

# Graf, Sanchez made to struggle

PARIS, May 24: Steffi Graf and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, top seeds at the French Open in the absence of Monica Seles, struggled unexpectedly Monday before winning their first-round matches, reports AP.

Cecilia Dahlman of Sweden, ranked only 105th in the world, displayed a powerful serve and steady nerves in forcing Graf to a tiebreaker in the first set before the two-time champion triumphed 7-6 (7-4), 6-1.

The match took 72 minutes, far longer than Graf usually takes to dispatch foes at this stage of a tournament. Sanchez Vicario, winner here in 1989 and No 2 seed this year, needed 89 minutes to get past Monique Klene of the Netherlands, 6-3, 7-6 (7-1). The Dutch 18-year-old, ranked only 142nd, led 4-0 and 5-2 in the second set before errors doomed her.

Seles, winner here the past three years, would have been a big favourite again. But she is recuperating after being stabbed by a fan of Graf's on April 30 in Hamburg, Germany.

Graf, clearly downbeat, acknowledged after her match that the stabbing incident had disturbed her and said she was not yet sure how much a title here would mean to her. A championship here would move her ahead of Seles in the rankings, but Graf said being No 1 no longer was of major interest.

"She played really well and I didn't really expect it," Graf said of Dahlman. "She played some very good points, took a lot of risks."

The two-time defending men's champion Jim Courier, was to open later Monday on Centre-Court against Argentina's Roberto Aza.

Rarely in recent Grand Slam history has any player, man or woman, been such a strong favourite, yet Courier isn't even the top seed.

Courtesy of the computer rankings, Pete Sampras holds the top seeding. But even Courier's peers consider him a good bet to become the only player besides Bjorn Borg to win three straight titles here.

"Behind each of his strokes, there's a plan. On the court, he's a killer," said France's Fabrice Santoro, who could face Courier in the quarterfinals.

Security has been tightened at Roland Garros Stadium in the wake of the Seles stabbing. Bodyguards stood behind the players' chairs during changeovers, and there was stepped-up screening of spectators entering the complex. Seles isn't the only promi-

nent absentee. Naging injuries have forced out two-time losing finalist Andre Agassi, the Wimbledon champion, and France's top-ranked player, Guy Forget.

Many of Courier's big-name challengers are serve-and-volleyers who favour faster surfaces, rather than

year-old Andrei Medvedev of Ukraine, seeded 11th.

A year ago, Medvedev got into the field as an unheralded qualifier, but won his first three matches. He opens Tuesday against the highest-ranked opponent of any seeded man, No. 36 Guillermo Perez-Roldan of Argentina.

the Italian Open. On Saturday, he was humbled 6-3, 6-1 by Bruguera at the World Team Cup in Germany.

"On clay, he's not the world No. 1," Bruguera said. "He's in the top 10, but he's not No. 1." Becker and Edberg have 11 Grand Slam titles between them, but never have won in



Japanese Shuzo Matsuoka awaits Frenchman Fabrice Santoro's serve during their French Open first round match at the Roland Garros yesterday. Matsuoka won the match 7-5, 3-6, 6-3 and 6-3. —Star TV photo

baseliners who are toughest on clay. In addition to Sampras, the serve-and-volley ranks include Stefan Edberg, Boris Becker, Goran Ivanisevic and Michael Stich.



STEFFI GRAF But no serve-and-volleyer has won on Roland Garros red clay since France's Yannick Noah in 1983. Strong challenges this year could come from Courier's fellow baseliners, perhaps Spain's Sergi Bruguera, seeded 10th, or 18-

Sampras, in his first Grand Slam as top seed, also will be tested early with an opening match Tuesday against Andrei Cherkasov of Russia, a tough clay-court specialist who reached the quarterfinals last year.

Sampras has had modest success on clay, reaching the French Open quarter-finals last year and the semifinals of

## Seedings for Abu Dhabi Open

ABU DHABI, May 24: World number eight Ross Norman of New Zealand was set Sunday as the top seed and favourite for the inaugural dlr 20,000 Nissan-Al Masood Abu Dhabi International Squash Open, reports AP.

The main draw begins Tuesday. Following is the seedings list released by the organizers:

1. Ross Norman (New Zealand)
2. Mark Carlyon (Australia)
3. Mark Cairns (England)
4. Zarak Jahan Khan (Pakistan)
5. Abdul Faheem Khan (Hong Kong)
6. John Ransom (England)
7. Darren Webb (England)
8. Glen Wilson (New Zealand)

Paris. Edberg came closest, losing in the final to Michael Chang in 1989.

