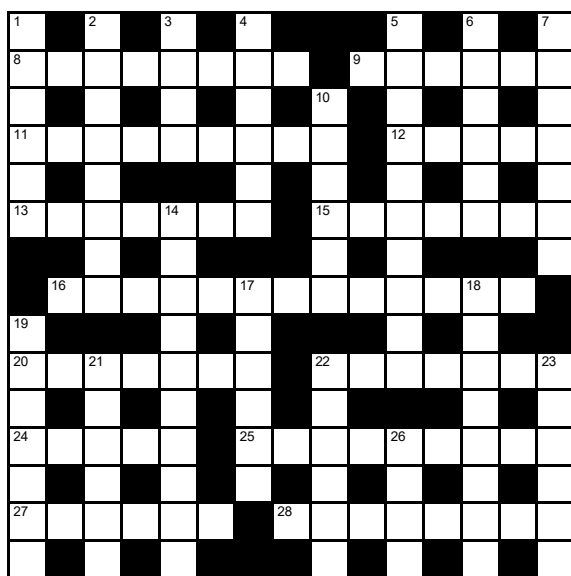


I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue

In this puzzle each of the Across clues is initially composed of wordplay followed, after the hyphens, by the definitions of the solutions. These definitions are defined, somewhat cryptically, not by Chamber's (the BRB) but by that other great work of the English language, The Complete Uxbridge English Dictionary or its online variants, which have evolved from the Radio 4 panel game "I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue". In an attempt to restore sanity, the Down clues are clued conventionally. It might help to start with the Downs.....



Across

- 8 Pontificated about exercise - a classical music loving soft toy (8)
- 9 Sad to say, vegetable the French ignored - I'll check with the wife (6)
- 11 Reportedly attractive to consume drink passed to the left - award for a princess (9)
- 12 Game where time is lost but man is finally captured - a wee dram (5)
- 13 Father's mum takes a line - old folks' home (7)
- 15 Deliberate offender on board - patron saint of expensive cars (7)

- 16 Huge Robin Hood fan - gangster next door (13)
- 20 N to NE and S to SW - eight legged insects (7)
- 22 Irishman wearing jerseys maybe - acts of bovine comfort (7)
- 24 Scepticism expressed between two knights and me - starter for car (5)
- 25 Dad online is confused - camp big cat (9)
- 27 Almost against edge - others (6)
- 28 Squad ran trial undercover for two 20s - four people shouting (8)

Down

- 1 Cruft's Best In Show - Great Dane maybe (3,3)
- 2 Confusion leads to victory for fellow sailor perhaps (8)
- 3 Henry VIII approved of Norm for King (4)
- 4 Keenly make regular trips south of river (6)
- 5 Rivers that might be blooming spectacular! (6,4)
- 6 In a spin from 12 or 26? (6)
- 7 Foolish male, chortling when flying Down Under (7)
- 10 Unsettled husky first up to see the rising sun here? (6)
- 14 Dish of tangerines for Latin Americans (10)

- 17 Next to 2nd XI being broadcast (6)
- 18 Instruments of Ordnance Survey securing a cairn that's been vandalised (8)
- 19 To engage with conversation is difficult with this (7)
- 21 Features of sitar artist performing twice (6)
- 22 Odd client query not on track in Channel ports (6)
- 23 Seat lost and space taken up by government (6)
- 26 Turn brought on by removal of lingerie top (4)