

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Sachin Tendulkar
(Indian batting maestro)
"I have always been out of this kind of thing. The nation knows I am clean. My whole career has been transparent. I don't have to go out and say anything in my defence."

While denying his involvement in match-fixing.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

Competition-133

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm
July 28, 2000 and draw
shortly afterwards

- Which country will host 2006 football World Cup?
South Africa England Germany
- When did Germany host its last World Cup?
1968 1974 1978
- Who led the German bid for 2006 World Cup?
Beckenbauer Matthäus Müller
- Where did the voting for 2006 World Cup take place?
Italy Belgium Switzerland
- Who conducted the voting?
UEFA FIFA AFC

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)



Franks crosses his fingers

LONDON, July 19: Paul Franks could make his England debut in Thursday's NatWest Trophy triangular series clash with the West Indies at his home ground of Trent Bridge, reports AFP.

The Nottinghamshire pacer has retained his place in the squad while other fringe players such as Vikram Solanki, Matthew Maynard and Robert Croft have been released to return to county duty.

Now the 21-year-old England A player is in line to give either Darren Gough or Andy Caddick a breather ahead of Saturday's final with Zimbabwe at Lord's.

Alec Stewart, England's stand-in captain before Nasser Hussain's return from injury, said, "I think it is important to stick with the nucleus of the side when you get into the winning habit."

But it is also good to blood a youngster when the opportunity arises and Franks is a possibility for Thursday. He is still in the squad and it is his home ground.

DRU sports

The annual sports competition of Dhaka Reporters' Union (DRU) will start from the second week of August, says a press release.

Bridge, chess, swimming, water polo, table tennis, double-wicket cricket, six-a-side football, mini marathon, badminton, ludo and carom are included in the competition.

Interested DRU members have been asked to enlist their names in any day at the DRU office before August 10.

Rajshahi cricket

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAH, July 19: Mochimol Cricket Club became champions in the Ashar Alo Cup cricket tournament.

The winners defeated Mugaipara Cricket Club by three wickets in the final match at the Baguara Kordkor High School playground today.

Cricket in depression

Sports Reporter

The National Sports Council's (NSC) decision to grant the Bangladesh National Stadium (BNS) to football for an extra month would jeopardise the annual cricket calendar, said the general secretary of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Syed Ashrafu Huq yesterday.

"We will have to readjust the whole schedule. But the changes will definitely disrupt our original plan which is not healthy for the country's cricket," said Ashrafu Huq while talking to reporters at the BCB office.

"We're left with only one option to play international matches in December, the month of Ramadan. If the government permits, we can give it a try. But how many events can take place in one month?"

"It's really a pity that cricket is still fighting for a permanent venue when other games have their own grounds," said Ashrafu Huq.

The annual calendar of a Test-playing nation is fixed at the start of each season in consultation with other nations. That is why any change in fixture also affects the schedule of others.

Ashrafu Huq seemed confident of convincing the international cricket bosses for a revised schedule but he expressed his grave concern about the condition of the BNS when cricket gets it back in November as promised.

"I'm afraid that the pitches are going to be badly damaged under the spikes of the footballers. We would have been happy had they treated the pitches as a sacred item. But history suggests otherwise."



SYED ASHRAFUL HUQ

"It may sound funny but at the moment we are like vagabonds on the streets," moaned Ashrafu Huq.

Interestingly, the BNS was projected as a cricket venue to the International Cricket Council (ICC) when Bangladesh pleaded for the Test Status. Although the government recently allotted the under-construction stadium in Fatullah for cricket, it would not be

ready for use before 2002.

Ashrafu Huq however admitted that the BCB is partially responsible of failing to address the demand for the BNS to the government.

"We do not have the muscles and brains, which the other federation has," Ashrafu said pointing to the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), who eventually forced the State Minister for Youth and Sports to extend the period of allotment.

Cricket got three unique occasions to press for the handing over of the BNS permanently following the ICC Trophy triumph in Malaysia in 1997, the successful World Cup campaign in England last year and after attaining the Test Status on June 26 this year.

But on all those instances, cricket organisers surprisingly got busy with airy-fairy celebrations and singing songs simply forgetting to demand the venue permanently to the highest authority.

"Cricket is a game of gentlemen. It produces characters. We can not do what others (BFF) doing," Ashrafu quipped.