Becker has played poorly on clay this spring, failing to get past the third round of any



ARANTXA SANCHEZ event. Still, he is seeded fourth. Edberg has fared better, winning a "tournament in Madrid, but losing badly to Stich and Petr Korda last week in Germany. Goran Ivanisevic, a Wimbledon finalist last year, is seeded No. 5. Recovered from foot and Achilles' heel injuries, he has the most potent serve in the game and the ground-strokes to be a threat on clay. He was the only player to win a set off Courier in Paris last year, but the American crushed him in straight sets in the recent Italian Open final.

Graf's top rivals are expected to be Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, the 1989 champion, and Gabriela Sabatini, who never has reached the final here.

## Indians surge further ahead

DURBAN, South Africa, May 24: India's hockey team beat South Africa 2-1 in their second international here Sunday, reports AP.

The Indians, who won their opening match 2-0 Saturday, surged ahead in the 10th minute with a goal by Baljit Singh.

Mike Cullen equalised but Mukesh Kumar gave India victory with a goal 17 minutes into the second half.

The next Test in the five-match series will be played in Cape Town on Wednesday.

# Sudirman Cup begins today Indonesia tipped favourites

BIRMINGHAM, England, May 24: Indonesia, first winners of the Sudirman Cup in 1989, should regain badminton's world team trophy here next week, reports AP.

They lost 3-2 in the final to South Korea in Copenhagen two years ago, but since then have gone from strength to strength.

A brace of singles titles at last year's Olympics and this year's All-England Championships underline that they will be the country to beat when the event gets underway with the group games on Tuesday.

Admittedly they are not as powerful at doubles as they are at singles and that will be important here, with the three doubles disciplines playing a greater part in the competition than the singles.

But the Indonesians can still boast the top seeds in the world men's doubles championship and the third favourites in the world women's doubles championship, which take place the following weeks.

The crucial sub-Group B clash for the 1989 champions will be on Wednesday night, when they take on Denmark, a talented and improving side.

In Thomas Stuer-Lauridsen the Danes have a young player who can match anyone the Indonesians field in the men's singles rubber from their talented quintet of All-England champion Heraynto Arbi, Joko Suprianto, Ardy Wiranata, Olympic gold medalist Allan Budi Kusuma and Hermawan Susanto.

The men's singles and mixed doubles, by contrast,

should be fairly one-sided, with Indonesia favourites for the former since Susi Susanti is the Olympic and All-England champion, while the Danes should take the latter through Holst-Christensen or Lund and Grete Mogensen.

England make up sub-Group B, but should not trouble either the Danes or Indonesia and should end up in the play-off along with Sweden to avoid relegation to Group Two.

Despite being European champions, Sweden do not possess the firepower to bother South Korea and China in the battle for semifinal places from sub-Group A, apart from in the mixed doubles, where Par-Gunnar Jonsson and Maria Bengtsson are a fine pairing.

The Koreans should head that sub-group, but it will be close, since there is very little

to choose between the holders and China in the singles, women's and mixed doubles.

They key to their meeting on Wednesday night could well be the surprise decision of South Korea's Olympic men's doubles champions, Park Joo-Bong and Kim Moon-Soo, to come out of retirement for the tournament.

That should produce a semifinal line-up of Denmark-South Korea and Indonesia-China, with the Koreans and Indonesians going through to a repeat of the 1991 final next Sunday.

While these countries battle it out for semifinal and final places, 37 nations will be bidding for promotion and relegation from nine other divisions.

Malaysia, headed by Commonwealth men's singles champion Rashid Sidek, start favourites to win promotion to the top flight.



From L-R Patrick McEnroe, Richey Reneberg, Pete Sampras, Michael Chang and coach Tom Gorman, of the United States pose with the World Team Cup after a 3-0 win over their German opponents in the final in Duesseldorf, Germany, on May 23. —AFP photo

# Ban on glue from June next year

GOTHENBURG, Sweden, May 24: Table tennis chiefs decided on Sunday to impose a controversial ban on all glue used to stick rubbers to bats from June 1 next year, reports Reuter.

The International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) executive committee decision followed an agreement at the ITTF's general meeting last Wednesday that the ban, originally due to start on September 1, should be postponed.

The delay was agreed to allow further study into replacement materials and came after the European Table Tennis Federation and the players' union had protested against the ban after it was announced during the first week of the World Championships.

