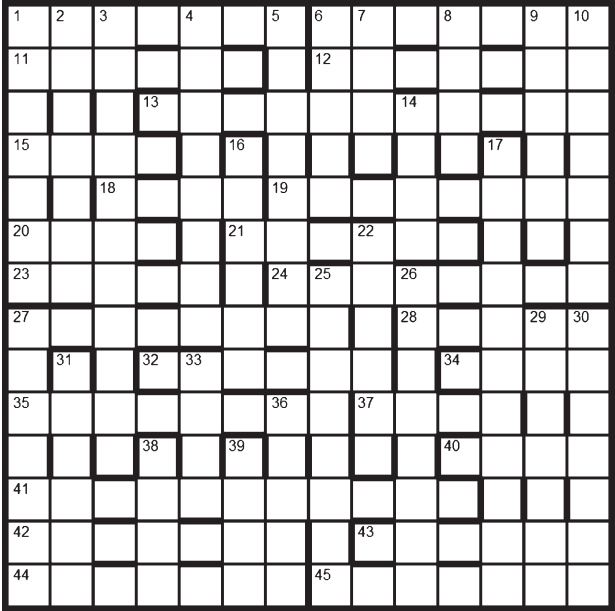


Order! Order!

by CheeseCracker

Twelve symmetrically placed, unclued lights (one hyphenated) appear in a form suggested by a word that may be linked to their original forms (all normal words). Their unchecked and mutually cross-checking letters together spell out CRIPPLING LINKMEN DINING IN.



- Across**
- 1 Bridges crossing American and Asian boats (7)
 - 6 Spanish plateaux framed in rocky seam (7)
 - 11 Addresses person arrested by western marine (6)
 - 13 Smart new union member issued forth drinks (4-7)
 - 18 Unemployed star in audition (4)
 - 20 Regularly observed Neptunian volcano (4)
 - 21 Raise studs on outskirts of Epsom, chief (6)
 - 23 Band splits, going west (5)
 - 24 Taught withdrawn girl about old coin (8)
 - 27 Unexpectedly produce a leap (8)
 - 28 Wildcats run into unfledged hawk (5)
 - 32 African volunteers protecting dying bird? (6)
 - 34 Indian clerk's twins starting up banking business (4)
 - 37 Large paper covering international arrest (4)
 - 41 High-flier for observing dodgy Latino bloke (4-7)
 - 43 Battles small grubs making a comeback (6)
 - 44 Silences a lot of barred females (7)
 - 45 Hurtful daughter, outwardly reluctant (7)

- Down**
- 1 Headgear promotion covered by amount traded (7)
 - 3 Our lounge I'm converting into a cabaret (6,5)
 - 5 Greeted in the manner of equal hosts before Democrat (8)
 - 6 Exciting leg-over's extremely idiotic (5)
 - 7 Organ initially played for US marshal (4)
 - 9 Adult banter free from anxiety (2,4)
 - 10 Sweated a little over prosecuted fences (7)
 - 14 Frank, for GOV.UK, level of resistance? (4)
 - 16 Payment, say, put up for toy (6)
 - 17 Possibly rent actor – no, singer (6-5)
 - 22 Rogue really is every so often a source of poison (6)
 - 25 Hollow shelled Malian molluscs (8)
 - 27 Lancers have such men holding up flanks of attack (7)
 - 30 Conceive drink with attitude (7)

- 31 Surrey and England batsman once bated 'Richie' somewhat (6)
- 33 Cut short cakes up (4)
- 36 Flies alone, whichever way you look at it (5)
- 39 Grand draught? (4)

A first prize of £30 and two runners-up prizes of £20 for the first correct solutions opened on 27 May. 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 2653, The Spectator, 22 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9HP.

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