

# Score-board (or A Vast Narrow V)

Three unclued lights (whose unchecked letters are FAT) are to be entered — in the order 29 38 18 — in Box A.

Nine Misprints (M) clues each have one letter misprinted in the definition; the name spelled out by the correct forms of the nine misprinted letters should be entered in Box B.

Eight Playfair clues — each clue defines two words. From one answer, two consecutive letters are to be dropped to form the other (which is entered in the grid). These two letters are then encoded by a Playfair cipher, to give the pair of letters written beside the clue number. Solvers are required to deduce the codeword, and enter it in Box C.

In a Playfair code-square, letters of a keyword in which no letter recurs, precede the rest of the alphabet in order; I does double duty for J and J. To encode a word split it into pairs thus: CH AL KL EY. If letters of a pair occur in same rank in square, use letters to the right of each (for last letter of rank use first letter); if in same column use letters below

Six Printer's Devilry (PD) clues — passages from which the printer has removed a hidden answer, closing the gap, taking liberties perhaps with the punctuation and spacing, but not disturbing the order of the remaining letters.

Six Definition and Letter Mixture (DLM) clues

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A

B

C

— each has a definition (one word or more) and a mixture of the letters of the required answer beginning at the beginning or ending at the end of a word.

Eight Normal Cryptic (N) clues — in which the name of a member of Eric's Christmas Club stands for its initial (e.g. Bradford = B).

The perimeter, starting at 40 and running clockwise, contains a six-word sentiment offered to Eric on reaching this anniversary. The perimeter's unchecked letters form the puzzle's subtitle.

Solutions and Notes available from The Crossword Club, Hilberry Farm, Awbridge Hill, Romsey, Hants, SO51 0HF. SAE appreciated!

## ACROSS

- M 10 Is weed a drug? (4)
- DLM 11 A river may be showing flecks of blue and white (5)
- P ... = MB12 Frivolous joy (5;7)
- N 13 Something fishy in study formerly occupied by Tompsett (6)
- N 15 Out of place to pour out English, Dexter! (8)
- PD 16 Which prominent cut ended the Communist conference? (5)
- DLM 17 Goddess described as 'less than pretty' took offence (7)
- P ... = EI 20 Pear season, in the country (6;4)
- M 22 Acclaimed bass — he's right individual to enthral one (7)
- PD 25 Rhyming slang — a curious line used when talking cockney-style (4)
- N 28 Intend to compose? Sondheim gets out of that! (5)
- N 30 Coarse food? Manley involved in arrangement of over half of lunch and tea (7)
- M 31 Latter half of vote almost satisfactory (5)
- M 34 When many relay useless items without breadth of knowledge (8)
- DLM 36 Singing groups featuring rich soprano voices (6)
- P ... = RI 37 Supports the soles of the feet (5;7)
- P ... = AO 39 Like some fowl? (Fowl?) (4;6)

## DOWN

- M 1 Dry out? Time a bit of water's first removed (4)
- P ... = OG 2 Thankless type to become whole (7;9)
- DLM 3 Disappointed cry once honourable gentleman rises to speak (6)
- N 4 Sobeys — a worker on his own fragment (7)
- PD 5 Those who've tripped over best hat appear innocuous? Can cause an upset (13)
- DLM 6 Miller's clever dodge eliminated low-grade flour (6)
- PD 7 Tiredness may lead even the ardent — led to resort to aphrodisiacs (8)
- P ... = PM 8 Hair failed, despite having potential (4;6)
- N 9 Mistakenly pester Lamb to get modern communication system (7)
- PD 10 Some consider Thebes is to be the place with the freshest water (4)
- M 14 Some trust it eliminates the old vow (4)
- N 19 Test out Head's old plough in two-thirds of fine ground (8)
- PD 21 The explorer wants to go back to the jungle — hasn't he been, though? (7)
- M 23 Vine wrecked by middle of night attack by worms (7)
- DLM 24 Edinburgh taxman refers to rent review (7)
- P ... = FT 26 Cave essence (6;4)
- M 27 Pope talks hesitantly with the Queen (6)
- M 32 Sporting topless around Australian surf! (4)
- N 33 Decided Franco: 'I'm about right!' (4)
- P ... = RN 35 Challenge to move suddenly (4;6)