Manufacturers have been asked by the ITTF equipment committee to supply pressure-sensitive adhesive sheets as soon as possible to be used instead of glue.

The ITTF is concerned about the use of toxic glues which can be a health hazard because of the fumes. Experts believe a glue ban could help the flat-hitting players from Asia more than Europeans, many of whom like to play at a faster pace.

France's Jean-Philippe Gattien, who won the world singles title on Sunday, said: "I am one of the players who plays best with the speed glue."

"If glue is bad for health I would be the first to say we must stop glueing up. If that is not the reason I am disappointed."

# Breukelen make PSV pay

AMSTERDAM, May 24: A rare blunder by veteran goalkeeper Hans van Breukelen plunged champions PSV Eindhoven to a 1-0 defeat at Vitesse Arnhem on Sunday which could cost them the Dutch league title, reports Reuter.

PSV are only one point ahead of Feyenoord Rotterdam, who have a game in hand and notched a 3-0 home victory over Willem II Tilburg on Saturday. PSV have just one match to come.

Vitesse defender Edward Sturig caught Van Breukelen unawares, leaving the 36-year-old keeper stranded with a powerful 35-metre shot 10 minutes before halftime.

"No excuses, it was just a complete mistake," said Van Breukelen, who last year retired from the national team after winning 73 caps.

PSV, frustrated at their failure to equalise, had three players booked — defenders Ernest Faber and Berry van Aerle and striker Wim Kieft.

Ajax Amsterdam scored three times in the final 10 minutes in a 4-0 home win over FC Groningen after defender Danny Blind had opened their tally in the last minute of the first half.

Sweden's Stefan Pettersson netted in the 80th and 88th minutes and fellow striker Dennis Bergkamp, who moves to Inter Milan next season, got his name on the score-sheet in the 84th.

Ajax, who won the Dutch league cup on Thursday, are third in the table but trail PSV by five points and cannot win the title.

# Gattien's dream comes true

GOTEBOURG, Sweden, May 24: Jean-Philippe Gattien, who went to Sweden at age 13 for his first table tennis camp abroad, became France's first ever men's world singles champion Sunday by outlasting Jean-Michel Saive of Belgium in five tough sets,

nervous and it showed. The play was not spectacular. "We have both played several big finals and lost, so this was really a psychological war," Gattien, showing no nerves, played his best when he fell behind. In each of the three sets Gattien won, he came from behind. He was down 2-8 in the first, 1-4 in the third and

"I learned a lot in Falkenberg. I have fond memories of that camp," said Gattien, whose table tennis idol was Erik Lindh, a Swedish veteran also known for his explosive game and now ranked 19th in the world.

For the seventh-ranked Saive, who reached the final by upsetting Waldner 21-17, 25-



Frenchman Jean-Philippe Gattien holds a bouquet and his trophy on the podium after he won the men's singles title in the World Table Tennis Championships beating Belgian Jean-Michel Saive 3-2 in the final in Gothenburg, Sweden, on May 23. —AFP photo

reports AP. Gattien won the "blue ribbon" event in the World Table Tennis Championships 21-19, 17-21, 21-14, 17-21, 11-18 before a crowd of some 6,000 at the Scandinavum Arena that included Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee.

It was the first major championship for the 23-year-old left-hander, who was runner-up behind Sweden's Jan-Ove Waldner in last year's Olympic tournament in Barcelona.

"You learn a lot by losing important finals," Gattien said. "Yesterday, I thought a lot about the Olympic final so I wouldn't repeat those mistakes today."

Waldner, who was upset by Saive in the semifinals, remained No 1 in the rankings while Gattien kept second with Ma Wenge of China third and Saive fourth.

Gattien and Saive are known for their attacking styles, going for the forehand kill as soon as possible, and both applied this tactic in the final. With serves and returns dominating, less than a dozen of the 190 points featured long rallies.

"It was a tough match," Gattien said. "We were both

11-13 in the fifth set. No other player had so many difficult matches in the singles tournament. Four of Gattien's seven matches went to five sets, including the quarterfinals against Andreas Podpinka of Belgium and the semifinals against Zoran Primorac of Croatia.

"I battled hard throughout the tournament," Gattien said. "I knew that he (Saive) doesn't like long serves so I tried them many times in the third and fifth sets. I served too short in the second and fourth sets."

Gattien felt he could win the final when he took a 16-14 lead in the decisive set. "He netted the ball with a smash," Gattien said. "It was the key point. Then I thought I had a chance to win."