But the gentlemen in cricket, who thought that the decision would automatically come, are living in fool's paradise. Taking our culture into account, one can say cricketers are destined not to get the venue that was once built exclusively for cricket.



Man-of-the-match Alec Stewart of England flicks during the NatWest Trophy one-day international against Zimbabwe at Edgbaston on July 18. — Internet photo

England tame Zimbabwe

EDGBASTON, England, July 19: England gave themselves a timely boost ahead of Saturday's NatWest Trophy final by beating Zimbabwe by 52 runs in the day-night clash here Tuesday, reports AFP.

A century from man-of-the-match Alec Stewart — his first in his country in one-day internationals for two-and-a-half years — was the cornerstone of England's 262 for eight in 50 overs.

Then two wickets in two balls from Graeme Hick — including dangerous Neil Johnson — helped England kill off the challenge of Zimbabwe after they had reached 85 for one in the 17th over.

They were eventually re-

stricted to 210 for nine as England reeled off their third successive victory in the competition and put themselves in good heart for the Lord's showdown against Zimbabwe at the weekend.

Stewart justified Nasser Hussain's decision to bat first on a cracked pitch as he raced to his third one-day England century off 142 balls with eight fours.

It followed on from his unbeaten 74 against the West Indies on Saturday and is the first time Stewart has scored consecutive half-centuries in limited overs cricket for England since March 1998.

England only briefly faltered when they lost Andy Flintoff (24) and Hick (0) in the same over from Johnson as they slipped to 85 for three in the 17th over.

But Stewart continued to

score effectively and did not give a chance although he was fortunate to edge Heath Streak between wicketkeeper Andy Flower and slip Alistair Campbell when on 16.

He shared in a fourth-wicket stand of 81 in 19 overs with Graham Thorpe (33) and 52 in 10 overs with Hussain (34) on his way to reaching three figures out of 216 for four with a single off Grant Flower.

A quickfire 21 from Craig White — including two sixes in an over from Grant Flower — ensured England pressed home their advantage before the inevitable clatter of wickets in the closing overs.

Zimbabwe initially found runs hard to come by against Andy Caddick who was rewarded with the wicket of Guy Whittall (3).

But they were looking un-

Johnson to quit Zim

LONDON, July 19 (Internet report). Star Zimbabwe all-rounder Neil Johnson has announced that he will retire from international cricket to join South Africa's Western Province after the current tour of England.

Just as Zimbabwe were coming to terms with the loss of Murray Goodwin to Western Australia, they now have to

contemplate the loss of another of their better players.

Johnson will make his last appearance for Zimbabwe in the final of the NatWest Series on Saturday before heading for South Africa.

The Zimbabwe Cricket Union (ZCU) have rarely had the most harmonious of relationships with the Zimbabwean players, who emigrated to South Africa as a child and rose through the ranks to represent South Africa A. Since being persuaded to return from Natal in 1997, Johnson reportedly felt he deserved to be treated as Zimbabwe's "overseas pro", and paid accordingly.

Johnson has, for some time, been hinting that he would leave Zimbabwe, while the ZCU has, in any event, had its doubts that they would be prepared to renew the contract of a player they considered "difficult" when new contracts are offered in September.

Johnson has been at the forefront of expressions of unhappiness at the modest contracts offered to Zimbabwe's Test cricketers, which has further soured relations between the player and the ZCU.

Johnson has been disappointed with the 3,000-pound paid by the ZCU to senior play-

ers to undertake the current tour of England.

The ZCU are letting Johnson go without any resistance, but they are going to try to persuade Murray Goodwin to review his decision, although recognising that the political situation in Zimbabwe and his family ties in Perth will make it tough to induce a change of mind.

All in all, Saturday's final could be carrying plenty of emotion on its back.



State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader kicks the ball to inaugurate the 10th Jadukar Samad youth football tournament at the Outer Stadium on July 18.

AB Bank TT from today

Sports Reporter

The AB Bank Metropolitan Table Tennis Leagues begin at the NSC Wooden-floor Gymnasium this afternoon.

Nine teams are taking part in the Senior Division League while 13 teams will be featuring in the First Division.

Holders Biman will take on Engineers' Club in the lone Senior Division match of the day at 4 pm while there will be four First Division fixtures scheduled to start at 3 pm.

