
- 16 Canine say barking no matter what (2,3,4)
- 17 Check having to board earlier vessel (8)
- 19 Carried by British sailors, American took flight (3)
- 20 See 5 Across
- 21 Dry quarters needed in Pacific (6)
- 23 Inclined to be an idiot having assimilated Pound (5)
- 24 Westminster in cover up getting third degree? (1,4)