

ACROSS

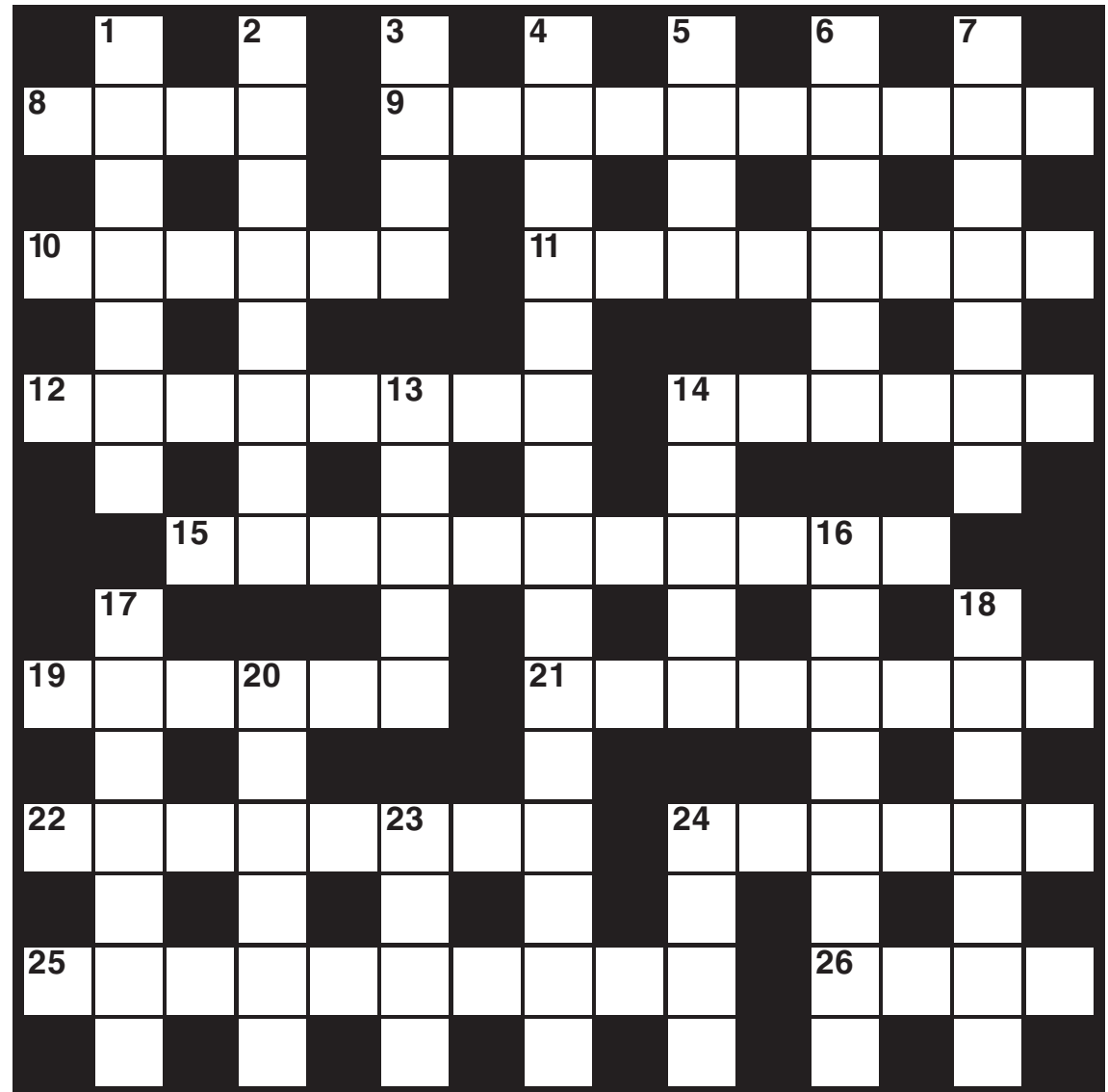
- 8 Poker stake collected by taxman, tenner (4)
 9 Soldier to look at magazine (7,3)
 10 Self-service meal with batter (6)
 11 Accounts checker ending delay of hearing (8)
 12 Sweet couple heard to fall (4-4)
 14 Anxious to be difficult? (6)
 15 House-builder's windjammer? (6,5)
 19 1972 Hitchcock film causes wild excitement (6)
 21 Lean gent's remarkable mix up (8)
 22 Huge sum – or one converted (8)
 24 Small vehicle getting hit (6)
 25 Room for US work with a politician (10)
 26 Loaves of bread for the swans (4)

DOWN

- 1 Puts up with purpose sure to go wrong (7)
 2 Sailor's fears are disguised (8)
 3 Skewer points upwards (4)
 4 False assumption of fake happiness in Rome (15)
 5 Stick with about nine different openings (4)
 6 Sleep disturbed around end of night, this tool
 pounding (6)
 7 Tree island, they say? (7)
 13 Some of the three dynamos are shrill (5)
 14 Fifty inside one not provided with lighting (5)
 16 Shorten the agreement (8)

Saturday, 16th November, 2024

No. 16,850



- 17 By turning, rested curved line of the skull (7)
 18 Cable thrown into river with fake medicine (7)
 20 Northern pointer, not wide (6)
 23 Ring Virginia left at the cricket ground (4)
 24 Bean plant in Sargasso yacht (4)