

AZED CROSSWORD 2642

SINGLE-HANDED

- 1 T. Anderson:** Classic bridge defence was this complex signal indeed, denying top hearts held (*H in anag. less i; ref. Horatius at the bridge*).
- 2 T. Rudd:** Descant upon Dane held perishing, like the noble Horatio? (*sing + anag.; ref. H. at end of 'Hamlet' & H., Lord Nelson*).
- 3 Dr J. Burscough:** For fishy collation, need shad, ling, sole (*anag.*).

VHC

- D. K. Arnott:** In legend, exhausted Horatius ultimately defended a crossing thus (*anag. incl. H, s d a, & lit.*).
- D. & N. Aspland:** Solo soprano, one performing Handel in new German edition (*s l + anag. in n G + ed.*).
- M. Barley:** Screen legend Ford's ultimate character is Han Solo (*anag. incl. d; screen = sift coarsely; ref. H. Ford in 'Star Wars'*).
- T. C. Borland:** Legend is developed by Director around Han Solo (*Han in anag. + D; ref. 'Star Wars'*).
- A. Brash:** Rock legend and his solo, possibly (*anag.*).
- Ms L. Davis:** What Nelson became by his own efforts (*double def.*).
- W. Drever:** Solitary match ultimately bagged by struggling England side (*h in anag.*).
- Dr I. S. Fletcher:** In deed with sling shot faith ultimately shown by one alone (*h an in anag.; ref. David & Goliath*).
- H. Freeman:** Transform English with dictionary that lacks nothing – how did Dr Johnson do it? (*anag. + and + (O)ED*).
- J. Grimes:** Possibly Ford's ultimate character is legend Han Solo (*anag. incl. d*).
- J. C. Leyland:** Lindbergh's bursting with energy and starts to break records flying solo (*anag. incl. E less b, r*).
- D. F. Manley:** Presumably like loser of one arm – and leg – shed in settling? (*anag.*).
- Rev. Prebendary M. R. Metcalf:** Like Ravel's famed piano item, delivered on record? (*single + handed; ref. R.'s Piano Concerto for the Left Hand*).
- A. J. Shields:** Unassisted, like Maradona's infamous goal? England side outraged about ending to match (*h in anag.*).
- R. C. Teuton:** Cook added Bunter's second and third helpings, original pud having been dispatched all by himself (*anag. incl. u, n, less anag.*).
- Ms S. Wallace:** Turbulent landing she starts to execute daringly flying solo (*anag. + e, d*).
- L. Ward (USA):** Fantastical legend is beginning to develop around Han Solo (*Han in anag. incl. d*).
- A. J. Wardrop:** How soloist performs carol Handel arranged and edited (*sing + anag. + ed.*).
- A. J. Young:** How a one-armed bandit may operate with modified handle design (*anag.*).

HC

P. B. Alldred, R. Bowden, A. Chamberlain, C. A. Clarke, T. Clement, M. Coates, J. Diamond, Ms N. Ellen, G. I. L. Grafton, D. Harrison, R. J. Heald, J. Hood, L. M. Inman, P. Jenkinson (Switzerland), D. C. Jones, M. Lloyd-Jones, P. W. Marlow, P. McKenna, C. G. Millin, T. J. Moorey, T. D. Nicholl, K. O’Keeffe, O. F. G. Phillips, D. Price Jones, W. Ransome, Dr J. B. Reid, Dr S. J. Shaw, D. P. Shenkin, N. G. Shippobotham, P. A. Stephenson, P. L. Stone, J. Vincent & Ms R. Porter, Mrs A. M. Walden, T. West-Taylor, R. J. Whale.

Comments

141 entries, no noticeable mistakes. Several of you mentioned that they found the puzzle of above-average difficulty. One reason for this may have been the grid design, with its four central and crossing 12-letter solutions which had the effect of isolating the four quadrants to some extent (though there were other points at which these were joined by crossing entries). This is something I always bear in mind when designing grids, a process which precedes the insertion of the actual entries. I disapprove of crosswords which virtually isolate separate parts of the grid, a surprisingly common practice.

SINGLE-HANDED was a popular choice as clue word, but tougher than it looked to clue originally. Despite what I take to be its most common usage (meaning ‘unassisted’), it is clearly also used to describe what is done with or designed for one hand, whether or not the other hand exists, so references to e.g. musical works written especially for one-handed performers were clearly acceptable. I was grateful to be introduced to the pianist Paul Wittgenstein (brother of the philosopher Ludwig) who lost his right arm in WWI and for whom many composers wrote special pieces, notably Ravel. One clue submitted included reference to Ebony and Ivory in the context of one-handed musicians, but I was unable to verify this. Unconnected, I assume, to the Paul McCartney recording with the same title.

Favourite clue this month, of 16 receiving one vote or more, was ‘Non-speaking film star portrayed as twit in press’ for LASSIE, just ahead of ‘Ultimate in protection *caeli* dispatched – for Rome?’ for ANCILE. A few were puzzled by my clue to STORIETTE (‘Novella that is distinguished by blue ribbon in shop’). Explanation may be found at **blue ribbon** under **blue** in Chambers, which refers to the American **Blue Ribbon Army**. I confess that this was new to me before I found it in Bradford at the entry for **Teetotal(ler)**.