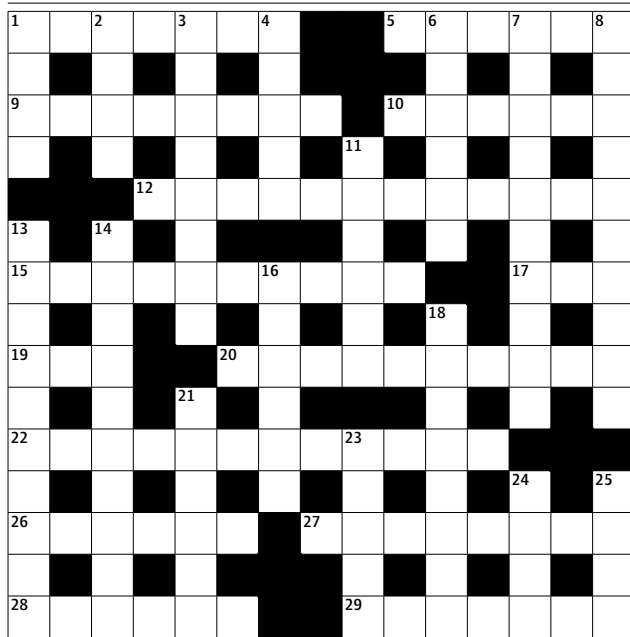


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,650 set by Tramp

Across

- 1 Bets involving first three rugby scores without backing record (7)
- 5 Rule around edge of pavement, mostly for pedestrian (6)
- 9 Actress to act, lines to go over said in the wrong order (5,3)
- 10 Leader of gladiators to fall, captivating 500 amphitheatre seats (6)
- 12 Re Special K – inspire mix without nuts: Alpen cereal? (4,8)
- 15 The articulated engineering shows dirt crossing motorway (10)
- 17 Jock's query with hard answer (3)
- 19 School introduction to "pi by diameter" – grasping circumference (3)
- 20 Quickly passing state as Simon ultimately follows Garfunkel's return – calm line taken (10)
- 22 After operation cancels vet – carries on improving health (12)
- 26 Piece that is for beginner (6)
- 27 Low Haye cut is back – boxing is thuggery (8)
- 28 Round feet will ultimately crack casing of Steinway piano (6)
- 29 Set sail before a bird embraces pussycat's tail (2,2,3)

Down

- 1 Little one's heart becoming dead large (4)
- 2 Concerning, having flipped a bit? (2,2)

- 3 Most strong flush wiping edges to toilet – sit oddly (8)
- 4 Smooth razor – bend for end of tash (5)
- 6 Once more question/answer dropped from toothpaste (6)
- 7 Tease, recalling the Guardian 1 down – primarily it's used to write "little one" (10)
- 8 New Nike grass design – they're slippery on grass? (4,6)
- 11 Oliver, perhaps, or Tom out of Lloyd Webber work? (6)
- 13 They're in purse to steal money dropping heroin over road ... (10)
- 14 ... compromised dealing? Dog intercepting traffic – international cocaine concealed (7,3)
- 16 Ariel's ground here (6)
- 18 Point out initial letters (8)
- 21,23 Playing lead in Casino Royale, actor is great primarily (6,5)
- 24 Long for girl ... (4)
- 25 ... Tramp head over heels with kiss off top girl (4)

Solution No. 25,649

