

ACROSS

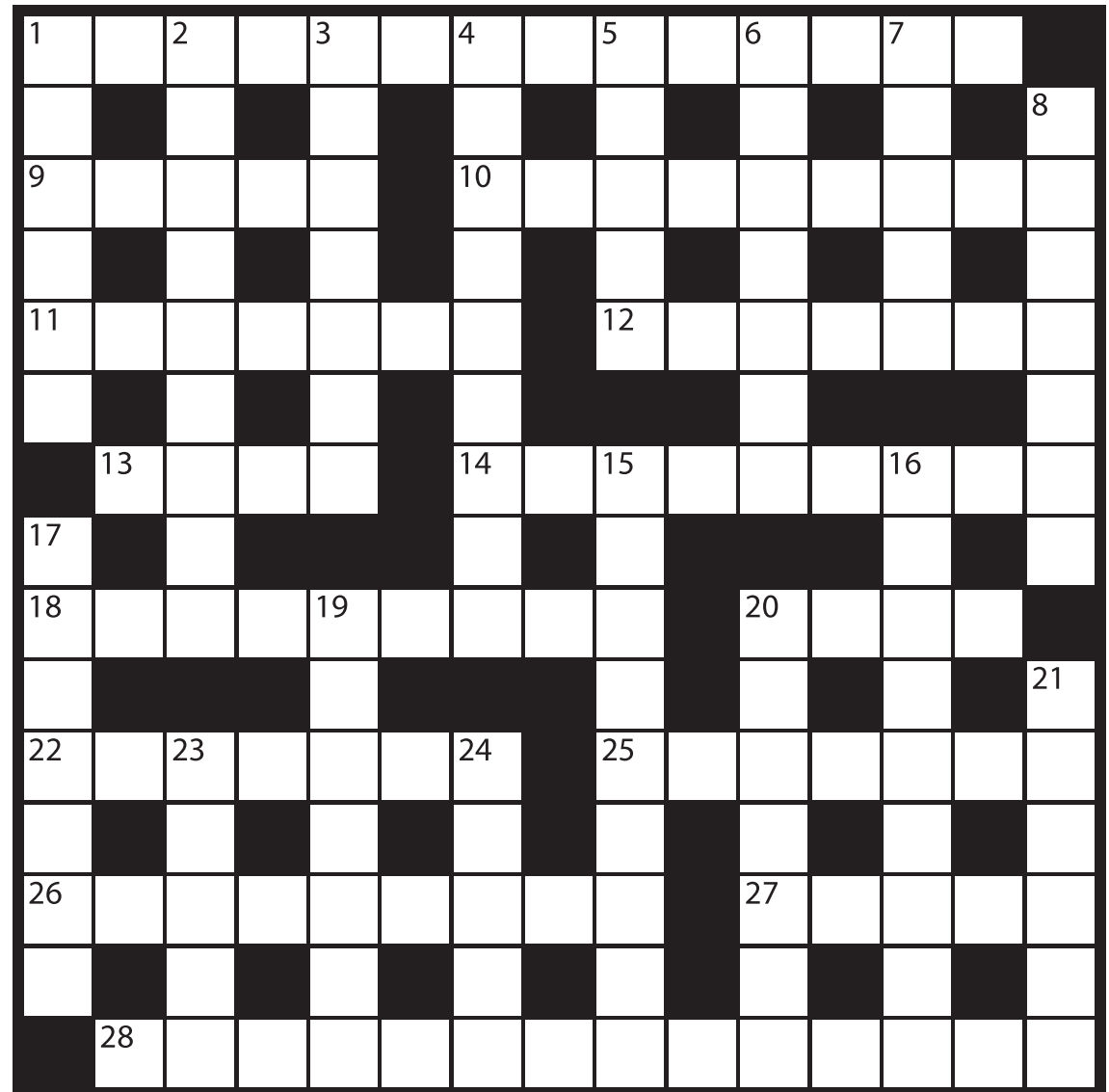
- 1 Secret local mess after hearing couple neck-and-neck (3,5,2,4)
- 9 Nut is able to follow exercise (5)
- 10 Liberal interpretation not applicable to classical performer (9)
- 11 Small bank employee speaking of the stars (7)
- 12 Orderly surrounds wild sow - it's a piece of cake! (2,5)
- 13 Crazy returning to shock (4)
- 14 Mixing dirt with earth, poor quality (5-4)
- 18 Snowdrop seen in the fall? (9)
- 20 Mat put back before university teacher (4)
- 22 Be a star performing side by side (7)
- 25 Push pea around and become fit (5,2)
- 26 Sat back with two blokes, one from Down Under (9)
- 27 Not yet ripe for putting on (5)
- 28 Tiddler's tail we cleansed with purified liquid (9,5)

DOWN

- 1 Key worker in the office (6)
- 2 Those playing in the pit (9)
- 3 Small number in all-in struggle for wool fat (7)
- 4 Hedonistic one, absorbed by awfully scary bit (9)
- 5 Claw back some Cinzano later (5)
- 6 Folded at batman's mark at start of day (7)
- 7 Learning about one European river (5)
- 8 Startle about babies' toys (7)
- 15 Sense nice style, basically (2,7)
- 16 Terribly eager and intended, it's said, to get contract (9)
- 17 Card game occupying American, a stalemate (7)

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- 19 A reservoir worker refusing to be persuaded (7)
- 20 Vessel almost has to leave, heading for wonderful Scottish city (7)
- 21 Back Frenchman by river – first or second in (6)
- 23 Roast? I remove a Swiss dish (5)
- 24 Work round width of fabric (5)