

**ACROSS**

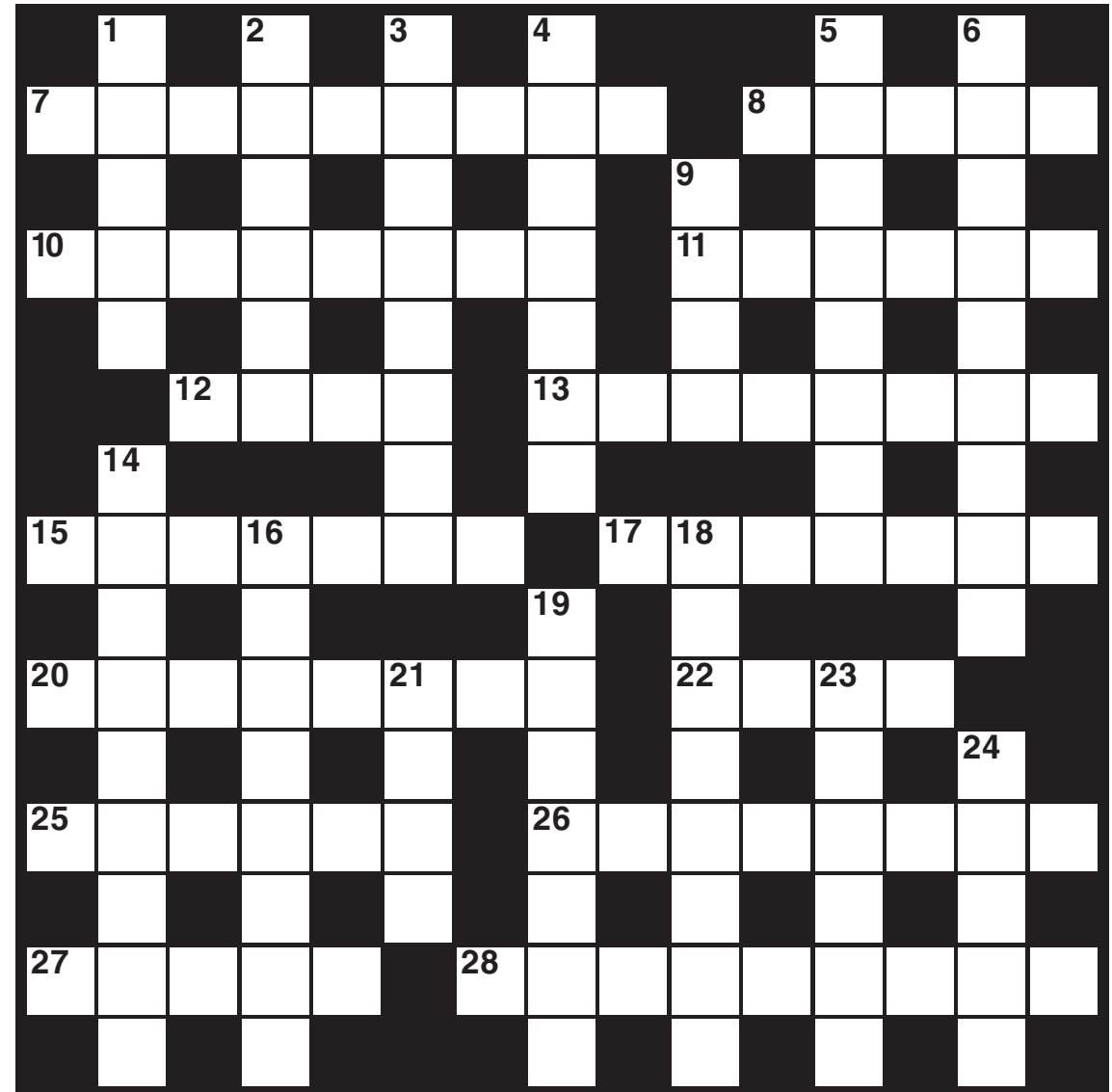
- 7 Tots caper about one who looks on (9)  
 8 The awful old smoothie's introduction shows characteristic spirit (5)  
 10 Time to feel sorry for sportsman, a staunch Conservative (4,4)  
 11 Attractive ringleader in unimportant surroundings (6)  
 12 Girl's love for superstar (4)  
 13 Housing males in principle (8)  
 15 Sack Sidney returning to young woman (7)  
 17 Gave warning treadle was broken (7)  
 20 Request certain to bring joy (8)  
 22 To steal means prison (4)  
 25 Nothing in thrust is idle (6)  
 26 Mail sent out resulted in complaints (8)  
 27 Trees chopped short (5)  
 28 Get back right dog (9)

**DOWN**

- 1 Musical work is on time (5)  
 2 Agree Bill will give in (6)  
 3 Vessels carrying volumes of water round the east (8)  
 4 Trees to be represented on badge (7)  
 5 Ship going round river shows a pennant (8)  
 6 Competitor to study offer (9)  
 9 Frank appears in top entertainment (4)  
 14 Wife unwell, might show self-control (9)  
 16 Signify head will display a miserly quality (8)

Thursday, 31st March, 2022

No. 15,889



- 18 Letter for publican? (8)  
 19 Put off, though set in action (7)  
 21 Exploited — it's nothing new (4)  
 23 Bright beginning to cocktail bar (6)  
 24 Number three perhaps? (5)