

York Attendees by Henri

Welcome to York! Eight Down answers of a kind must be modified before entry. An Across answer, similar but different to the eight, describes the state of the modified entries. Ten further clues contain an extra word; eight of these indicate a thematic word and the other two are useful for solving. The unclued entry is a ninth example of the theme. One grid entry that is outwardly ambiguous can be resolved by deduction. In the completed grid highlight an appropriate set of four contiguous cells.

Across

- 1 Kindly old sea dog with boots off (12,5 words)
- 11 South African settler taking wife by a country path (6)
- 12 Top player finishes off tennis circuit life despite demand (4)
- 13 Announcer relatively brittle, not without issue (5)
- 14 Part of HBO network, channel producing hits (6)
- 15 Clean beer, and German replacing gallons (7)
- 16 Dated Penny when on vacation around Italy (3)
- 17 Not all language is totally discriminatory (6)
- 18 Passage handled at the outset and now mostly satisfied (6)
- 20 Tiercels flying to make sets of reference lines (8)
- 24 Slaughterhouse's Sabbath meat briefly consecrated (8)
- 26 Limit of Scot's inheritance - the old dog comes first (6)
- 29 Politicians ready in Japan at end of opening debate (6)
- 30 Endless benefits for RAF employee (3)
- 32 About the French Revolution, primarily it goes round (7)
- 33 Wrong about Curie returning material (6)
- 34 I have never disembowelled myself (5)
- 36 Tasteless, heartless - attractive once (4)
- 37 Men at Muslim festival, one working away making alloy (6)

Down

- 2 Incense smoke can clear obstacle via wafting here, ultimately (6)
- 3 South Indonesia honorific (3)
- 4 Eccentric, winsome social philosophy (7)

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- 5 Maybe Jasper Carrott finally getting into second joke (5)
- 6 Oddly good-natured chucking dung way out, it's smelly (7)
- 7 Judo master welcomes English clergyman (4)
- 8 Get money for protecting Glaswegian couple's plant (7)
- 9 Winger favourite with crowds (5)
- 10 Rook, one having disease covering sides of tail (6)
- 12 Head is old-fashioned, not outwardly spontaneous (4)
- 19 Beach with cabin seen regularly on Dee (7)
- 21 Complex woman chosen over god (7)
- 22 I admit cocaine scandal after party (7)
- 23 Mostly enthusiasm surrounding novel *Carrie*, perhaps (6)
- 25 Article about local sport again (6)
- 27 Emotion expressed when a career finally leads to Royal Albert Hall (5)
- 28 Could originally beat down fighter before he was 'the greatest' (4)
- 29 Women gatecrashing function in Essex? (5)
- 31 Second rule about love fell (4)
- 35 Author's knowledge about regional catmint (3)