In the First Division, Dikusha Sporting Club will face Khelaghar Samaj Kalyan Sangha at the number one table. Swaminagh TCS meet Barna Table Tennis Club at table number two. Arka take on Mansoor Sporting at table number three while Uttara Club play against Mariner Young's Club on the fourth table.

Following teams are taking part in the Leagues:

SENIOR DIVISION

Biman, Armanitola JS, Brothers Union, Inter Sports, Armanitola Juniors, Wari Club, Swaminagh Boys, Ajax SC and Engineers' Club.

FIRST DIVISION

Group A: Dikusha SC, Swaminagh TTS, Arka, Mansoor Sporting Club, Barna TT Club and Khelaghar SKS.

Group B: Uttara Club, Angels Club, Mohammadpur Boys Club, Young Pegasus, Purbachal Parishad, Jagarai TT Club and Mariner Young's Club.

Junior shuttlers go to Japan today

Sports Reporter

A five-member Bangladesh junior badminton team is leaving for Japan today to take part in the Asian Junior Badminton Championship. The week-long meet will be held in Kyoto from July 21 to 27.

The team members are: Mustafa Ahmed Javed, Maruf Alam, Ahsan Habib Parash, Manzoor Hossain Palashi and Jobaydur Rahman Rana.

RU football

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAH, July 19: Psychology Department and Computer Science won their respective matches of the Rajshahi University inter-department football competition at the university stadium yesterday.

Psychology defeated Physics 1-0 in the first match of the day. Mironu scored the all-important goal.

In the second match, Computer Science defeated Biochemistry 4-2. Rana netted twice, Liton and Tanvir scored one goal each for the winners, while Habib and Masum made one goal each for the losers.

Office b'ball

Toras Styles reached the semifinals of the Office basketball tournament, crushing Alef Fashionwear Limited by 100-54 points here yesterday, reports UNB.

The winners took a 19-20 points lead in the first half at the Dhamondhi basketball gymnasium.

Titas caged 45 and Pintoo 27 for the winners while Fahim scored 12 for the losers.

In the day's other match, AK Khan & Co Ltd earned 54-45 points victory over Bangladesh Rifles after leading the first half 31-25.

Yasir and Fazeel scored 15 points each for the winners while Ayub caged 16 for the losers.

Both the teams earlier confirmed their semifinal berths.

Paes, Bhupathy again together

BANGALORE, India, July 19: India's estranged top tennis pair, Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathy, have mended their fences and will team up in their quest for Olympic gold in Sydney, according to their fathers, reports AFP.

Krishna Bhupathy said the 1999 Wimbledon and French Open doubles champions, who split in May, had also decided to compete in the World Doubles tournament in the southern Indian city of Bangalore in December.



Ashrafuflays Nepal

Sports Reporter

A magnificent all-round show by Mohammad Ashrafuflays Nepal to a massive 143-run win over Nepal in their second ICC Under-17 Asia Cup Pool A clash at the Ashgar Ali Shah Stadium in Karachi yesterday.

The young opener, cracked a superlative century (102 runs) as Bangladesh posted 225 for four in the stipulated 45 overs after being put in to bat. Ashrafu, who played for Surjo Tarun Club, then went on to capture two wickets for 19 with his niggling leg-spinners. The Himalayan warriors were eventually skittled out for a meagre 82 in 40.3 overs.

Bangladesh, who lost their opening match to hosts Pakistan by a wicket on Saturday, suffered an early setback when they lost their first wicket in the 7th over with score at 20. Captain Nafees Iqbal, who scored 63 against Pakistan, was run out after scoring only 6.

Unfazed by the loss, Ashrafu featured in a 68-run stand with one-down Shafiqul Alam, who was out for 27 in 23rd over. Pairing with Nasiruddin Faruque (23) and Shariful Islam, the lanky batsman then produced 118 runs before running himself out in the last ball of the 42nd over.

But his inspirational innings, embellished with two huge sixes and seven boundaries off 132 balls, came to an end not before Bangladesh were firmly placed at 206.

The youths could collect another 19 runs with out further loss of wicket. Shariful remained unbeaten on 38 off 46 balls and Kuntal on four.

In reply, Nepal failed to cope with the Bangladesh attack and

none of their batsmen could cross 15. Their number four batsman Kaniska and lower-order Basanta scored 13 runs each. Monik (10), Binod (11) and Amit (12) were the other Nepalese who reached double



ASHRAFUL... m-o-m

figures. For Bangladesh Ashrafu, Shariful, Shafiqul and Manjurul Islam captured two wickets each.

