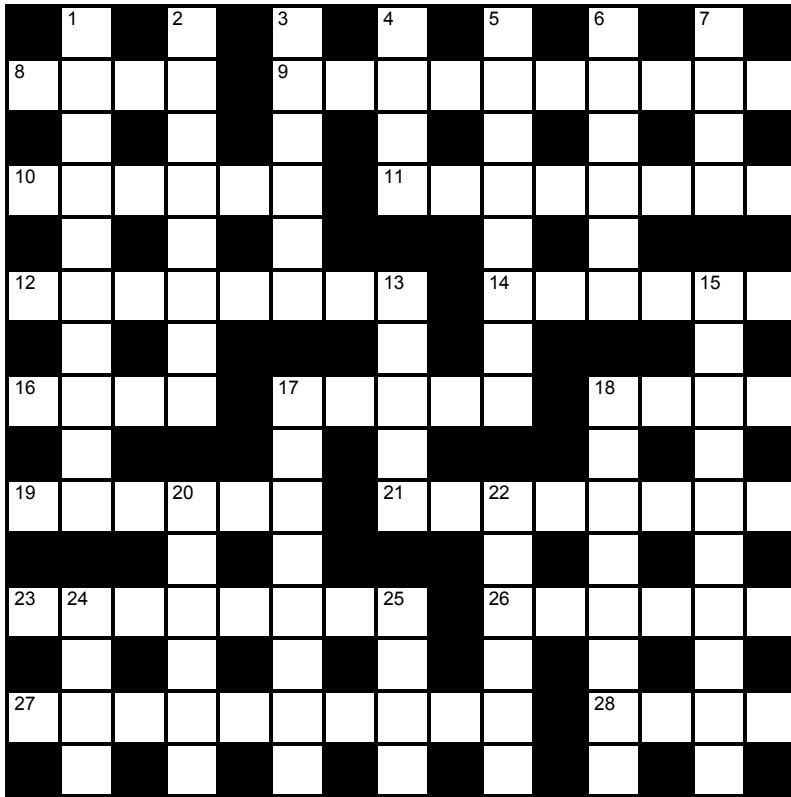


MPP - 04: September 2012

Four linked characters grace the grid. Which other member of the team was their captain?



Across

- 8 Boast about rank (4)
- 9 Boffin whose career's looking up (10)
- 10 Deeply-concealed threats once Posh and Becks introduced to Congress (1-5)
- 11 Gutsy display in Japan? (4-4)
- 12 Female boxing enthusiasts' publication exhibits lack of vigour (8)
- 14 Leak has no comeback, as expected (2,4)
- 16 Agent chasing European spot (4)
- 17 Long-distance boot over the pond (5)

- 18 Flags down in East End troubles (4)
- 19 Australia and South Africa invested in pub market (6)
- 21 Source of First Lady's extra support? (5,3)
- 23 Second journalist in case locked up and abused (8)
- 26 Start a raffle to cover deposit (6)
- 27 Top airline's relocated to Gainsborough, say (3,7)
- 28 Bristle at retiring following case of sabotage (4)

Down

- 1 An airbase redeveloped by a stretch of water (7,3)
- 2 You and I got posed artistically around deadheaded flower in a drippy way (8)
- 3 Struggle to squeeze bottom into tight spot with nothing scratched (6)
- 4 Laugh at unhappiness to disguise upset state (4)
- 5 Turn up supporting North African bird (8)
- 6 Miniature sink is appropriate (6)
- 7 One may be apparent in radio broadcast (4)

- 13 Averts one's eyes from pushed up small buttocks (5)
- 15 'U' film that I produced is not concerned with a single religion (5-5)
- 17 Run away from dog after scare (4,4)
- 18 Growth transformed US marine (8)
- 20 Gangster and comic brother head off for place in the Middle-East (6)
- 22 Course cut short after a bit of fuss (6)
- 24 Extremely deficient notice concerning organ (4)
- 25 Dorothy's freckles? (4)