

The Crusader's clues

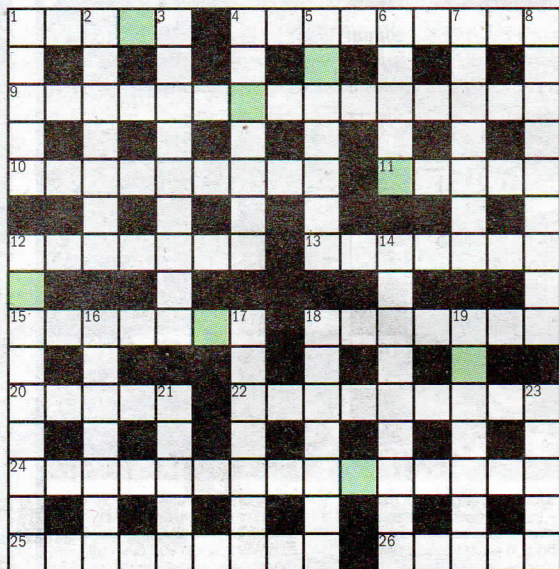
ACROSS

- 1 Level look caught by pro (5)
- 4 Italian cereal? It's a sign (9)
- 9 He's the second, in short (8,7)
- 10 Time before doors opening taken by a shop worker (9)
- 11 A flower the first of many taken from wood (5)
- 12 Sword wound on a girl's face (7)
- 13 Boater heading back the second a cut frustrates (7)
- 15 Another ten rats or rabbits (7)
- 18 Serviceman deployed unarmed reveals... (7)
- 20 ...lies about American English problem (5)
- 22 Disgusted queen back on throne, perhaps, after a little trauma (9)
- 24 Book extract an idiot put out after adding introduction (1,7,2,5)
- 25 Valley girl back from walkabout, her heels gone (9)
- 26 Clothing an American soldier rented (5)

DOWN

- 1 Mugs, note, playing cards (5)
- 2 Open houses near limitless gorge (7)
- 3 Stress a row about a tree produced (9)
- 4 Charles takes me to Rene, a cleaner (7)
- 5 Gift dispatched in advance? (7)
- 6 Clumsy bit of writing, upset writer admitted (5)
- 7 Unsealed but free drinks (4,3)
- 8 Short and round visitors nonetheless exposed people (9)
- 12 In fact, Don used to be a secret receiver (9)
- 14 Little number raised by girl going pale (9)
- 16 Food mixed like salad sounded hollow and was filling (7)
- 17 Country roads heading north perhaps taken (7)
- 18 Climbing, perfect man hit the roof (7)
- 19 Outspoken model taken around a refuge (7)
- 21 Caregiver pursuer's content to follow (5)
- 23 Bank document adding a penny to a large amount (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 Ground (5)
- 4 The Goat (9)
- 9 Substance in the periodic table (8,7)
- 10 Dockworker (9)
- 11 River of central Italy (5)
- 12 Short curved sword (7)
- 13 Stymies (7)
- 15 Prattles (7)
- 18 Shows clearly (7)
- 20 Offspring (5)
- 22 Sickened (9)
- 24 1924 E. M. Forster novel (1,7,2,5)
- 25 Journeyed (9)
- 26 Sleeveless padded jacket (5)

DOWN

- 1 Confronts (5)
- 2 Pig out (7)
- 3 Repeat (9)
- 4 Soft leather (7)
- 5 In attendance (7)
- 6 Bungling (5)
- 7 Prepaid drink supply (4,3)
- 8 Nudists (9)
- 12 Person told of private matters (9)
- 14 Bleaching (9)
- 16 Fried topped tortilla (7)
- 17 Republic of West Africa (7)
- 18 Blew up (7)
- 19 Fortress (7)
- 21 Occur as a consequence (5)
- 23 Preliminary version (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, January 3, PO Box 12578, Sutton Coldfield B73 9BT. Competition closes Thursday, January 7 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 Ample, 4 Going over, 9 Letting off steam, 10 Soldier on, 11 Sheen, 12 Station, 13 Snaps at, 15 Pledged, 18 Grasped, 20 Donic, 22 Cutthroat, 24 Laying it on thick, 25 Annulment, 26 Clean. Down: 1 Atlas, 2 Patella, 3 Eliciting, 4 Gagarin, 5 Infants, 6 Gasps, 7 Viewers, 8 Ruminated, 12 Sapodilla, 14 Apathetic, 16 Early on, 17 Deceive, 18 Get lost, 19 Profile, 21 Canal, 23 Taken.

Prize word: Miller

*SP: Spoke - Helpline 0333 202 3390