Ashrafu was later adjudged man-of-the-match.

Bangladesh will take on Bahrain in their next match at the National Bank Sports Complex in Karachi today.

In the other matches of the day, Kuwait beat Bahrain by 154 runs while Sri Lanka mauled Malaysia by 219 runs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the ACC Under-17 championship match between Bangladesh and Nepal played at the Ashgar Ali Shah Stadium in Karachi, Pakistan yesterday:

BANGLADESH

Ashrafuflays run out 102
Nafees run out 6
Shafiqul c P Basnet b Manjit 27
Nasiruddin c P Basnet b Kaniska 23
Shariful not out 38
Kuntal not out 4
Extras: (b-4, lb-5, w-16) 25
Total: (For 4 wks in 45 overs) 225

Did not bat: All Arman, Manjurul Islam, Prosenjit Bose, Mohammad Sharif and Talha Jubair.

Fall of wickets: 1/20; 2/88; 3/131; 4/206.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
P Basnet	9	0	42	0
Binod	9	1	30	0
Basanta	3	0	20	0
Anil	9	1	39	0
Manjit	8	0	48	1
Kaniska	7	0	37	1

NEPAL

Monik run out 10
Sagar lbw b M Sharif 1
Prem c Manjurul b Shariful 4
Kaniska c&b Ashrafu 13
Manjit b Shariful 3
Binod c Kuntal b Shafiqul 11
Amit b Manjurul 12
Prakash c Manjurul b Shafiqul 1
Basanta c&b Ashrafu 13
P Basnet c Talha b Manjurul 1
Anil not out 0
Extras: (b-3, lb-4, nb-1, w-5) 13
Total: (All out in 40.3 overs) 82

Fall of wickets: 1/4; 2/18; 3/18; 4/27; 5/48; 6/50; 7/56; 8/80; 9/82.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
M Sharif	3	0	5	1
Talha	8	2	15	0
Prosenjit	1	0	4	0
Shariful	8	3	9	2
All Arman	2	1	5	0
Shafiqul	6	2	10	2
Ashrafu	9	3	18	2
Manjurul	3	0	9	2

Result: Bangladesh won by 143 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Mohammad Ashrafu.

Today's match: Bangladesh v Bahrain.

S Africa's Test by spin

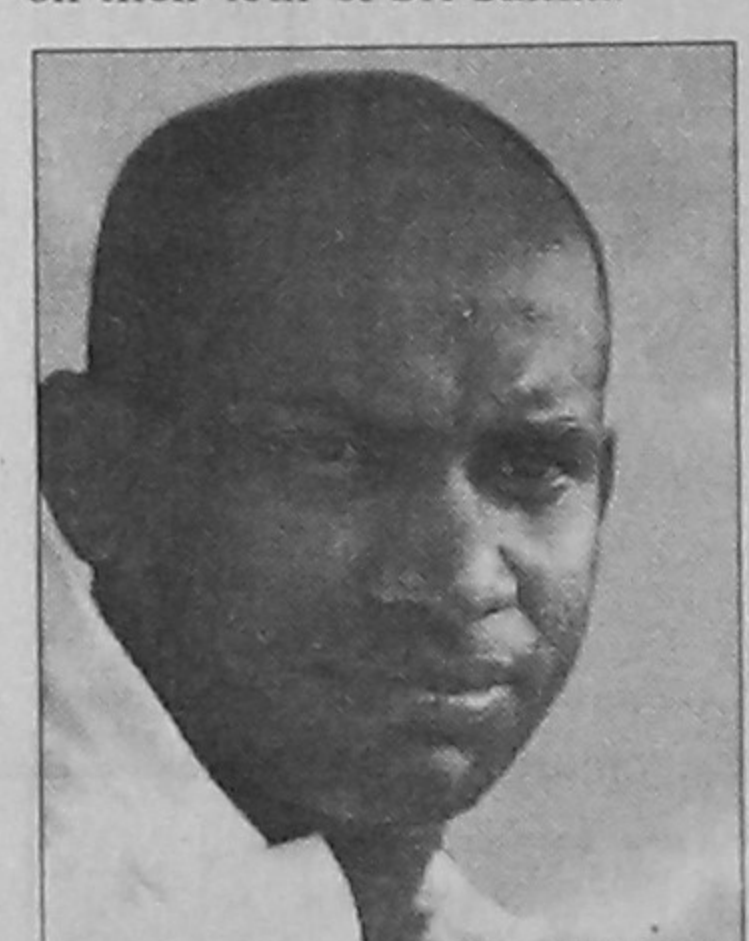
GALLE, Sri Lanka, July 19: South Africa will face their biggest test against spin when they meet Sri Lanka in the first of the three-Test series at the Galle International Stadium starting here Thursday, reports AFP.

