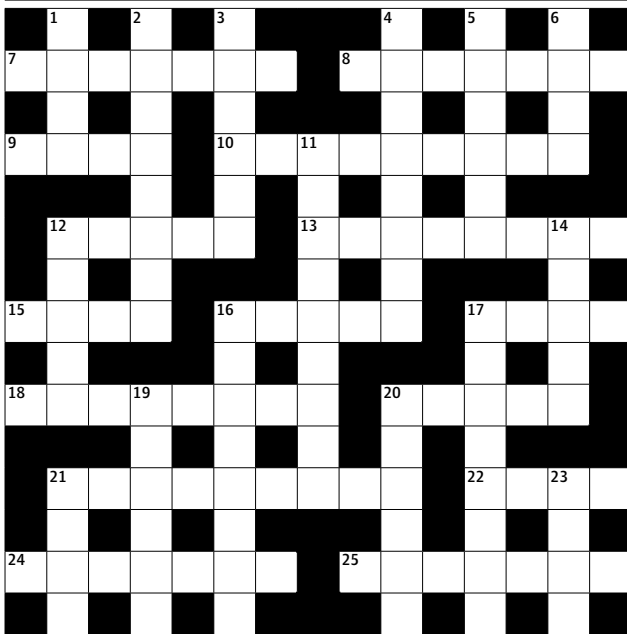


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,624 set by Boatman

Across

- 7 Month One: curb extremes of naughtiest children (7)
- 8 A penny once lost from board game played in bar (7)
- 9 See 5
- 10 Flimsy deceit by the French called in (9)
- 12 Reveals secrets of chess – how shocking (5)
- 13 Tardy: needs oil to get moving? (8)
- 15 Rush back for game (4)
- 16,17 Critical attack from board game players (9)
- 17 See 16
- 18 100 Club – together in music, off the scale (8)
- 20 Attack in game (5)
- 21 Improving verse with song tutor (9)
- 22 Game of love (4)
- 24 Board game (backgammon) run with new content (3-4)
- 25 Draw level in board game? (5,2)
- 5,9 Muesli before board game? (6,4)
- 6 Fit to fight, taking a run out (4)
- 11 Man or woman? Not black or white, but grey and no mistake (9)
- 12 Board game played with these (5)
- 14 Missing the start of board game, where pressure is high (5)
- 16 One speculating cartel at violent games venue (8)
- 17 Boatman cleans his bottom here, with underwear cut short (4-4)
- 19 Inappropriate victory over a favourite indigenous people (6)
- 20 Walk in pomp and state around the wood (6)
- 21 Purpose of a board game: middle-class leisure, primarily (4)
- 23 Have a bash with it or in it? (4)

Down

- 1 Report of carnal love in board game (4)
- 2 Outrageous, unending board game (4,4)
- 3 Draws up report on board game (6)
- 4 Moved in secret and went ahead after complacent start to game (8)

Solution No. 25,623

