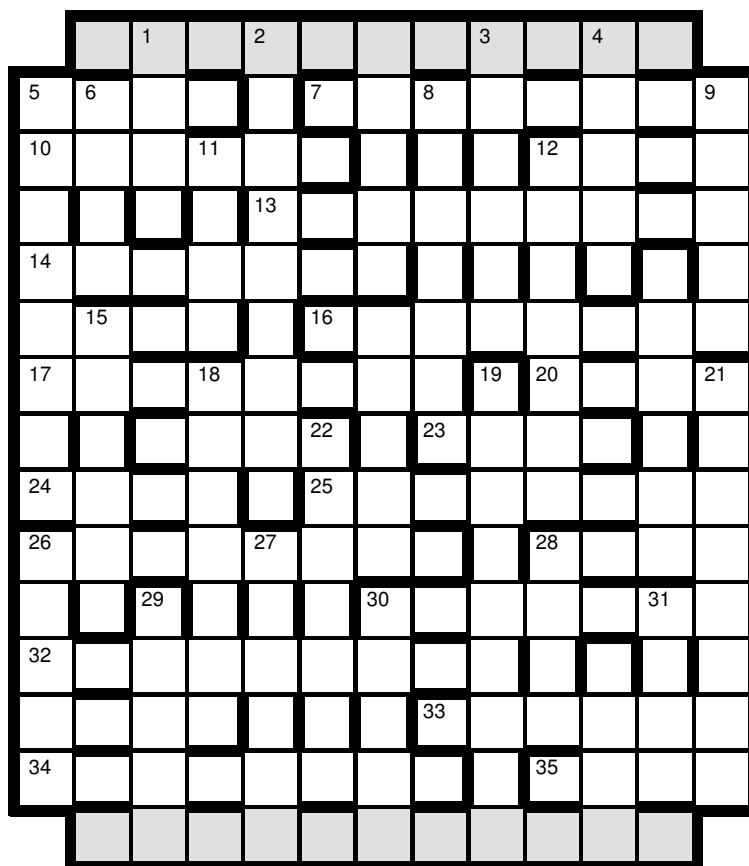


## In The Chair by Phylax

Several solutions to numbered clues must be modified prior to entry in the grid; lengths given are for grid entries throughout. The unnumbered entries wholly or partly within the main grid are thematically linked and are individually clued in the narrative; these clues do not overlap or have superfluous words separating them. Solvers must deduce the five-word phrase to be entered on the top and bottom lines, the unchecked letters of which can be rearranged to form SO SAGE DON SAT. All entries are real words.



### Narrative

Bizarrely, I've won! Watch television set: empty seat, with first of contestants on screen, approaching. "Name?" Attention required, wanting last round close to ideal. Get hard posers - saving skin, slips to some extent put right? *Sound* right. Expressionless, wise not showing one's beginning to relax...

### Across

- 5 Boss got covering removed from protective footwear (4)
- 7 Will's stocking small shop - love special finishing touch from Kate (8)
- 10 'Junior' judge being one thoroughly backward (6)
- 12 Short cut to the ground protects United fan (4)
- 13 Favoured man in black when wearing a different colour (9)

- 14 Sure about embracing unknown older person in Elizabethan theatre? (7)
- 16 I move rapidly to destroy resistance (8)
- 17 Defeat for men over radical expansion that isn't wanted (8)
- 20 Closed up shack in street before start of demolition (4)
- 23 Quiet fellow penning a note in style of rambling autobiographer (4)
- 24 Solitary quote about sandwiches couple found following do (4)
- 25 Abandoned well had a steeply sloping area around the rim (8)
- 26 Stokes curtailed slog, coming in to milk erratic spinner (8)
- 28 Prescribed slaughtering of animals that lady collided with in Canada on vacation (4)
- 30 Pistol taking out odd characters when running through this, possibly? (7, two words)
- 32 English league delayed by a muppet essentially having power to change decisions (9)
- 33 In Paris, goes for smoke (6)
- 34 Related to doing divinity in college, I'd messed around with a lot of ladies outside 8)
- 35 Notable merchant at sea like notable merchant on UK high streets? (4)

#### Down

- 1 In the same place lives long-legged water bird (4)
- 2 Soft parts male kissed amorously under female domination (9)
- 3 In Rome, it is so Italian to pinch rounded bottom (6, two words)
- 4 Tricksters once tormented the RAC over Sierra belonging to us (5)
- 5 Legendary poisoner regularly served pet curare as dog's breakfast (8)
- 6 Traditional medicine seldom utilizes nurses (4)
- 8 Practise taxidermy on duck, returning to check about bits left over (7)
- 9 Ancestor recalled not enjoying California quakes (5)
- 11 *Sun* tolerating use of bad language (4)
- 12 Tool used for cutting nettles dislodging gnome's head (7)
- 15 In Perth, noisy row that is holding up introduction of runner (6)
- 18 Pedant dismissing conclusion of this puzzle (7)
- 19 Dates with debs unfolded here? (9)
- 21 Slow about quitting Conservative chatline, perhaps? (8)
- 22 Convoluted rule presented in full depth (7)
- 27 With boozier unfinished, opening for nocturnal opportunist theft (6)
- 28 Mollusc shell she's left amongst haul (4)
- 29 This country air could make Parisian dizzy (5)
- 30 From Japan, a huge upright drinking vessel (5)
- 31 Small change over in South America (4)