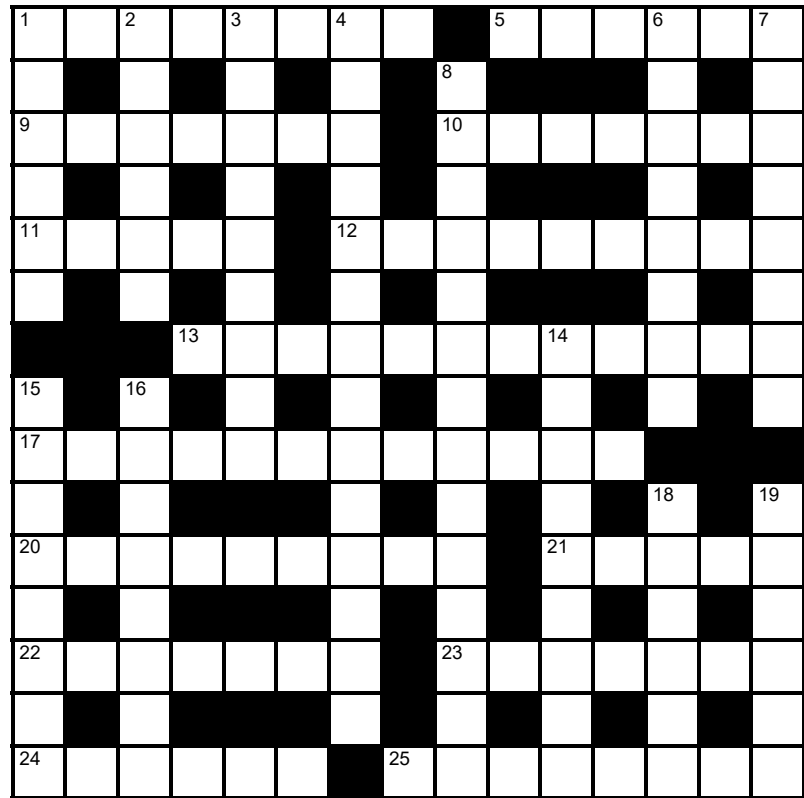


Across

- 1 Fishing after women gets manipulative (8)
- 5 Spoke of victory, none killed (6)
- 9 Story of a noble, round about (7)
- 10 Used to control or crack locks (7)
- 11 His language includes coarse talk (5)
- 12 Fishing surplus, perhaps (3,6)
- 13 Complete nothing, as low as you can get (8,4)
- 17 Nicaraguan opponent has theology lesson, gets smart - or the other way around? (12)
- 20 Make it easy to cuddle hard-as-nails publisher (9)
- 21 Smart Scottish one is back, clutching paper (5)
- 22 Always lent ear, sadly (7)
- 23 First sign (7)
- 24 Cross pen, no top, has got scratch (6)
- 25 Hit when too young or old, returning distance in poor gait (3,5)

Down

- 1 Swears off sea fish (6)
- 2 Amber liquid to accompany heavenly food? (6)
- 3 Ahead of prohibition, take it easy in nicer part of old UK pub (6,3)



- 4 No way, I'm riding my own elephant! (14)
- 6 Traditional stimulant from pot (3,2,3)
- 7 Put party before country for a gift (8)
- 8 No pregnant pause at this ceremony? (7,7)
- 14 Seal net is damaged, that's critical (9)
- 15 Cold bed in Greenland? (3,5)
- 16 Languid at party, time to lay off the refreshments (8)
- 18 Declare a fellow's company (6)
- 19 Little hole, spot to rent (6)