

**Across**

- 1** Carpenter's interlocutor cut across original line the opposite way (6)
5 Lively session follows cold comfort (8)
9 Karpov's a bitter rival of his! (8)
10 Bilbao language graduates with a question in Cordoba (6)
11 Norma Jean's policy of convenience used by capital commuters (8,4)
13 Half sounds like more! (4)
14 Skittles over 22: Vladimir Ilyich loses his head (8)

- 17** 347 Series and so on: Hingis forgoes the second one (8)
18 Sharks from Greater Manchester initially spiked drink (4)
20 Preparing egg diet? Try an alternative (7,5)
23 Hera's husband cut short good mother in a forum and a frenzy, perhaps (6)
24 Crumby actor in a sequel to "Kidnapped" (8)
25 Audacious aristocrat aboard iron ship (8)
26 Recorded conservationists interrupting senior citizen's ecstasy (2,4)

Down

- 2** Trojan War hero gives a judge a kiss (4)
3 Enjoy going round The Tavern to make a second impression? (9)
4 American umpire's call to down tools (6)
5 Jokes about past love nest: thus conceal the evidence (5,4,6)
6 Summons from a pub one's trashed (8)
7 Ivana's allegedly a bit of a nose (5)
8 Wayward Sylt nun swallows gin cocktail in spectacular fashion (10)

- 12** Say if one's a keen observer (7,3)
15 Russian protest group put one in rising Conservative's drink (5,4)
16 Overwhelm anti-nude freak (8)
19 Tit's equal partner also provides ink (6)
21 Castleford player in row about the heart of rugby (5)
22 Bargain one found amongst the Edinburgh separatists (4)