

ACROSS

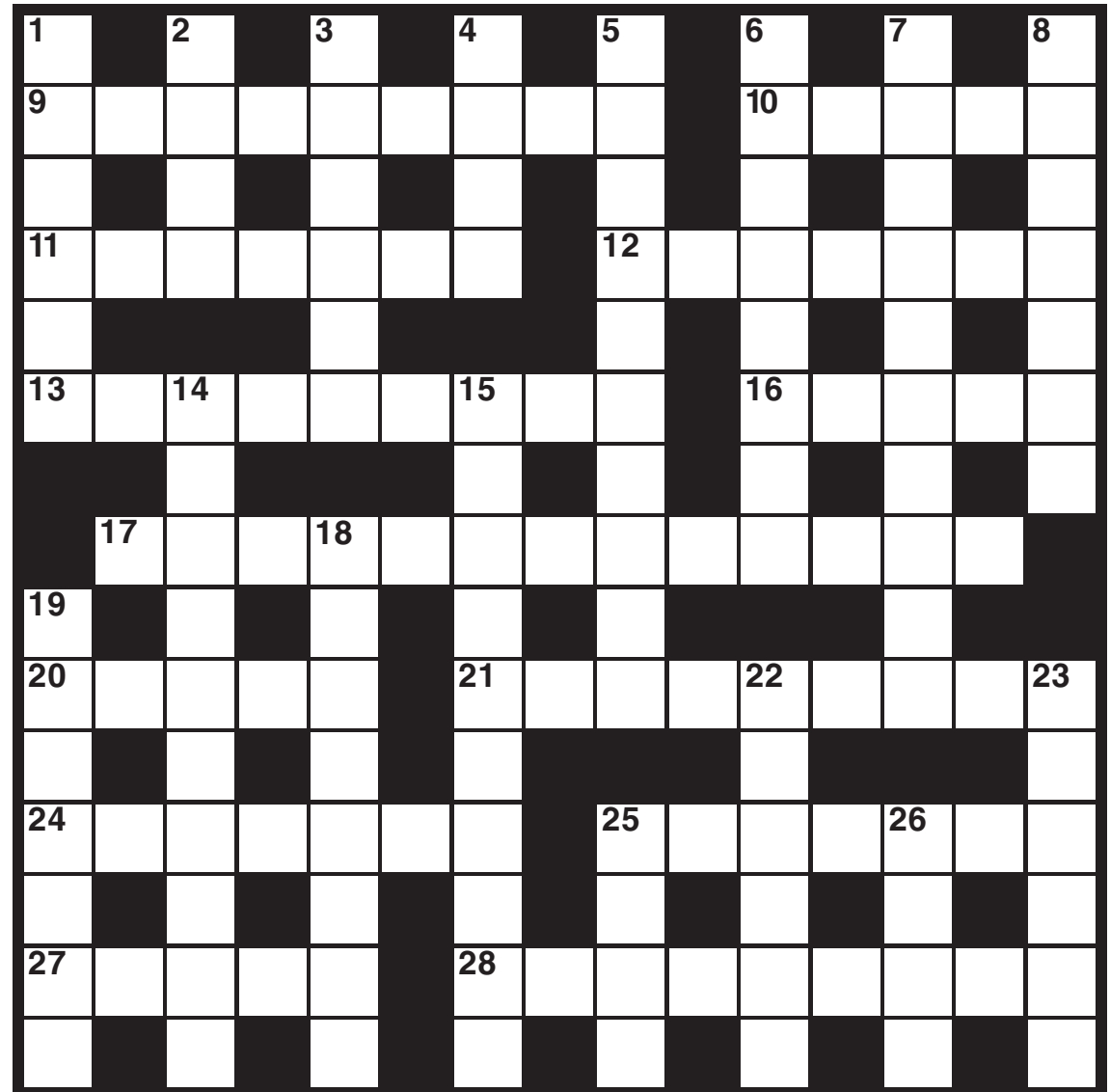
- 9 Getting more confident about split, give up (9)
 10 I distribute the cards – perfect (5)
 11 Left S Wales, turning feral (7)
 12 Title of the French game (7)
 13 Surprising heavenly body has unusual glint (9)
 16 Vital part of instrument (5)
 17 Hardly any following on tonight if fuddled (4,2,7)
 20 Allotment appears in part of misquotation (5)
 21 Thanks son in passing small cup (9)
 24 I translate bear in Spanish and Portuguese (7)
 25 Friend turns up at part of mansion
 in search of peewit (7)
 27 Letter from some gazette (5)
 28 Check the length of fashion schedule (4,5)

DOWN

- 1 Hymns with footnote for charity donations (6)
 2 Forehead mostly tanned (4)
 3 Are the changes to make something hot again? (6)
 4 Ominous time for teams to lose leader (4)
 5 Bridge rebuilt with space for fiancé (10)
 6 Reluctant to be removing coil first on canvas (8)
 7 Cleansing agents discourage men (10)
 8 Stick, very big inside, for winding up (7)
 14 Ace captain encountered queen with
 current device (10)
 15 At home, speak at length about noise
 being excessive (10)
 18 Russian empresses have artisans round (8)

Wednesday, 17th January, 2024

No. 16,546



- 19 Like a horse without a tail, steer into biannual event (7)
 22 Advance warning that extra payment is not forthcoming (3-3)
 23 Baby bird of awkward age allowed to follow (6)
 25 Doesn't start to go up branch (4)
 26 Russian vehicle behind one (4)