



Across

- 7 Final odds on the girl's opponents? Balls! (7)
- 8 Justify Frank, once? (7)
- 10 Cooker? Not half, on another fruit. (5)
- 11 Heartless beast gets into balloon on the way up (9)
- 12 Guess I'm out; a toff - he trades property (6,5)
- 15/17A/21
Yokel, or unknown sleuth, or unknown land in which the top row had a case (7,7,4)
- 18 Poems rewritten at the outset, obviously to aim at return where the top row had a case (11)

- 23 To win precisely no-one set hard imprecisely (2,3,4)
- 24 One artist heard cue: one from modern 18 (5)
- 25 Variation at the beginning of 12 is most generous (7)
- 26 After 2, say, on which the top row had a case (7)

Down

- 1 Snaps out of hopeless optimism, starting to get pronunciation (9)
- 2 Put in position to put up with nothing French introduced (6)

- 3 It takes distress signal as youth initially is under pressure from all sides (8)
- 4 Report of very Northern yearning to try again (6)
- 5 Passionate trio messing about with cape (8)
- 6 Peter gives thanks to a recorder (5)
- 7 Head off sucker with small shout, smothering like a harridan (8)
- 9 The Italian in this corner on which the top row had a case (4)
- 13 Flesh, wet in the middle, frayed at the edges and parasitised (4-5)

- 14 Evens out pay, try to get in, almost: they're near the 9 (8)
- 16 It shows resistance, by the sound of it - go on, make 'er acquaintance! (8)
- 17 Indeed, quietly allow to be cut down (8)
- 19 Effortless but s...low to replace Open University (6)
- 20 Far out attempt to take back reason for unwanted calls (6)
- 21 See 15 Across
- 22 Spectacular tumble upset nervous trapeze beginners during PR gimmick (5)