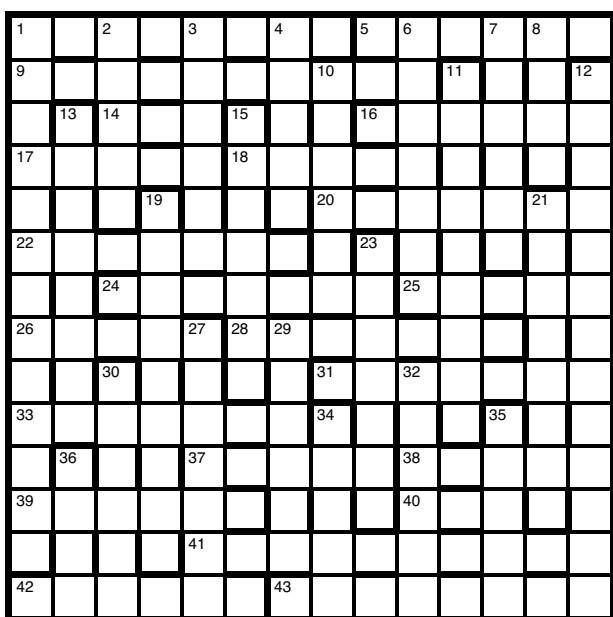


Crossword

2681: 'I see wets in disarray!'

by *La Jerezana*

Eight unclued lights are of a kind.



Across

- 5 Al Gore eats by the truckload (6)
- 9 Dim and confused, fell in and died (3-7)
- 14 Boxer from Hayle is oddly knocked out (3)
- 16 Case of invertebrate found in hydrochloric acid (6)
- 17 March with nudists' leader in buff (5)
- 18 Tramp about with stupid person (5)
- 20 Induced naked coward to take up arms (2,2,3)
- 22 Passionate female parted, leaving son (7)
- 24 Just cooked books after bad deal with European (2,5)
- 25 Horse wearing bridle is a runner (5)
- 26 Am not ultimately lofty in any way (2,3)
- 31 Boozer with vacuous air and extremely dubious guts (7)
- 33 Caught fathom-deep fish (3,4)
- 37 Two kings in contact with a Scandinavian capital (5)
- 38 Plan to return Monique's or Kitty's call (5)
- 39 Shy lass hides in blanket (6)
- 40 Scoundrel runs after copper (3)
- 43 Intended one's bed to be stripped in interim (8)

Down

- 1 A bag of spiders agitated transient visitor (4,2,7)
- 2 In the morning everyone turned up and fleeced South American (5)
- 3 Fisherman is reportedly more sensible (6)

- 4 Yankee periodically libelled Grant (5)
- 6 Deport a criminal, one taking another's child (7)
- 7 Native Americans in Ohio refuse to comply with Washington (6)
- 11 Old hardware flying about? (9)
- 12 Honest description of blond Conservative (4,3,6)
- 13 Write article following case of nightmare drug (8)
- 15 Cry of companion buried under rocks (7)
- 23 Harry constantly going round British seat (7)
- 27 Outflow from choppy lake over time (7)
- 29 Engage core muscles, or start to buckle (6)
- 30 Crooked financier heartlessly absconded (6)
- 32 Unanimously vote against beginning to censor people retrospectively (3,3)
- 34 Plant that's mechanised in part (5)
- 35 Island covered in fish bones (5)
- 36 Too regularly missing allusion (4)

A first prize of £30 and two runners-up prizes of £20 for the first correct solutions opened on 4 December. Please scan or photograph entries and email them (including the crossword number in the subject field) to crosswords@spectator.co.uk, or post to: Crossword 2681, The Spectator, 22 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9HP. *Please note the early deadline for entries which is because of the Christmas printing schedule.*

Name

Address

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