

## AZED CROSSWORD 2694

### MALIK

**1 J. C. Leyland:** Fresh out of ecstasy, like a bit of marijuana? I could manage a gram (*anag. less E incl. a, m; gram<sup>4</sup>*).

**2 M. Barley:** Head being punched by boxer leads to match-winning knockout (*Ali in m, k*).

**3 T. J. Moorey:** Former Pakistan captain Imran Khan, initially under attack, being set up? (*lam (rev.) + I, K; ref. Shoaib M.*).

### VHC

**D. Appleton:** Kilmarnock's first half is dire; someone to provide leadership is required (*anag.*).

**C. J. Brougham:** The old man and the old woman go arm in arm having no end of fun (*ma + li(n)k*).

**Dr J. Burscough:** I'm a village's central character; leader in Karnataka, possibly (*anag. incl. l + K, & lit.*).

**C. A. Clarke:** Mail in turmoil down to key man on board, he's the boss (*anag. + K (chess), ref. chaos at Royal Mail*).

**N. Connaughton** (Ireland): Negotiate time off with him ultimately when employed around India (*I in m + (t)alk, & lit.*).

**Dr I. S. Fletcher:** Leader's money on Kigali? Losing one grand, possibly (*M + anag. less l, g; ref. PM's £1000 bet with Piers Morgan re flights to Rwanda*).

**S. D. Griew:** With initial appearances in King Lear accomplished, I'm playing lead role in Hamlet? (*anag. incl. first letters*).

**Ms B. Hall:** Primarily muqaddam, aka lord, is kingpin (*first letters*).

**R. J. Heald:** Indian head massages in Nasik motel relieving tension when travelling (*anag. less anag.*).

**P. W. Marlow:** Kashmiri employer possibly wanting his rep more close to factory at work is such? (*anag. less anag. incl. y, & lit.*).

**L. Marzillier** (USA): Thegn, this leader, otherwise might be hamlet king (*comp. anag.*).

**J. Pearce:** The end of Sunak anticipated by downbeat Mail leader (*anag. + k*).

**D. Price Jones:** C. Clay, Kentucky's foremost heavyweight (*M. Ali + K*).

**T. Rudd:** Man with no cap for noggin, above Ilkley, half soaked? Head for the village! (*ma(n) + anag.; soaked = beaten; ref. 'On Ilkley Moor bar t'at'*).

**P. Sant:** Often viewed as Art Nouveau, a Klimt is timeless (*anag. less t; ref. actor Art M.*).

**Dr S. J. Shaw:** 'The Greatest' boxed in 'Manila Killa' primarily for eastern title (*Ali in first letters*).

**A. J. Shields:** Big shot produced by C. Clay, heading for knockout (*M. Ali + k*).

**R. C. Teuton:** He likes Y. M. C. A., that Village People's No. 1 cheesy hit (*comp. anag.; ref. pop hit song*).

**J. Vincent & Ms R. Porter:** One among leaders of local Kashmiri municipal administration, possibly (*1 in anag. of first letters, & lit.*).

**Ms S. Wallace:** A Klimt, artist's last goes missing – disastrous for owner (*anag. less t*).

**A. J. Wardrop:** Master? The same, or nearly so (*M + alik(e), & lit.*).

**R. J. Whale:** Village People's No 1? Regular extracts from YMCA all irk me! (*alternate letters; ref. chart-topping single*).

## HC

T. Anderson, M. Barker, A. Brash, A. G. Chamberlain, T. Clement, P. Cole, M. Davies, Ms L. Davis, W. Drever, R. Gilbert, J. Grady, G. I. L. Grafton, J. Grimes, A. H. Harker, P. F. Henderson (New Zealand), L. M. Inman, G. Johnstone, J. R. H. Jones (Spain), I. A. Leith, M. Lloyd-Jones, M. Lunan, D. F. Manley, P. McIlhenny, P. McKenna, K. Milan, C. G. Millin, T. D. Nicholl, C. Ogilvie, O. F. G. Phillips, A. M. Price, W. Ransome, I. Simpson, Prof. M. O. J. Thomas (New Zealand), A. Vick, J. D. Walsh, T. West-Taylor, Dr M. C. Whelan, D. Whisstock (Italy), K. & J. Wolff, R. Zara.

## Comments

136 entries, a handful with PARSE instead of FARSE (an understandable error if the clue was not understood). I probably would not have asked you to clue MALIK if I'd remembered that it was part of the doubleton (with DIVES) in the 'Right and Left' competition puzzle No. 2,131, almost eleven years ago. Very few of you mentioned this, but I wonder how many more maintained a polite silence. I had no hesitation in letting the present comp go ahead since double clues require different skills from single ones, but it was regrettable none the less, and I'm sorry it happened. Favourite clue of the month of 12 mentioned (receiving 8 votes) was 'A dependable guy? A view not universally held!' for TRUMP. No surprise there, I guess! Two other clues of mine attracted comments: those for NAURUAN, a little-known palindromic word with a perhaps rather unfair clue ('Pacific islander unchanged after being brought up'); and 'Cadogan, maybe, earl wearing 'Arry's topper uptilted', for which Chambers offers no help, but see the Internet, which provides plenty, including various pictures. (I admit that I hadn't heard of Cadogan teapots either!)

MALIK on its own proved a rather colourless word for cluing overall, so I congratulate those listed above for rising above the ordinary, especially the top three. More than a few competitors included reference to the actor Art Malik; fewer spoiled their chances by going for the US film director Terrence Malick without checking the spelling of his name.

As a footnote, you may be interested to know that the small English publisher Unbound has recently reprinted a paperback edition of *The Cain's Jawbone Book of Crosswords* by Torquemada, first published by Pushkin Press in 1942. I spotted it in a local bookshop and bought it, only to find I could hardly solve a single clue. How crosswords have changed (for the better, I have to say) since the year of my birth!

And a final apology for having omitted the name of Mr Leyland, our winner this month, from the list of VHCs in the slip for FLÂNEUR, No. 2,688. Fortunately he has been sent his prize, so I must have realized my error in time.