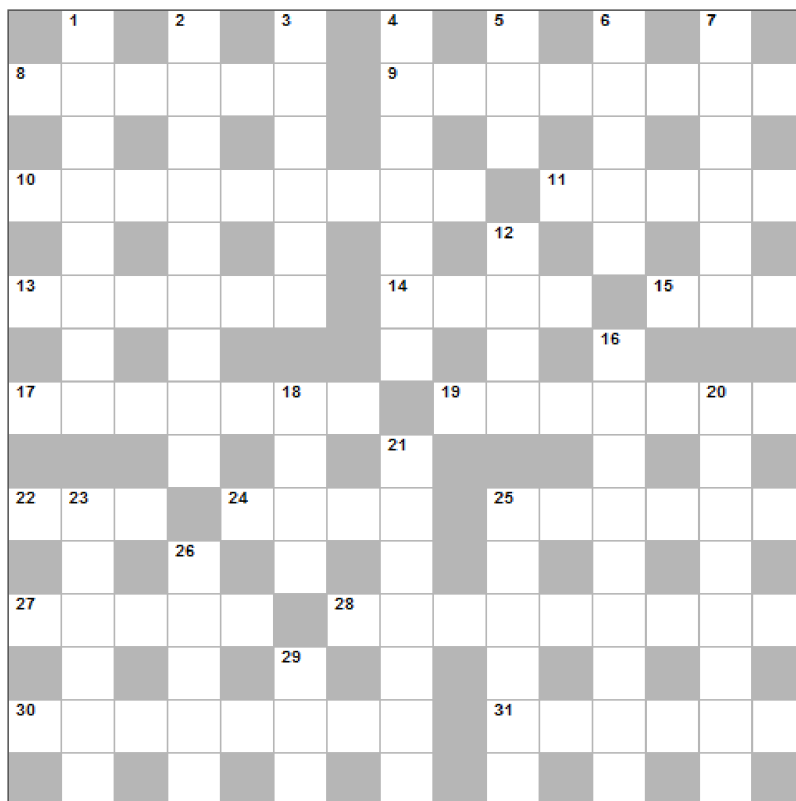


CROSSWORD FOR DERBY EVENT**By EXIT****Across**

- 8 Duke, related to earl? (6)
9 Echidna right disoriented somewhere in the orient – not Taiwan. (3,5)
10 Chicken as sold, maybe? Aye, vendor is trembling. (4-5)
11 Expressing disgust on Canadian Territory. (5)
13 Princess from Spain loses a child. (6)
14 Truncheon function. (4)
15 Teacher's place for 7. (3)
17 Press S, E and T keys to prepare for press. (7)
19 Papa with rubber almost upset in Brunswick, maybe. (7)
22 Retired member of SCR in this land. (3)
24 Confront foxtrot expert. (4)
25 Pale colour obtained from petals. (6)
27 Bet hospital shows distinctive character. (5)
28 Ruffian Dan loses note at party. (9)
30 Guardian Angel concedes a point but remains watchful. (8)
31 What does "?" signify? This. (6)

Down

- 1 Ability to pay Con's levy – criminal! (8)
2 Noel in trouble, kept in longer. (9)
3 Real saint, most real. (6)
4 Lie about jazz at church after university. (7)
5 Old letter in redhead's possession. (3)
6 A cold once picked up in lounge, possibly. (5)
7 Time to dream: spaces in Regent's Park coming up? On the contrary! (6)
12 Junkie's ruse rumbled. (4)
16 Engine may be damaged – set to work. (9)
18 Dash in tunnel, a neat move! (4)
20 Disturbed pug in den is turning over (8)
21 Abandons just reward – rats! (8)
23 Get in boat, rocking it. (6)
25 Portugal in Arctic, say? No, a London district. (6)
26 Peel foil off backing paper. (5)
29 Broadcast need for resin. (3)



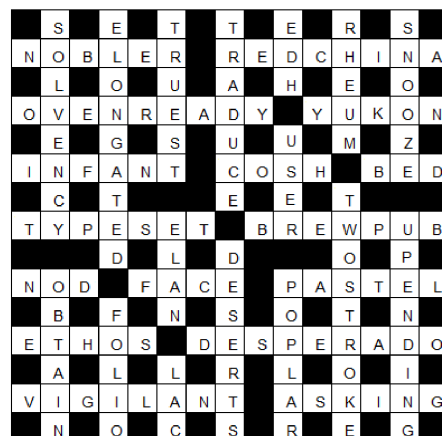
CROSSWORD FOR DERBY EVENT

By EXIT

* = anagram, < = reversed, [] = removed

Across

- 8 NOBLER - A duke ranks higher than an earl so might be termed 'nobler'
- 9 RED CHINA - (echidna r)* -not Taiwan
- 10 OVEN-READY - (aye vendor)*
- 11 YUKON - yuk + on
- 13 INFANT - infant[a]
- 14 COSH - dd - 'cosh' stands for 'hyperbolic cosine'; also possibly an &lit
- 15 BED - B Ed (Bachelor of Education); bed, place for a snooze (see 7dn)
- 17 TYPESET - to press S, E and T keys is to type 'SET'
- 19 BREWPUB - Papa = P in Nato alphabet, w = with, rubbe[r] (last letter dropped). So an anagram of pwrubbe. The Brunswick where we are meeting is an example of a pub that brews its own ale, or Brewpub.
- 22 NOD - Don (member of Senior common Room) reversed - 'in the Land of Nod' -facetious for being asleep (retired, gone to bed)
- 24 FACE - F + ACE (Nato alphabet again)
- 25 PASTEL - anag of 'petals'
- 27 ETHOS - hidden in 'bET HOSpital'
- 28 DESPERADO - Despera[te] (Dan, comic strip character) + do
- 30 VIGILANT - vigilant[e] - what remains after losing final 'e'
- 31 ASKING - cryptic def



Down

- 1 SOLVENCY - (Con's levy)*
- 2 ELONGATED - (Noel)* + gated (= kept in)
- 3 TRUEST - real (= true) + st
- 4 TRADUCE - Trad (jazz) + u + ce
- 5 EDH - hidden in rEDHead - 'edh' is an alternative spelling of 'eth', the old Ð or ð character.
- 6 RHEUM - An old (= once) meaning of rheum is a cold; homophone (picked up) of room (= space)
- 7 SNOOZE - 'zoo' (Regent's Park) in 'ens' (spaces), not 'ens' in 'zoo'
- 12 USER - (ruse)*
- 16 TWOSTROKE - (set to work)* - a type (may be) of engine; anagrind is 'damaged'
- 18 ELAN (= Dash) hidden in (tunnEL A Neat move)
- 20 UPENDING - (pug in den)* - def is 'turning over'
- 21 DESERTS - triple def
- 23 OBTAIN (= get) - (in boat)*
- 25 POPLAR - P (Portugal IVR) in polar (possibly Arctic)
- 26 FOLIO (a paper size) - remove first and last letters (peel) from 'foil off' reversed
- 29 LAC - homophone of 'lack'

Nina

SETTERS AND BLOGGERS CONVENTION around the perimeter starting at top left.