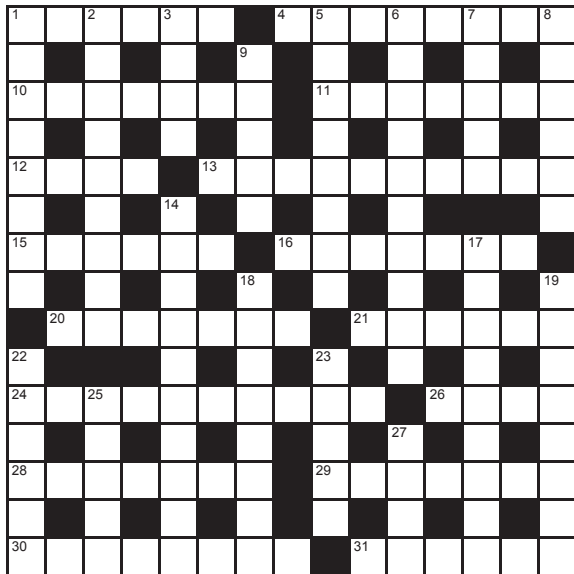


CROSSWORD

No. 14,172 Set by CRUX



JOTTER PAD

ACROSS

- 1 Failed to bid spades, surprisingly (6)
- 4 Watercolour? (8)
- 10 Men in black exposed in postage fiddle (7)
- 11 Investigate test in English (7)
- 12 One starts roosting in a maple tree (4)
- 13 Items that I need to reorder right now (2,4,4)
- 15 Main concern of young man with odd ideas? (6)
- 16 Empty tanker takes on one army corps for Greek warship (7)
- 20 Bookmakers work in them risk picking the odds (7)
- 21 A number of men told to mount up (6)
- 24 Gold prospectors once, doomed to failure (10)
- 26 Yet it means everything to an actor (4)
- 28 Polo ponies' centre supplying famous Italian (7)
- 29 Jack possibly needs one on account of his heart (7)
- 30 Noisy parties in lodgings start off quiet (8)
- 31 Happened to be cut down (6)

DOWN

- 1 Queues for stories like Animal Farm, you could say (8)
- 2 Shopaholic needs us to provide material support (9)
- 3 An antelope's short dash (4)
- 5 One's letters get harder to read (8)
- 6 Thrilled by celebrity, or attacked by one! (10)
- 7 First person to uphold a liberal defence (5)
- 8 Sporting side appearing in Mexico (6)
- 9, 18 Crazy instruction the young must sit through (5,8)
- 14 Where nude models may appear with body piercings (10)
- 17 Fat horse fed with special grain (9)
- 18 See 9
- 19 Not laid down by Article V, possibly (8)
- 22 Greek island, quiet, with atmosphere – not half! (6)
- 23 School punishment once applied to staff! (5)
- 25 Queen's favourite company with right sort of soldier (5)
- 27 Bank of Scotland needs support introducing euro (4)

Solution to Saturday's prize puzzle on Saturday December 8
Solution to yesterday's prize puzzle on Monday December 10
Crossword winners' names will be printed in Weekend FT