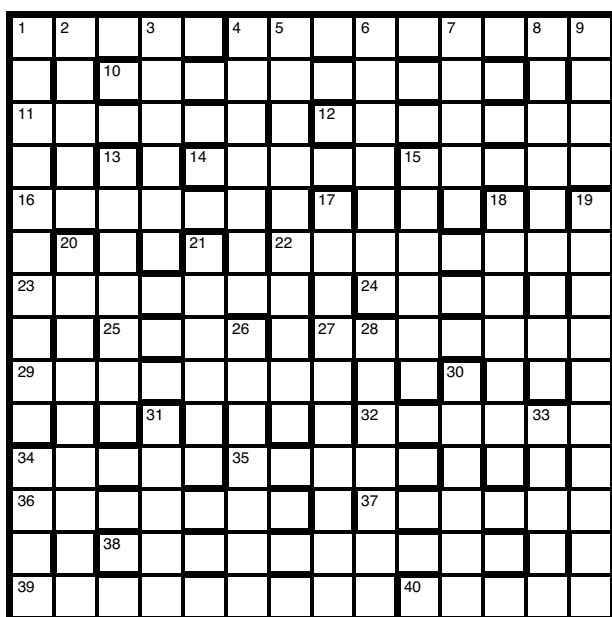


Old comrades

by *Fieldfare*

Unclued lights make up a group, its members and location (two pairs, one doubly hyphenated). Ignore one accent



Across

- 1 Red Route heartless? Tough (5)
- 4 Hugo's girl's medals are amazing (9)
- 11 Possible political pact on the left, I spill the beans (3-3)
- 12 From the outside, edged in to brush chamber (7)
- 15 Irritating, but not spiteful at first (5)
- 16 Violently purges sporting competition (5,1)
- 22 Voles, millions perishing in frozen expanse (5,3)
- 25 Rank covered in the *Tatler* (4)
- 27 Dutchman confuses me with Henry (7)
- 29 Amateur not fully taught to employ unknown weedkiller (8)
- 34 Miles for couple to cross high range (5)
- 35 Hammer parts of English into writers (5)
- 36 I tense a part of finger to push back tongue (7)
- 37 Pass online error? (6)
- 39 Bewitches flies, leaving one twitching, with lots of laughter (3-6)
- 40 Rabbit killer succeeded? Precisely (5)

Down

- 1 Ring remarkable identifier (4,6)
- 2 Bird call from way up heard, such poetry (5)
- 4 Big bird eats marsh samphire, ultimately to discharge from mouth (7)

- 5 Meaning to authorise one taking plane out of Luxembourg (10)
- 6 Well beaten, get seed expelled (7)
- 7 Two groups of soldiers holding up a vessel (5)
- 8 Something I do: hockey, badly (9)
- 13 Like a spinner thrown up drops on eventually immaculate line (7)
- 15 From Tasmania, say, one complete change of direction to get away from the coast (6)
- 17 It eats mice, as sport? (7,3)
- 18 Swallowing tablet, neglect entertaining speaker (7)
- 19 Tear round border, deflecting rays (10)
- 20 After delivery of letters, new afternoon lecture cut short (9)
- 26 One beaten, damaging maintop (7)
- 28 Breaking rock up, regularly in fear: they appear tired (7)
- 30 Flexible machinery one installed (6)
- 31 Paul's companion is upset over footloose girl (5)

A first prize of £30 and two runners-up prizes of £20 for the first correct solutions opened on 2 April. 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 2645, The Spectator, 22 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9HP. Please allow six weeks for prize delivery.

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