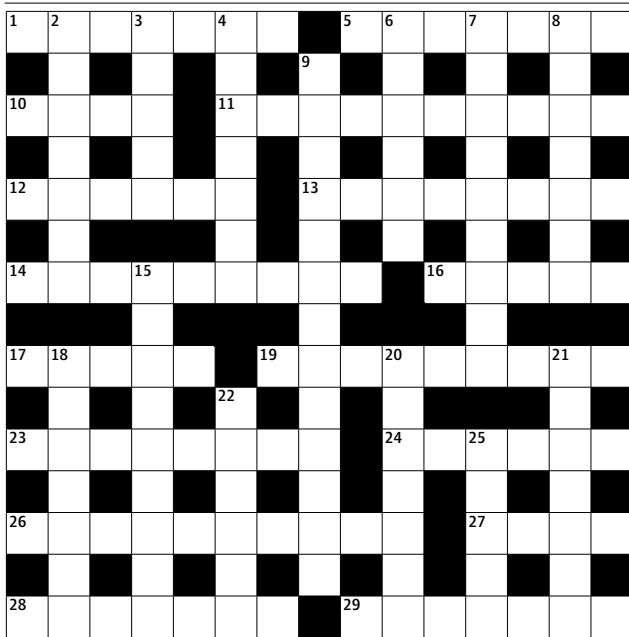


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 24,965 set by Boatman

## Across

- 1 Should formation include leading player who defends? (7)
- 5 Broken and heading for madness, leading player loses Donadoni's backing (7)
- 10,19 Spooner's heavy step to throw match here? (8,5)
- 11 "Beautiful game" quoted by leading journalist, referring to Beckham, usually on top (4-6)
- 12 Miserable outside right is horny beast (6)
- 13 Attack on goal at end of game – it's caught by photographer (8)
- 14 Home matches spoken of by backers (9)
- 16 Boatman! Gerbil-eating outrage! (5)
- 17 Defeat seen on television by right back (5)
- 19 See 10
- 23 Eye-shadow, rouge and bleached in tips and roots (8)
- 24 Heavy-footed steps, public transport an afterthought (6)
- 26 Two out of fourteen of Boatman's fixture hopes at first ... (3,7)
- 27 ... hosted by other means after Cantona finishes (4)
- 28 "Surveying for First Great Eastern lines," Yeats begins (7)
- 29 They're not paid to report one after the other (7)

## Down

- 2 Perhaps they favour love among convent's staff (7)
- 3 See 25
- 4 Outside left to cross over to divert shot (7)
- 6 Block opening attack, then lash out and start riot (6)
- 7 Shifting, sliding as slippery semibreves (9)
- 8 Derby's No. 2 confirmed over alternative midfield? Not a pretty sight (7)
- 9 Disquisitions degenerate into disasters (13)
- 15 Scored vital goal in match? Offside! (9)
- 18 A lot of men have little weight to speak of (7)
- 20 Cotton on cloth (an alteration) (5,2)
- 21 Leading player, coked-out, missing from action-packed game (7)
- 22 See 25
- 25,3,22 Fool gave West Ham a daft epithet (1,4,2,3,6)

## Solution No. 24,964

R	E	F	U	S	A	L	A	N	A	E	M	I	A	
E	I	E	U	R	M	E	R							
N	A	T	A	L	P	A	T	R	I	O	T	I	C	
O	S	F	I	I	D	H	H							
W	R	I	T	T	E	N	O	F	F	V	I	E	W	
N	N	A												
			D	U	P	L	I	C	A	T	E	K	E	Y
O	B	G	A	E	R	S	S							
F	E	A	T	H	E	R	B	R	A	I	N			
F	N	T	K					K	E	W				
E	D	D	Y	F	A	T	A	L	E	R	R	O	R	
N	A	P	B	I	S	A	I							
D	A	N	G	E	R	O	U	S	O	N	S	E	T	
E	N	K	U	L	F	E	H							
D	E	A	R	E	S	T	E	N	F	O	R	C	E	