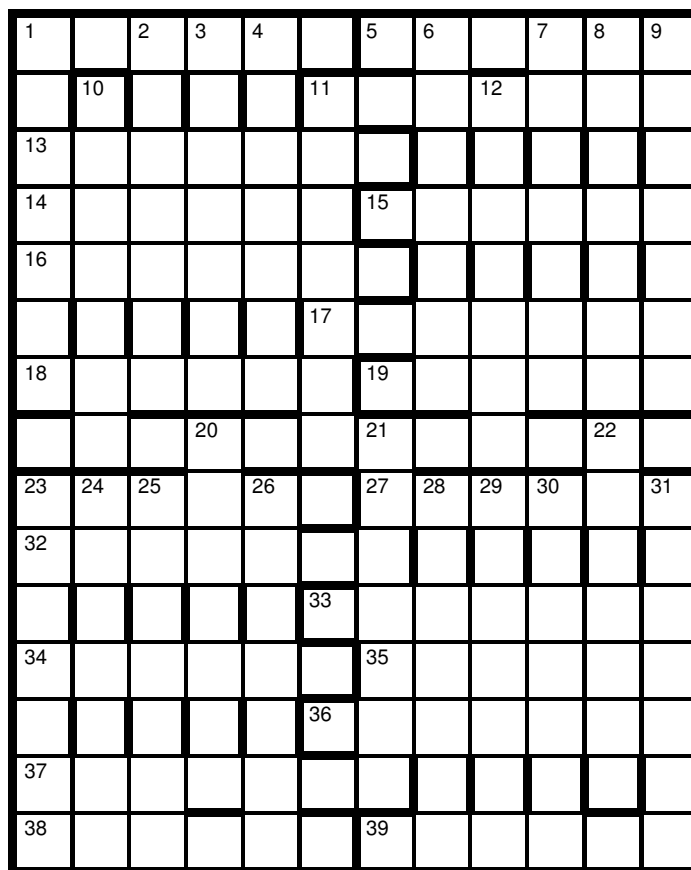


## RR XVI – At Sixes and Sevens

In an effort to be as fair as possible to clue writers, each was allocated a plain clue to a seven-letter answer. However, the grid proved too difficult to build, so for 12 answers the first six letters are used 'at sixes and sevens' to make a new Chambers entry. The last letters of these answers could be arranged to form the unclued centre row, which was a consideration for the title. Solvers should highlight another Chambers entry, crossing the centre row, that likewise could cryptically explain the 12 modifications (8 cells).

The Chambers 13<sup>th</sup> edition is the primary reference.



### Across

- 1 Committee initially to interrogate quiet believer in positivism
- 5 A fuss about actuaries' failure of recognition
- 11 Fasten vessel carrying Scottish preserve (2 words)
- 13 Those who ramble are getting more confused about Rishi Sunak, primarily
- 14 Element of logic in a grower turning chemical-free
- 15 Suffering single mum's after prime beef cut?
- 16 Brief text I, for one, answer about old prejudices
- 17 A habit's redesigned for religious adherent
- 18 Said about university furnished with sculpted forms
- 19 Comparatively speedy replacing whiskey with new dram
- 23 Surprisingly learn MP admitted he's a sucker?
- 27 Caught eating cat, occasionally canines will be hurling
- 32 Encounter's commencement is sealed by a glove shaken about and put down (2 words)
- 33 Casino's gutted, fleeced by unerring gambler ultimately becoming flusher
- 34 Thick bread left to cut bread slices
- 35 Silver regularly missing, thus arranged detectives
- 36 Bishop against women in places of worship
- 37 Nothing less (nothing gained) - that's not looking promising
- 38 College function holding another finale
- 39 Cartoon characters made for lively dance

### Down

- 1 Cerebral structures one found in layers
- 2 Will's boat shifted TNT with care
- 3 Desire place overlooking lake for everyday work
- 4 Put too much text in books about poetry
- 6 Worry about craving for cake decoration
- 7 Biting off each end of twig as medication
- 8 Our site's dilapidated - shabbiest in Glasgow
- 9 Sit pens haphazardly on instruments
- 10 Greedy horse in house is starting to hallucinate
- 11 African singer, live in Costa Rica, intoned sacred syllable by clubs
- 12 Fix dye in fading raincoat
- 20 Managed to detain evil criminal in part of fortress
- 21 Start to hope potters lacking money still produce on the black market?
- 22 Big easy golfer works around poor lies, but they leave sour taste
- 23 An example of this is kinda rising sound overwhelming Ligeti's boundaries
- 24 Mealtimes are disturbed as this wind blows
- 25 Softly a sexy European pinched near the ear
- 26 Distilled oil and trace nutrient eyesight requires primarily
- 28 One applying finishing touches to rug woven by old queen
- 29 Such a shaggy look for Irish pet
- 30 Ignorant preacher, following mass, omitting chapter from translation of extract
- 31 Nieces excited about introduction to Ruby Wax

## **Entries**

To enter this competition, send your entry as an image or in list format giving the final entries to [ccpuzzles@talktalk.net](mailto:ccpuzzles@talktalk.net) before 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024. The first correct entry drawn from the hat will receive a book from the Chambers range, which has been donated by Chambers.

## **Voting**

You may vote for your favourite clue with your entry. You can just nominate one clue, which will be awarded 3 points, or your top three which will be awarded 3, 2 and 1 points. The person whose clue accumulates the most points will receive a prize, which also has been donated by the Crossword Centre.

## **Clues by...**

...Anax, Steve Bartlett, David Beamish, Rod Beards, Brian Betker, Kieran Callaghan, Chalicea, Conto, John Covenhope, Simon Griew, Derek Harrison, Hawk, Richard Heald, Helen Heath, Hedge-sparrow, Karla, Chris Lancaster, Loonapick, John Nolan, Kevin McDermid, Mertytsetesh, Mr E, Pandiculator, Bhalchandra Pasupathy, Phylax, Ed Powles, Nick Pursey, Sowmya Ramkuna, Skinny, Simon Shaw, Ian Simpson, Peter Smith, Sprout, Robert Teuton, Colin Thomas, David Thompson, Trigot, Verbascum, George Walker, John Walsh, Luciano Ward and Keith Williams.