Gattien went ahead 20-16 with serve. He hit his first two serves short and Saive cut the score to 20-18. Then, Gattien tried a long serve and Saive netted the return to end the match.

Gattien started playing table tennis at age 12 and one year later he went to a camp attended by some of the game's finest coaches in Falkenberg, a city known for its table tennis program just two hours' drive south of Goteborg.

23, 21-16, it was the second, straight setback in a major championship final. He lost last year's European Championship final to Germany's Jorg Roszkopf.

Asian players failed to make the men's semifinals for the first time since 1953. The Chinese men were shut out from the final four for the first time since 1975.

The Chinese women also failed in the singles, but China finished with four gold medals by taking the men's and women's doubles on Sunday in addition to the women's team event and the mixed doubles earlier in the tournament.

Wang Tao and Lu Lin won the men's doubles final, beating Ma Wenge and Zhang Lei 18-21, 21-12, 21-13, 21-15 in all All-Chinese final.

In the women's All-Chinese final, Liu Wei and Qiao Yunping defeated Deng Yaping and Qiao Hong 21-19, 14-21, 21-17, 23-21.

China topped the medal standings with four gold, three silver and four bronze medals. South Korea was second at 1-1-2, Sweden third at 1-0-1 and France fourth at 1-0-0. The next World Championships will be held in Tianjin, China, in 1995.

# DLV calls for ban reduction

STUTTGART, Germany, May 24: Germany will urge athletics governing body to reduce its four-year ban for serious doping offences this August because it is both too tough and impractical, officials said on Sunday, reports Reuter.

August Kirsch, Germany's member on the International Amateur Athletic Federation's (IAAF) governing council, confirmed his country would be going ahead with a proposal to

the IAAF congress in August calling for a reduction in the ban, possibly to two years.

Another leading IAAF official, who said the matter would be discussed on the second day of a three-day council meeting here today, added: The four-year ban decision was taken emotionally in the aftermath of the Ben Johnson doping scandal.

Decisions taken in emotional circumstances are not necessarily the best ones. Indeed there is statistical evi-

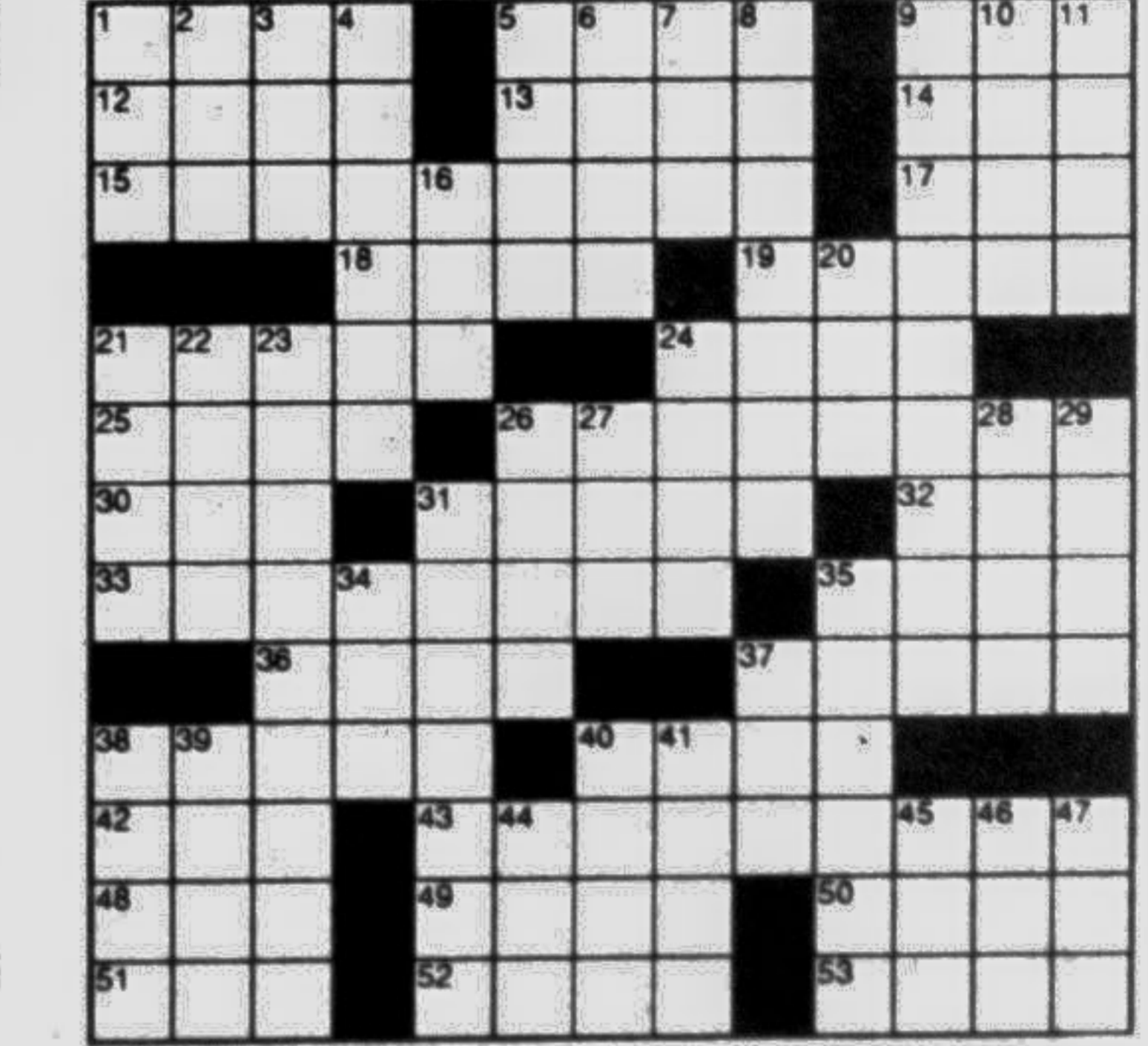
dence that very few athletes managed to come back from a ban of just 18 months.

