

**ACROSS**

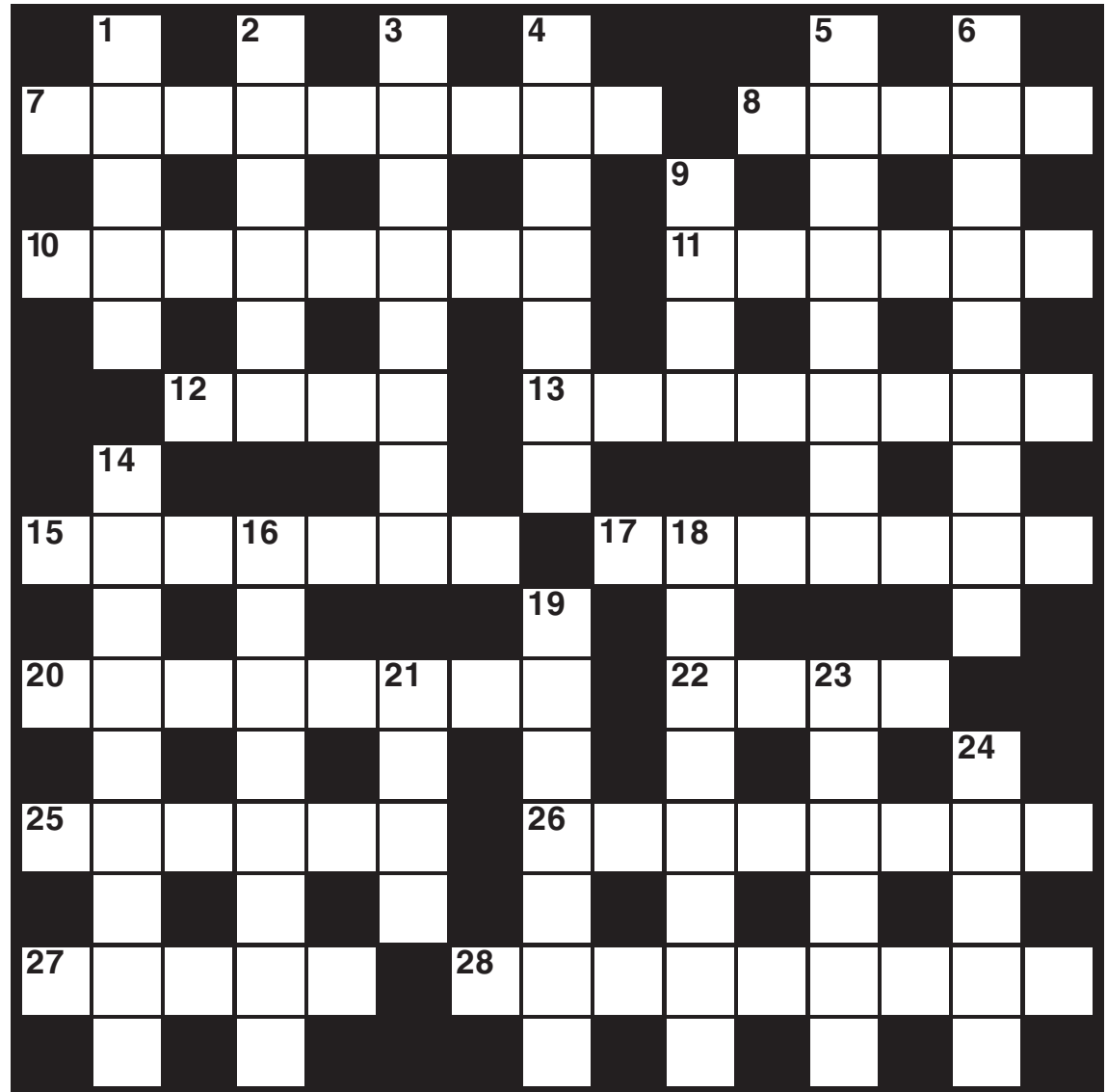
- 7 Fat and cunning insect (9)
- 8 A jelly after starter of bread roll (5)
- 10 Steps round the judge to make introductions (8)
- 11 Paint strait-laced Queen (6)
- 12 Simple lake (4)
- 13 Exposed live nude entanglement (8)
- 15 Soldiers' code of contrition (7)
- 17 Caught rector out, right? (7)
- 20 I can drag out item of clothing (8)
- 22 Weapon concealed by the peers (4)
- 25 Religion aims to conform (6)
- 26 Cart goes over foreign delicacy (8)
- 27 Pursue outside, large and shiny (5)
- 28 Lead an attack and stab chief (9)

**DOWN**

- 1 Cruel misappropriation of money (5)
- 2 Choke regulates itself (6)
- 3 Crisp biscuits and nuts (8)
- 4 Narrow the gap but get defeated in competition (5-2)
- 5 Well-known female, foreign friend, fibber (8)
- 6 Recommendation of judge embracing new century (9)
- 9 Black marketeer sending bigwigs back (4)
- 14 Still sleeping, return to chart at issue (9)
- 16 Grandfather clock for veteran? (3-5)

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No. 16,534



- 18 Garment to cover a revolutionary (8)
- 19 Dishevelled punk met crook (7)
- 21 Ready to tackle sport (4)
- 23 Heart-breaking story, ultimately coarse (6)
- 24 Pub nearby (5)