

22 5 42 14 25 31: 29-40, 10-26.

- Across**
- 1 Hidden by grass, squad joined after separation (8)
 - 9 Most of scenery framed by brainbox movie maker (10)
 - 16 Will's interest in America essentially sprang (6)
 - 17 Region outside northern stadium (5)
 - 18 Dread being tense after fringe cut by bishop (5)
 - 20 Severity when ditching mum's gear (7)
 - 24 Perhaps Washington satisfied with just having left out minutes (7)
 - 28 Way to replace first two elements of obscure drawing together (7)
 - 33 Old architect initially bought retail supply (7)
 - 37 God, *Times* having run slightly advanced (5)
 - 38 Sing greeting, getting led out (5)
 - 39 See horse, one joined with man, making centaur (6)
 - 41 À la Tolstoy, waving to Queen Victoria? (5,5)
 - 43 No less than *A Dandy In Aspic* shunning trendy image (2,4,2)

- Down**
- 1 Cancel erratic plays, showing obstinacy (13)
 - 2 Show power, severing from drug dealer (5)
 - 3 Senseless to trap small bats (6)
 - 4 Large bodies once held by surface tension (5)
 - 6 Sort of free sheltered spot requires slight adjustment (7)
 - 7 Pussycat Doll Nicole outing South American

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- pop goddess in US wisecrack (6)
- 8 Spike – long one (4)
- 11 Ring, say, fan, with new flag raised in time (9)
- 12 Fresh appraisals about fools on ship holding hands on time (13)
- 13 That's awful, stopping British dance artist (8)
- 15 Fleshy lad turned up in charge (7)
- 19 Stop at flat and chill quickly (6-3)
- 21 Primarily short of money, blood bank in a serious way (8)
- 23 Dead end setter's old hat (7)
- 27 Lug wife away from fashion – difficult situation (3-4)
- 30 Spells of headless zombies on the move (6)
- 32 Ostler regularly chasing evasive animal (6)
- 34 Half of panel upset deplorable backstabber (5)
- 35 Croupier's own job description is perfect (5)
- 36 Clear day sees United demoted (4)

A first prize of £30 for the first correct solution opened on 3 October. There are two runners-up prizes of £20. Please scan or photograph entries and email them (including the crossword number in the subject field) to crosswords@spectator.co.uk, or post to: Crossword 2573, The Spectator, 22 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9HP. Please allow six weeks for prize delivery. The dictionary prize is not available at present.

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