The German Athletics Federation (DLV), faced with major legal difficulties in a recent case involving sprinter Katrin Krabbe, believe the ban, which was introduced two years ago, is too tough to enforce under German civil law.

The DLV is worried that a German court would say that four years is too long to stop someone practising their profession.

# CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 London slammer
  - 5 Liver delicacy
  - 9 Bridle part
  - 12 Site of the Taj Mahal
  - 13 Cuckoos
  - 14 Commotion
  - 15 Slanders an absent person
  - 17 Camp bed
  - 18 Thousands of years
  - 19 Calf's neighbor?
  - 21 Old-time cupboard
  - 24 Some votes
  - 25 Narrow inlets
  - 26 Sense organ
  - 30 Case in gram.
  - 31 Saw socially
  - 32 Corrida cheer
  - 33 They're off limits to dieters
  - 35 Petty quarrel
  - 36 Ann, to Abby
- DOWN**
- 1 Run up the phone bill
  - 2 Turkish officer
  - 3 Grampus
  - 4 Los Angeles basketball team
  - 5 Bread, in Brittany
  - 6 Picnic pests
  - 7 "Top Hat, White — and Tails"
  - 8 Made an attempt
  - 9 Supports
  - 10 Recording star Billy
  - 11 Capacious bag
  - 16 Hood or friend lead-in
  - 20 Katmandu's land: abbr.
  - 21 Bedouin
  - 22 Isinglass
  - 23 Return by the same route
  - 24 Top combat pilots
  - 26 Coat or bow lead-in
  - 27 French season
  - 28 Pearl Buck heroine
  - 29 Plexus
  - 31 Maneuver the basketball
  - 34 Cote d'Ivoire
  - 35 Mexican blanket wrap
  - 37 Chart
  - 38 Actress Lange
  - 39 Evangelist Roberts
  - 40 Confidence game
  - 41 Gumbo
  - 44 Intention
  - 45 Worthless boulder
  - 46 Nap or skin lead-in
  - 47 Stallone's nickname
- Solution time: 24 mins.**
- LAMB HOD CHEW AREACODE ROSE PINFOLDS TOTA FRY TAMPER SWALE CINE PALE PINTADO ASA ORLES ATE PINGUID ALIT ULNA ALICE DUNDEE ELM OLEG PINMONEY LAME INVESTOR ENOS TOY TANS**



**CRYPTOQUIP**

J B J D G G A B L E F J F Y F K J  
H T H H F C C E H Y L H A T H L  
G Q C G D E G Q L H F K J E G Y H ?  
Yesterday's Cryptquip: AT OUR PARTY, ALL THE BRIDGE PLAYERS ARE NOW EATING CLUB SANDWICHES.

Today's Cryptquip clue: E equals H

The Cryptquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.