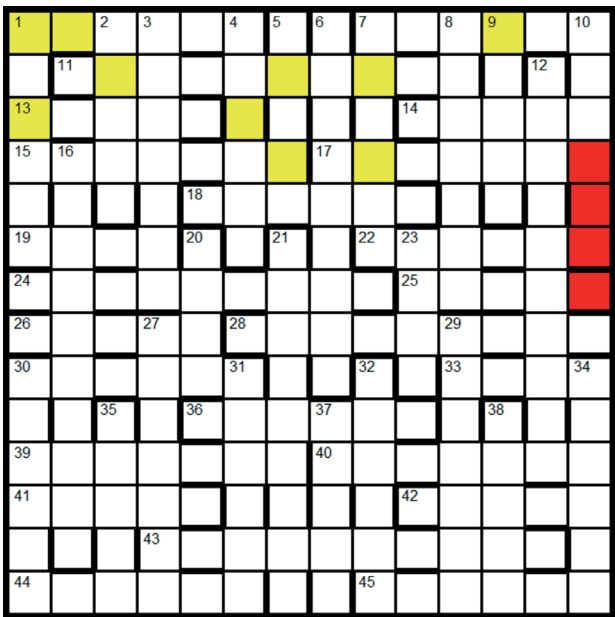


Crossword
2709: Our set
by Doc

The unclued lights are of a kind. One of them consists of two separate theme-words juxtaposed: one is of two words and two have to be paired. The letters in the red squares spell another theme-word and the letters in the yellow squares can be arranged to form yet another (two-word) theme word.

- Across**
- 1 Realise she can be awkward (6)
 - 11 Pedro's 'See you later' makes Oates laugh (5,5)
 - 14 Bravo, gents, maybe May's first flower (5)
 - 18 Sky lad mixed polyester resins (6)
 - 19 Bristle at small letter (4)
 - 22 38 with mould in relief (6)
 - 24 Obtain oil that's for cooking the chop? (9)
 - 25 European birds in the housetops? (5)
 - 26 Less convincing Debussy composition (2,3)
 - 28 Will on trial around 10 a.m. (9)
 - 30 One quarrelling with some unpopular guerrilla (6)
 - 33 Lamb's father ate duck on ramble (4)
 - 36 Possibly seated and quite composed (6)
 - 39 Gradually reduce silly oaf's fee (4,3)
 - 41 Rows bring crying, reportedly (5)
 - 42 Lizard Vasco beheaded (5)
 - 43 Weapon causing problem to Central Edinburgh (6,4)
 - 45 Rock group with each secret runaway (6)

- Down**
- 1 Demands performances from the past, it appears (6)



- 2 Cadbury import raised in BOAC accident (5)
- 3 Unfriendly US spies invading Laos on manoeuvres (7)
- 4 Mist conceals last bits of deciduous trees (6)
- 5 Records keeper at the reception desk (5)
- 7 On board help, we hear, for the 2020s, say (6)
- 9 Musician Holland suggests gemstones (5)
- 10 Breaks for readers of *Butterflies* (6)
- 12 Early telegraphic transmitter could possibly plan course (7,3)
- 16 I ban 30 Across organising old forfeit (3-7)
- 23 Soldiers surrounding a base (4)
- 27 Muse of ill repute, note (7)
- 30 Acid recluse shuns society (6)
- 31 Disprove arbiter on Aussie truck (6)
- 32 Birthplace of firm (6)
- 34 Doctor musical material (6)
- 35 Cockney fellow's present at French département (5)

- 37 Let everyone scream (5)
- 38 Terence or Penny Black (5)

A first prize of £30 and two runners-up prizes of £20 for the first correct solutions opened on 14 July. 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 2709, The Spectator, 22 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9HP. Please allow six weeks for prize delivery.

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