

**ACROSS**

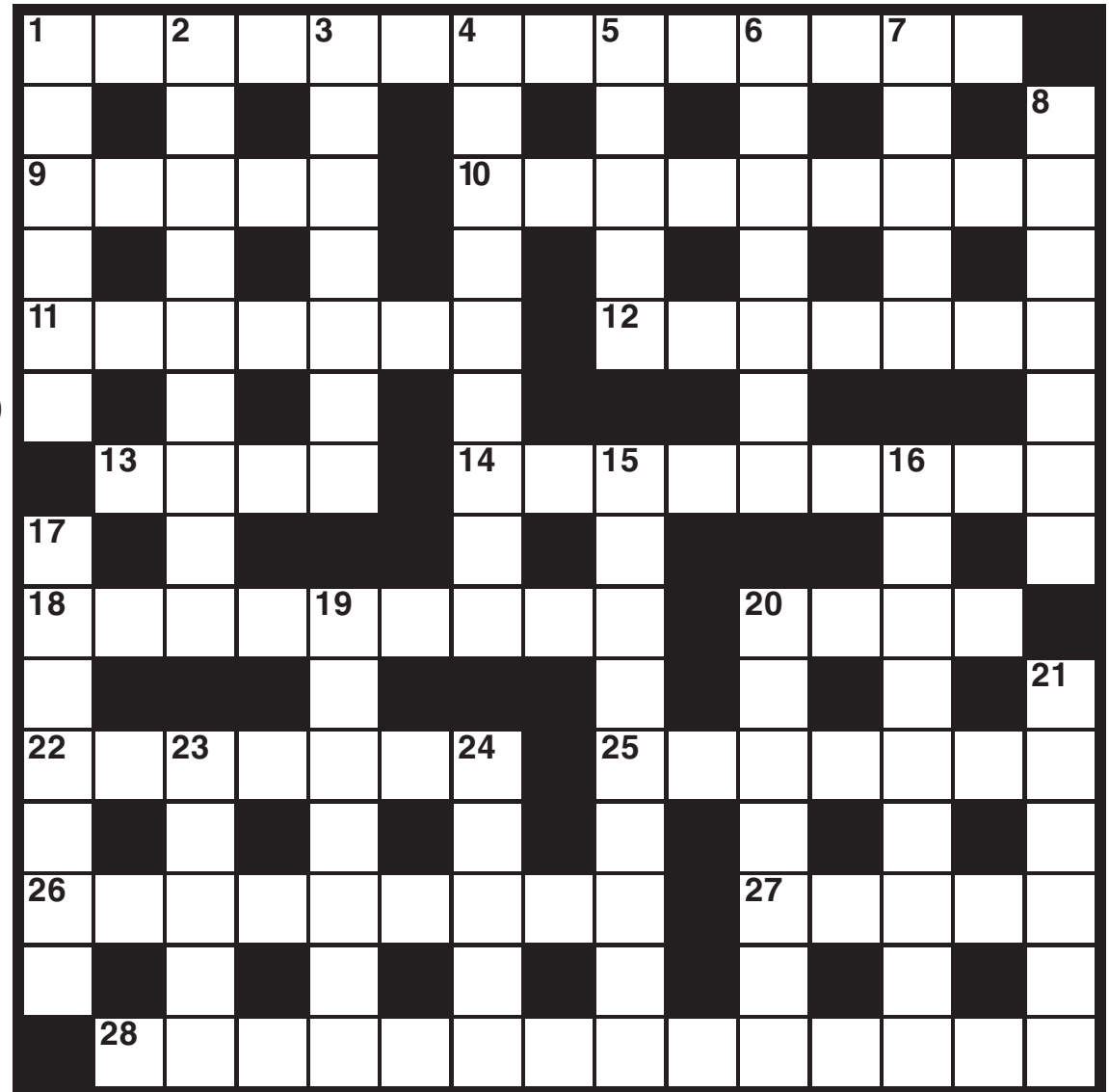
- 1 Oddly silent, so a promoter needed for TV actress (6,8)
- 9 Weight of cask, say (5)
- 10 Short peer let out with philosopher (9)
- 11 Container in keeping with rifle (7)
- 12 Footballer's brush? (7)
- 13 Overly confident with small tankard (4)
- 14 Secret place for DIY, he got out of awkward spot (5-4)
- 18 Sid is back with display of fury – goes up the wall! (9)
- 20 Copper meets journalist when prompted (4)
- 22 Somehow prepare to decorate again (7)
- 25 Sweet fool backed reduction (7)
- 26 Something said possibly cuter and neat (9)
- 27 A protected minor prize (5)
- 28 China's noble city (5,9)

**DOWN**

- 1 Offensive rat heading off with nail (6)
- 2 Fool amusing or otherwise (9)
- 3 Start cooking pigeon around noon (7)
- 4 For example, *Enterprise* on TV chases Pip round (9)
- 5 Gives out *Times*, maybe (5)
- 6 Indecisive article in heartless journal (7)
- 7 Current sheep to misbehave (3,2)
- 8 Be fired over report on a mission (7)
- 15 Necessary to be in trouble with guider before raising regret (2,7)
- 16 Make too much of new racer veto (9)
- 17 Smelly duck, prepare to get excited – almost! (7)

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- 19 Opera I'm composing for trading centres (7)
- 20 Russian fellow writes 'broken arm' in secret language (7)
- 21 Spinner quietly stopping team getting runs (6)
- 23 Some preoccupation to find paved area (5)
- 24 Weren't endlessly disposed to re-establish on an improved basis (5)