

AZED CROSSWORD 2729

INTERCHANGING

1 R. J. Heald: Trafficking? No-one involved emerges from criminal heroin gang innocent (*anag. less anag.*).

2 D. F. Manley: Giving and taking – certain devious ace dished out extreme punishment? (*anag. less A + hanging*).

3 T. C. Borland: Switching clubs, downcast after bleak season, not having won ((*W*)*inter* + *C* + *hanging*).

VHC

M. Barley: With multiple comings and goings, incoming flier must circle airport before landing finally (*Changi (Singapore airport) in in + tern + g*).

Mrs S. Brown: Merry gathering in middle of picnic indulging in repartee perhaps (*anag. incl. cn*).

Dr J. Burscough: In alternate succession, with letters going in in a chain – this, possibly? (*anag. of alternate letters, & lit.*).

A. & J. Calder: Substitutions often happening in a Milan dressing room? (*Inter changing; ref. football team Inter M.*).

M. Coates: Taking it in turns in the fashion of inn gathering heading for Canterbury (*anag. incl. C; ref. C. Tales*).

N. Connaughton: Busy chain renting good trading places (*anag. + g*).

Ms. L. Davis: Transposing two numbers in Government chart leads to erroneous information getting broadcast (*anag. of n n in G chart + first letters*).

W. Drever: Completing ‘Give and Take’ puzzle certain to leave one then in limbo (*anag. less a + hanging*).

Dr I. S. Fletcher: After certain training one dropped and suspended for switching (*anag. less a + hanging; ref. Charlotte Dujardin*).

J. C. Leyland: Transposing can get leader of horns in ‘Ring’ confused (*anag. incl. h*).

P. W. Marlow: Like varied transport users, struggling in eg no good train, hating commutes principally (*anag. incl. ng, h, c*).

K. Milan: Transposing Grieg Chanson in front of theatre can be so this! (*comp. anag. incl. t*).

C. G. Millin: Switching source of warmth off, cold season gets Christmas initially suspended ((*w*)*inter C hanging*).

W. Ransome: Giving and taking mutually, gaining the regular spots in centre ground (*anag. incl. alternate letters*).

N. Roper: Football team head of coaching suspended – substitution needed! (*Inter + c + hanging*).

Dr S. J. Shaw: Substitution is made by Serie A champions primarily concerned with suspension (*Inter + c + hanging*).

A. J. Shields: What’s going on in Milan dressing room? Making substitutions, perhaps (*Inter changing*).

R. C. Teuton: What’s trucker doing, caning rig then crashing? (*anag.; truck² = exchange; rig = artic; cane = drive fast*).

J. Woodall: What makes nitre reactive? (*i.e.* 'nitre' = 'inter' changing).

HC

D. K. Arnott, N. Aspland, A. Brash, J. M. Brown, A. Chamberlain, T. Clement, W. J. Dady, C. M. Edmunds, Ms A. Evans, H. Freeman, G. I. L. Grafton, J. Grimes, J. Guiver, G. Hart, H. M. F. Jenkins, G. Johnstone, M. Lloyd-Jones, D. Price Jones, T. Rudd, J. Vincent & Ms R. Porter, Ms S. Wallace, L. Ward (USA), R. J. Whale, D. Whisstock (Italy), K. & J. Wolff, R. Zara.

Comments

110 entries, no mistakes. Favourite clues: 'Like dressing for fish, left off? Stale crumbs!' for (G)EMONY, and 'Beef piece? Play about, rolling it, ignoring recipe' for TOPSID(E). This was a tough puzzle, clearly, by its very nature, but there were no complaints on that score. It also didn't help that it wasn't entirely clear which word you were required to clue, and I blame myself for this, though very few made the wrong choice by picking the excluded PRAISE. I simply failed to spot this in advance, and when (too late) the ambiguity was pointed out to me I tried to make things clearer by means of adding later clarification and extending the closing date, but I still feel sorry that any misunderstanding arose. Also it appears that the Holmes quotation may have been omitted from more recent editions of the *ODQ*. I have the second, third and fourth editions on my shelves, and it's in all of those. Sometimes you just can't win!

On top of everything else, INTERCHANGING was a bit of a brute to clue, though most rose to the occasion splendidly. Those quoted above show just what can be done with unpromising material. I always try to pick clue words which seem to offer a variety of approaches, but since I haven't time to clue these myself in advance, I may misjudge them from time to time.

And now some good news. There will be a special lunch to celebrate Azed No. 2,750 at Wolfson, Oxford on Saturday 3 May 2025. For details please email heald.richard@gmail.com or send an SAE to Azed 2,750, 13 Eshton Court, Mapplewell, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S75 5QG. Later in the day my wife and I will host a tea party at our home, 4 Garford Road, Oxford OX2 6UY, a very short walk from Wolfson.