

## AZED CROSSWORD 2672

### ENCUMBER

**1 P. F. Henderson** (New Zealand): Saddle sore ultimately less sensitive if astride colt (*c in e numb-er*).

**2 M. Barley**: See one celebrate with Fortnums by ordering this hamper of Noel treats (*comp. anag.*).

**3 Dr I. S. Fletcher**: Nut-brown sandwiches ending in picnic hamper? (*c in en + umber*).

### VHC

**D. & N. Aspland**: Unusually 'creme' bun is found in hamper (*anag.*).

**T. C. Borland**: More bunce abroad, with zero deducted tax (*anag. less 0*).

**W. Drever**: Term for 'saddle' with foremost of clues penned by many? (*e + c in number*).

**C. M. Edmunds**: Champagne's foremost in what's demanded of foodstuffs added to hamper (*c in E number*).

**R. J. Heald**: Hunt must acquire millions in moneymaking scheme without a suggestion of raising tax (*m in cub in e(a r)ner; cub (vb); ref. Jeremy H.*).

**E. C. Lance**: Crème bun squashed in hamper (*anag.*).

**M. Lloyd-Jones**: Pack whistled men releasing a caber when catching glimpse of unmentionables (*u in anag. less a; whistled = drunk*).

**D. F. Manley**: Indication of food additive? That's about the last thing needed in picnic hamper (*c in E number*).

**P. W. Marlow**: Spain has issue about leading character in celebrations in charge? (*E + c in number; ref. notorious kiss after Spain's win in women's World Cup*).

**T. D. Nicholl**: Nothing lost in dodgy bunco – mere inconvenience! (*anag. less 0*).

**W. Ransome**: Possibly neuter, curb, regularly impede (*anag. incl. n, m, e, e, & lit.*).

**T. Rudd**: Ginger beer – it should appear around Blyton's ending, classically with hamper (*n cum in anag.; ref. Famous Five*).

**C. Short**: Load heads of education – nurseries, colleges, universities maybe – with big expense: RAAC (*first letters*).

**P. L. Stone**: Onset of corrosion over time leaving bum concrete compromised for load (*anag. less c, O, t; ref. RAAC scandal*).

**R. C. Teuton**: Wasting little time Bunter came to dispose of a loaded hamper (*anag. less t, a*).

**Prof. M. O. J. Thomas** (New Zealand): Those starting electric new cars using multiple batteries eliminate reasons to stall (*first letters*).

**Ms S. Wallace**: Heads of many educational buildings now undergoing emergency concrete repairs worried about inconvenience (*anag. of first letters*).

**L. Ward** (USA): Saddle, dark brown, stuck to foreparts of entirely naked cowboy! (*e, n, c + umber*).

**A. J. Wardrop**: Handicap run became chaotic before being abandoned (*anag. less a*).

## HC

T. Anderson, D. Appleton, M. Barker, A. Brash, C. J. Brougham, Dr J. Burscough, D. Carter, T. Coates (Australia), Ms L. Davis, E. Dawid, H. Freeman, A. Ganesan (India), G. I. L. Grafton, J. Grimes, A. H. Harker, C. Hinton, G. Johnstone, P. McKenna, J. R. C. Michie, K. Milan, K. O’Keeffe, D. Price Jones, P. Sant, A. D. Scott, Dr S. J. Shaw, I. Simpson, J. Vincent & Ms R. Porter, Mrs A. M. Walden, J. West, K. & J. Wolff, D. Whisstock (Italy).

### ANNUAL HONOURS LIST (13 competitions)

1 (equal) M. Barley (3 prizes, 9 VHCs), R. J. Heald (3, 9); 3 D. F. Manley (1, 9); 4 (equal) Dr J. Burscough (2, 6), Dr I. S. Fletcher (2, 6), T. Rudd (2, 6), A. J. Wardrop (0, 10); 8 (equal) T. C. Borland (0, 9), H. Freeman (2, 5), T. J. Moorey (1, 7), Dr S. J. Shaw (1, 7), R. C. Teuton (1, 7); 13 (equal) J. Grimes (1, 6), J. C. Leyland (2, 4); Ms S. Wallace (1, 6), L. Ward (0, 8), A. Whittaker (2, 4); 18 (equal) T. Anderson (2, 3), P. W. Marlow (1, 5), P. L. Stone (0, 7); 21 (equal) W. Drever (1, 4), G. I. L. Grafton (1, 4), Mrs A. M. Walden (1, 4); 24 (equal) M. Lloyd-Jones (1, 3), D. Price Jones (1, 3), P. A. Stephenson (1, 3), J. Vincent & Ms R. Porter (1, 3); 28 (equal) D. & N. Aspland (0, 4), M. Barker (0, 4), N. Connaughton (1, 2), P. F. Henderson (1, 2).

### Comments

A very disappointing entry: only 93, with one possibly inadvertent error that I spotted (SHANUS/BREEN for SHAMUS/BREEM). ‘Carte Blanche’ is very popular with regulars but perhaps a bit daunting for those less familiar with its challenges (which do become less forbidding as solving progresses, especially as the clues are presented in their correct order). Of the 13 clues picked out as your favourite the clear winner was ‘It may be beside rug devouring scrap of chicken’ for TOMCAT. In clues submitted I noticed two weaknesses occurring more often than usual: (i) defining ENCUMBER as an intransitive verb, which it isn’t, and (ii) the use of ‘of’ as a linking word between cryptic and defining elements. Some may argue that the latter may be seen as acceptable, but I’ve never cared for it as it seems to me to stretch the meaning of ‘of’ too far. You have been warned.

With the end of another year of competitions, my congratulations to all those listed in the Honours List above, especially to Messrs Barley and Heald sharing first place and just edging Mr Manley out of the position he occupied last year. I’m very grateful to Mr Teuton for keeping track of the statistics throughout the year and summarizing them for me so helpfully. Onward, ever onward.