

ACROSS

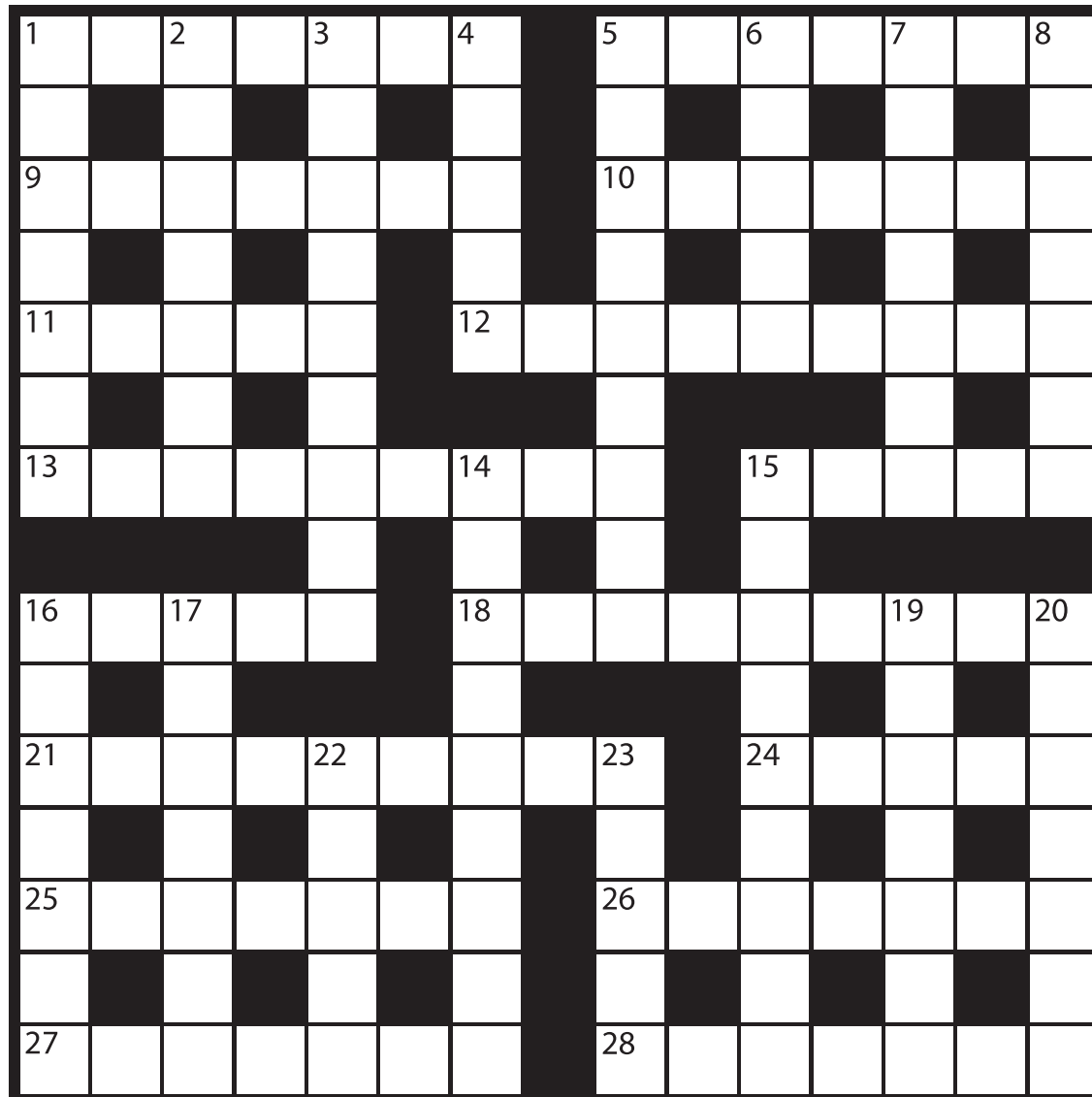
- 1 Detectives in action must be definite (7)
- 5 Practices avoided by smugglers? (7)
- 9 Drama with writer in children's area (7)
- 10 A friend sure at heart but no expert (7)
- 11 Ring and long to express a view (5)
- 12 A good example, part poser (4,5)
- 13 Notice task gives access (9)
- 15 The odds on a topless form of rugby? (5)
- 16 A little tear? (5)
- 18 Portion food bit by bit (9)
- 21 Horse and cart arranged for musicians (9)
- 24 Gasp, swallowing one and put a coat on (5)
- 25 Unusually verbose head? (7)
- 26 Trouble from volunteers trapped in a French cottage (7)
- 27 Fresh offer - it is a sacrifice (7)
- 28 Watches people after game (7)

DOWN

- 1 Official accreditation of ambassador cut short (7)
- 2 Headcase? (7)
- 3 Saddened by title document impounding newspapers (9)
- 4 Benefactor and academic with old right (5)
- 5 Object to test (9)
- 6 Small and friendly crowd on the move (5)
- 7 Expecting a late delivery? (7)
- 8 Almost definite advantage, but no longer needed (7)
- 14 In a hurry? Time a pint must be served (9)
- 15 Former European minister's first point fixed immunity (9)
- 16 Exhibitionist's performance cancelled (4-3)

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- 17 Get better engineers to provide insurance (7)
- 19 Go and live abroad with no golf in Dubai, for example (7)
- 20 Landlords can be characters (7)
- 22 Ireland's up supporting Spain - that's weird (5)
- 23 Put to shame having a go (5)