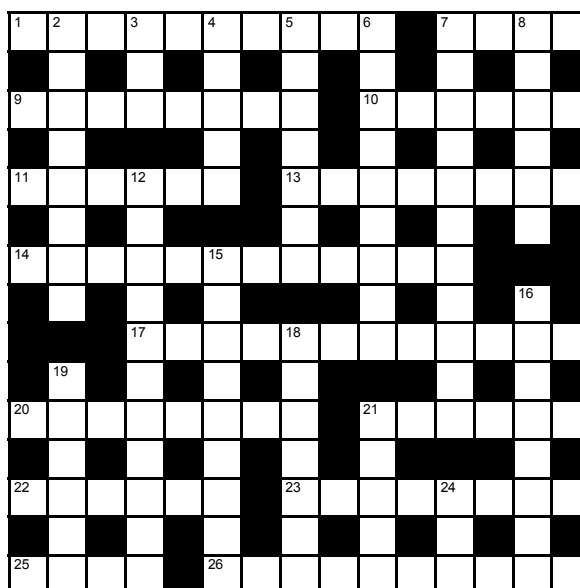


Across

- 1 Game reveals top centre and full back, as well as flanks with a lot of cheek (5,5)
- 7 Murders king - left with troubles (4)
- 9 Distracting argument with son about growth to 'big boy' (8)
- 10 Possess empty reasons and slow to decide (6)
- 11 Praise rebuilding of old civilisation (6)
- 13 Chap faces confused lad with cape (8)
- 14 Friendly wave - not small - and daughter is put forward (4-8)
- 17 Helping getting around difficult clue; it needs special pattern (12)
- 20 Mr Fix-It as a marriage guidance counsellor? ... (8)
- 21 ... Definitely in performance (6)
- 22 English-born, defended by Mister Important Man (6)
- 23 Singer was juggling fame a lot (4,4)
- 25 White mice, for instance, are heartless nuisances (4)
- 26 In terms of strategy, in-charge friend will back up diplomacy (10)



- 21 Blood of one South African soldier rises (5)
- 24 Field is even illegal (3)

Down

- 2 Tied up with bankrupt movie (8)
- 3 Cook, sauce- and spice-maker is centred on spinach (3)
- 4 Doctor captured in green by artist (5)
- 5 Monarch's no good with fashionable family connection (7)
- 6 Try again, docked sailor, for practice (9)
- 7 Undermined differently-abled person swallowed disrespect at first (11)
- 8 Breathing part of lairs regularly guarded by cat (6)
- 12 Ray harnessing equipment for Zoom, to include large Boards (5,6)
- 15 Understand it's winter op ... or let leadership go (9)
- 16 Link to point about essence of love (8)
- 18 In Chaucer, a microwave was made of clay (7)
- 19 Always in direction of grave (6)