The South Africans will be playing their first Test match since the Hansie Cronje match-fixing affair erupted in April.

Cronje, South Africa's disgraced former captain, was arguably the best player of spin bowling in South Africa.

He was sacked as captain and dropped from the team following his startling revelations that he accepted money on five occasions from gamblers and bookmakers between 1996 and 2000.

The former skipper's absence has cast doubt on shadows over the entire South African side who are struggling to come to terms with the turning pitches on their tour of Sri Lanka.



SANATH JAYASURIYA

The hosts are not making it easier for the South Africans either.

A grassless pitch has been prepared for the first Test and Sri Lanka is likely to pounce three spinners in their starting eleven.

"We are playing to our strength. Spin is our strength and it is going to play a big role in the series," said Sri Lanka captain Sanath Jayasuriya.

The biggest threat to the South Africans is master spinner Muttiah Muralitharan who bowled them to defeat in the one-day triangular final six days ago, taking five for 44.

Muralitharan will be backed by either leg-spinner Upul Chandana, Kumar Dharmasena (off-spin) or Dinuk Hettiaratchi (left-arm spin).

If Sri Lanka go with three spinners, it will be a toss up between Kumar Sangakkara and Prasanna Jayawardene behind the stumps.

Sangakkara, who kept wicket in the recent one-day triangular series was successful with the bat.

Jayawardene is a genuine wicketkeeper who made his Test debut but did not get to perform in the rain-affected final Test against Pakistan in Kandy last month.

South Africa, with only two spinners in their squad, maybe forced to play the 21-year-old rookie Robin Peterson who has been flown in as cover for the injured Paul Adams.

Adams is recovering from a groin injury sustained in the triangular final on Friday and if he does not pull through left-arm spinner Peterson, who has played only two seasons of first-class cricket, will be

forced to play in his first Test as partner to another left-arm, Nicky Boje.

However South Africa's coach Graham Ford said Adams was on the mend and his chances of playing were good.

TEAMS

SRI LANKA (from): Sanath Jayasuriya (captain), Marvan Atapattu, Russel Arnold, Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene, Arjuna Ranatunga, Prasanna Jayawardene, Kumar Dharmasena, Chaminda Vaas, Nuwan Zoysa, Muttiah Muralitharan, Upul Chandana, Dinuk Hettiaratchi.

SOUTH AFRICA (from): Shaun Pollock (captain), Gary Kirsten, Boeta Dippenaar, Jacques Kallis, Jonty Rhodes, Darryl Cullinan, Neil McKenzie, Lance Klusener, Mark Boucher, Nicky Boje, Robin Peterson, Paul Adams, Makhaya Ntini, Monstant Hayward.

Umpires: Darryl Harper (Australia) and Peter Manuel (Sri Lanka).

