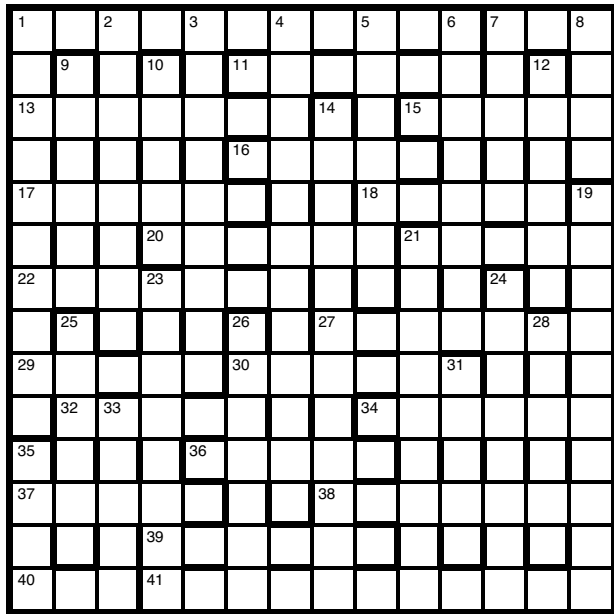


2648:

Thus at an end

by *La Jerezana*

Eight unclued lights are of a kind. Their unchecked and mutually checked letters can be rearranged to spell 'LIKE IMPIOUS MYTHIC LOCH NESS MONSTER'. Ignore an acute accent and two hyphens.



Across

- 7 Tax cuts regularly have an effect (3)
- 11 TT race practice (3,3)
- 13 Lunatic on motorway initially infuriated by a trifle (7)
- 15 Previous player discontented with ten runs (5)
- 16 Puzzle must primarily please (5)
- 17 American certain to be rich (6)
- 18 Sanctioned some alcoholic itinerants (5)
- 20 Smile merrily, eating posh breakfast (6)
- 22 Many bats bitten by cunning insect (4,3)
- 27 Arrange an appointment with King George in advance (7)
- 29 Tell story, finally changing the subject (5)
- 30 Aristocrat wearing extremely precious gems (6)
- 32 Opening, Stokes turned round a Test (5)
- 34 Father Christmas cycling round lake at an angle (6)
- 36 Cut state investment (5)
- 37 High-ranking name recalling bender without wife (5)
- 38 Hearing why Australian knight returned to region of New Zealand (7)
- 39 Poor signal ranges (6)

Down

- 1 Like rickety Palermo cab (10)
- 3 As a pre-teen you reportedly worried shrink (9)
- 4 Greek scholar unwisely teases hornet (12)
- 5 King heading off troublemaker in citadel (7)
- 6 Made wealthy, spoil children heartlessly kick stuffing out of Edward (8)
- 7 Boxer swinging both ways in defence (5)
- 8 Wrong half of horny reptile (4)
- 9 Supple mountaineers ignoring limits (6)
- 10 Dutch spirit made from sugar cane and wheat (5)
- 12 Comfort chap covered in black stuff (6)
- 21 Family embraced by lively lasses in furs (9)
- 23 Old Balkan dude ascending huge throne (8)
- 24 Indian royal used marihuana after leaving university (8)
- 26 Resembling a mineral spring, endlessly deep (7)
- 28 Sustained tango melody upset Oscar (6)
- 31 Quench last of fires with large amount of water (5)
- 33 Ban cheers and jeers for the most part (5)
- 35 Photograph unexpected card game (4)

A first prize of £30 and two runners-up prizes of £20 for the first correct solutions opened on 22 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 2648, The Spectator, 22 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9HP. Please allow six weeks for prize delivery.

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