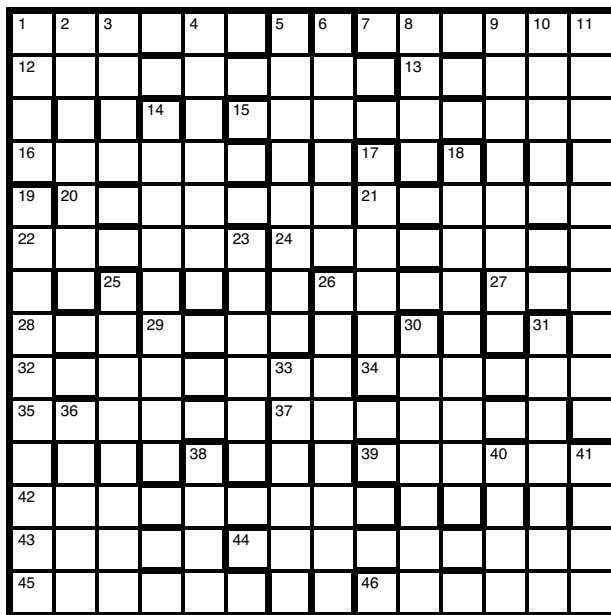


The unclued lights (three coming first and one coming last, two pairs and four of two words) are of a kind.



Across

- 12 One record after another oddly omitted rulers' postscripts (9)
- 13 Compact disc's first seen spinning (5)
- 15 Omits plan about philosophical belief (9)
- 16 Impassioned male getting date wrong (6)
- 20 Resin on imperfect coin from Sparta (7)
- 21 Pangs oddly to consume uncooked seafood (6)
- 22 VIP is out of reach (4-2)
- 24 Booster rockets seen when north-east rivers are in spate (8)
- 26 Face being laid back (4)
- 28 Neeson regularly appearing in Keanu Reeves' role (3)
- 29 Marsh stifles river plant (4)
- 32 Suspect CIA names one might forget (8)
- 35 Press release involving some introductions (6)
- 37 Umpire's error about mobile phone's card before visit (7)
- 39 It's fabulous! Goodness! Almost 11! (6)
- 43 Confiscate trawler catching small fish (5)
- 45 Deal with Turkey ultimately establishing pact (6)

Down

- 2 Highest points of a public house dispensing one ale (7)
- 4 Poor Zoe has left home, after oil started to percolate (4,3)

- 6 Another thematic character at church meeting (6)
- 8 Figure one has only half a buck (4)
- 9 Tank-wire woven into cardigans and jumpers (8)
- 10 Ruhrland city's distinctive nature without church (5)
- 11 Relinquishments of claims about diplomatic errands (10)
- 14 Cite hefty changes to desire to travel (5,4)
- 17 Elf's special ceremony (6)
- 23 Clergyman's responsibility at capital hotel (6)
- 25 Old record by plot white blood cell (8)
- 26 Settling an issue on 1/12 is upsetting heartless Vince (8)
- 30 BMX repaired by Cecil (7)
- 31 Crossing in Drake's ship (7)
- 33 Speechless in the morning with Sunday crossword (6)
- 36 Made-to-measure governor? (5)
- 38 It provides the bite as Gooch nears another ton, for starters (4)
- 40 Heathens oddly reveal Venezuelan composer (4)
- 41 Jail fence's ultimate punishment (4)

A first prize of £30 for the first correct solution opened on 19 May. There are two runners-up prizes of £20. Please scan or photograph entries and email them (including the crossword number in the subject field) to crosswords@spectator.co.uk, or post to: Crossword 2607, The Spectator, 22 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9HP. Please allow six weeks for prize delivery. The dictionary prize is not available at present.

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