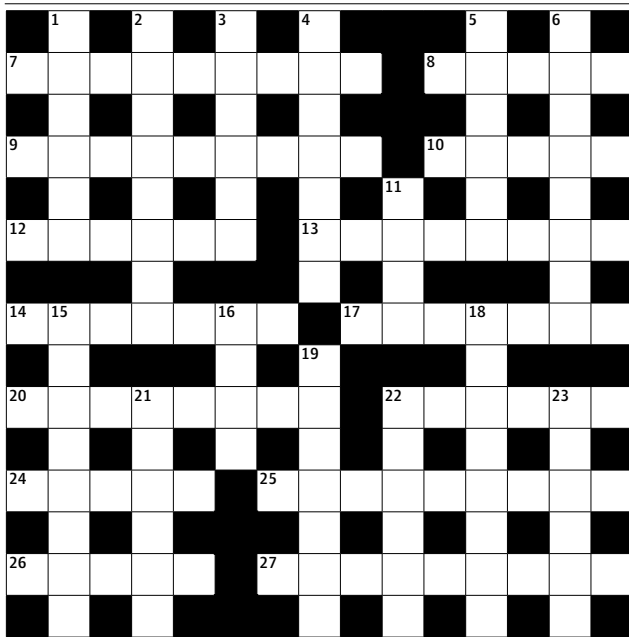


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,952 set by Rufus

### Across

- 7 Losing head, gambler becomes an embezzler (9)
- 8 I held wrong capital (5)
- 9 No longer with the directors, taken to drink (9)
- 10 Being liable to error (5)
- 12 Intermediate gears none would wish to engage (6)
- 13 Beaten by heroic exploit in action (8)
- 14 Graduates meeting shortly? It's in the wind (7)
- 17 Unruly mob in Shakespeare use guns (7)
- 20 Approve of gin? Non-sense! (8)
- 22 Aintree starter (6)
- 24 Prohibition, most of all, is boring (5)
- 25 Fight and row, never sleeping together (3,3,3)
- 26 Propeller guard (5)
- 27 Drink time – get the carriage (9)

### Down

- 1 Loud Verdi composition full of fire and passion (6)
- 2 Bolts from arguments (8)
- 3 They grip and hold on in the last resort (6)

- 4 In which to see ring fighters (7)
- 5 Jellyfish in sea north of America (6)
- 6 Rather like a chat about a change of weather (8)
- 11 Hairstyle for a transformation? (4)
- 15 Daughter eschews flirting for marriage (8)
- 16 Means of propulsion on a Roman ship, originally (4)
- 18 Spread around, by the perimeter (8)
- 19 A rugby player, too fat to be fit (7)
- 21 Collect rands clutched by one who is settling up (6)
- 22 Spotless tea set put out (6)
- 23 Absorbing example of marine life (6)

Winners of prize puzzle 25,945