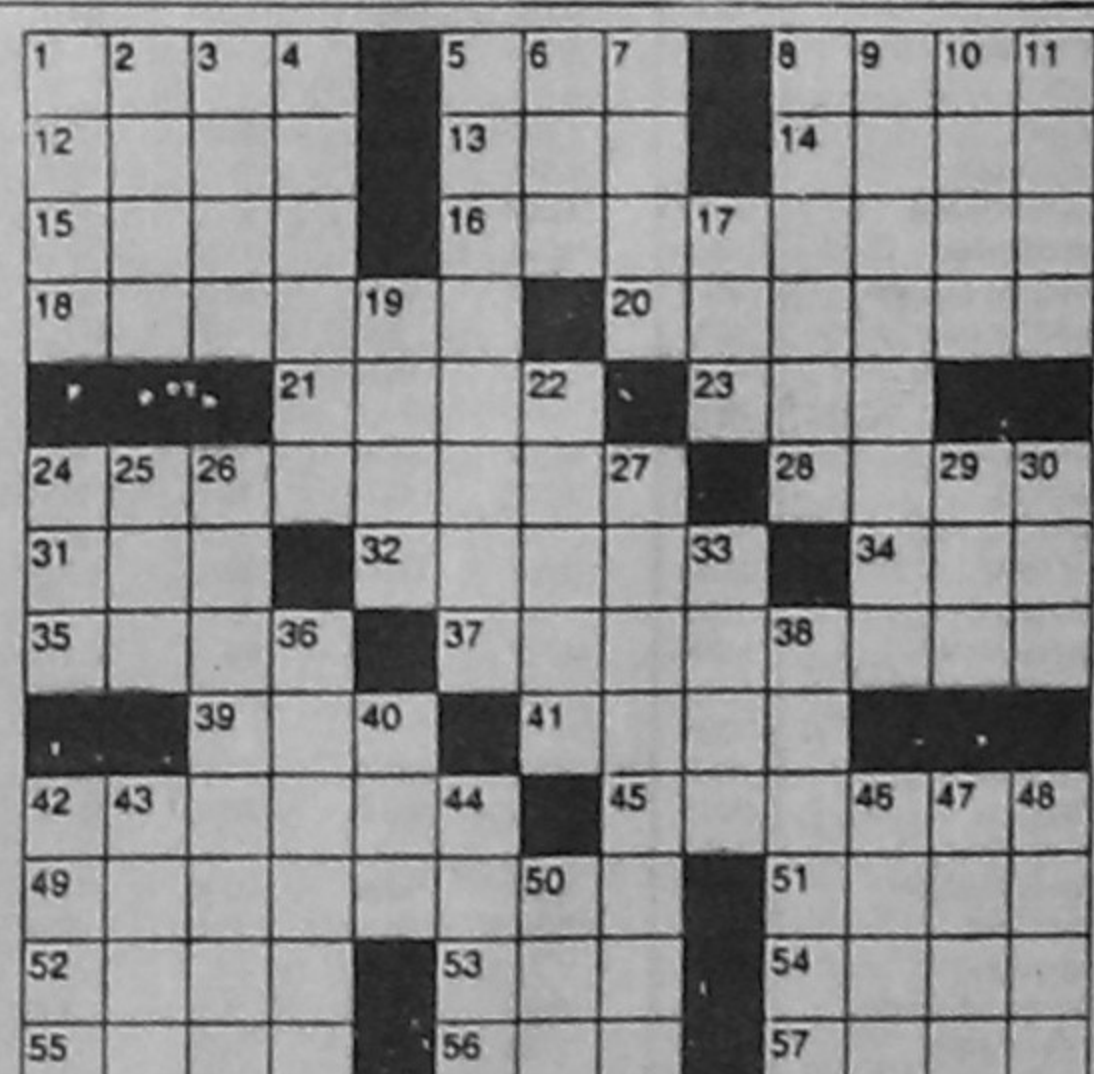


SHAUN POLLOCK

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- Mr. Walea
 - 5 Cistern
 - Heart of the matter
 - 12 Rue the run
 - 13 Freudian concern
 - 14 Unoriginal one
 - 15 Bleak and pes-
 - 16 Soft drink
 - 18 "Little Women"
 - 20 Majorette's moves
 - 21 Rainbow
 - 23 Insep-
 - 24 Winter warmer
 - 28 Pronto, in the E.R.
 - 31 Hockey legend
 - 32 Linger
 - 34 Spanish uncle
 - 35 Abacus component
 - 37 Summer cooler
- DOWN**
- 1 Actress
 - 2 Greenpeace subj.
 - 3 In
 - 4 Brave blood?
 - 5 Up-and-down
 - 6 Past
 - 7 Horn sound
 - 8 Hotel rooms: ship: —
 - 9 Friml creation
 - 10 Fishing need
 - 11 Messes up
 - 19 Equine gait
 - 22 Evidence of wounds
 - 24 Elfin mischief
 - 25 Raw rock
 - 26 Windpipes
 - 27 Ward robes
 - 29 Help
 - 30 Place-kicker's pride
 - 33 Fluctuate
 - 36 Inundates with liquid
 - 38 Lord Gordimer
 - 40 Man-mouse link
 - 42 Emerald City visitor
 - 43 Pinnacle
 - 44 Sicilian spouter
 - 46 Pedestal occupant
 - 47 Penpoints
 - 48 Facility
 - 50 Wiggler

Solution time: 21 mins.



CRYPTOQUIP