

The Crusader's clues

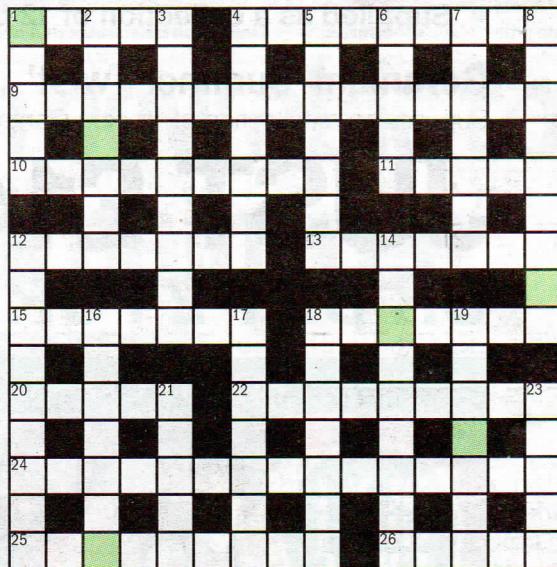
ACROSS

- 1 Concerns a being infers (5)
- 4 A fan left banging outside (9)
- 9 Al, say? He's another one (8,7)
- 10 Food prepared past eight? (9)
- 11 Duck down lines bedding back on board (5)
- 12 Crack about soldiers failing (7)
- 13 Urbane communist taking charge (7)
- 15 Perhaps Edward follows everything his backer says (7)
- 18 Reproduced shirt has an odd fit (7)
- 20 Space around some messy leaves (5)
- 22 Angry six-footer leaves mine in a tavern (9)
- 24 Gathering being organised (7,8)
- 25 Chaps given work in Ecuador secure second rise (9)
- 26 Market turnover gains dealer initial glory (5)

DOWN

- 1 Dope fellow is a thespian (5)
- 2 Standard overtime claim (7)
- 3 Offensive rat about to strike (9)
- 4 Spook found outside of lounge (7)
- 5 Leader hypothesis excludes socialist king (7)
- 6 Divine female, say, with a round face (5)
- 7 A rodent managed to walk over (5,2)
- 8 A scoundrel cracked up here (9)
- 12 Bubbly fraud aching to speak (9)
- 14 Bend between a swamp with a European plant (9)
- 16 One left to fish reversed around a barrier (7)
- 17 A little tin's opened by a flyer (7)
- 18 Hint given by an extreme swimmer (7)
- 19 It's got to hurt being reintroduced (7)
- 21 Cast nets behind marine fish (5)
- 23 A channel around Nova Scotia resorts (5)

Cryptic clues from our knight, and quick clues from his squire, lead to the same answers in the Crusader's Sunday joust



The Squire's clues

ACROSS

- 1 Dreads (5)
- 4 Backer (9)
- 9 Periodic table entry (8,7)
- 10 Pasta strings (9)
- 11 Evade by moving (5)
- 12 Fissure (7)
- 13 Purified (7)
- 15 Asserts (7)
- 18 Flare-up, paddy (7)
- 20 Boy attendants (5)
- 22 Aggrieved (9)
- 24 Meeting up (7,8)
- 25 First appearance (9)
- 26 Praise or honour (5)

DOWN

- 1 Details (5)
- 2 Mediocre (7)
- 3 Disdainful (9)
- 4 Frighten (7)
- 5 Prime minister (7)
- 6 Mountain nymph (5)
- 7 Trample (5,2)
- 8 City of the Netherlands (9)
- 12 Sparkling white wine (9)
- 14 Herb related to melilot (9)
- 16 Person who receives a bequest (7)
- 17 Small amount (7)
- 18 Frog or toad larva (7)
- 19 Arrived at (7)
- 21 Support for an injured arm (5)
- 23 Revolves (5)

For your chance to WIN £100 read down the letters in the highlighted squares to reveal the mystery word.

TO ENTER CALL: 0904 161 1610

and leave your answer and details, or text SXCRUS followed by a space, your answer, name and address details to 84915 or send your grid containing the answer in the shaded squares to: Sunday Express Prize Crossword, March 14, PO Box 12578, Sutton Coldfield B73 9BT. Competition closes Thursday, March 18 at 23:59pm.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POSTCODE: _____

Winner will be selected at random from all correct entry routes after the closing date. Calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1.50 plus your standard network rate. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390.

LAST SUNDAY'S SOLUTION: Across: 1 Tears, 4 Character, 9 Come to terms with, 10 Thesaurus, 11 Aroma, 12 Passive, 13 Strains, 15 Extends, 18 Chancel, 20 Erupt, 22 Assailant, 24 Ruffled feathers, 25 Dress down, 26 Cause. Down: 1 Tacit, 2 Aimless, 3 Situation, 4 Coterie, 5 Arrests, 6 At sea, 7 Tripoli, 8 Rehearsal, 12 Preferred, 14 Realistic, 16 Truffle, 17 So-and-so, 18 Cistern, 19 Chateau, 21 Tales, 23 Taste.
Prize word: Euston

*SP: Spoke - Helpline 0333 202 3390