## AFR Cryptic (Saturday 23/9/2023) Solution

| ${ }^{1} \mathrm{~F}$ | 0 | ${ }^{2} \mathrm{R}$ | E | ${ }^{3} \mathrm{C}$ | A | ${ }^{4} \mathrm{~S}$ | T |  | ${ }^{5} \mathrm{G}$ |  | 0 | ${ }^{7} \mathrm{~T}$ | T | ${ }^{8} 0$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 |  | E |  | 0 |  | T |  | ${ }^{9} \mathrm{~A}$ |  | A |  | E |  | L |
| ${ }^{10} \mathrm{~S}$ | E | C | 0 | N | D | I | N | C | 0 | M | M | A | N | D |
| T |  | A |  | G |  | L |  | T |  | S |  | S |  | H |
| ${ }^{11}$ S | E | P | A | R | A | T | 1 | 0 | N |  | ${ }^{12} \mathrm{M}$ | E | S | A |
|  |  | T |  | E |  | E |  | R |  | ${ }^{13} \mathrm{D}$ |  |  |  | N |
|  | ${ }^{14} \mathrm{~S}$ | U | R | G | E | D |  | ${ }^{15} \mathrm{~S}$ | E | E | D | ${ }^{16}$ | E | D |
| ${ }^{17} E$ |  | R |  | A |  |  |  |  |  | S |  | 0 |  | S |
| ${ }^{18} \mathrm{~S}$ | C | E | P | T | 1 | ${ }^{19} \mathrm{C}$ |  | ${ }^{20}$ T | W | E | N | T | Y |  |
| C |  |  |  | E |  | 0 |  | A |  | R |  | T |  |  |
| ${ }^{21} \mathrm{~A}$ | C | ${ }^{22}$ E | S |  | ${ }^{23}$ | P | E | R | A | T | 1 | 0 | N | ${ }^{24} \mathrm{~S}$ |
| L |  | M |  | ${ }^{25}$ |  | I |  | S |  | C |  | M |  | I |
| ${ }^{26}$ A | M | B | U | L | A | N | C | E | C | H | A | S | E | R |
| D |  | E |  | A |  | G |  | A |  | A |  | U |  | E |
| ${ }^{27} \mathrm{E}$ | R | R | A | N | D |  | ${ }^{28}$ | L | A | T | S | P | 1 | N |


| Across | Clue | Explanation |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 FORECAST | Prophecy supporting a sect experiencing conversion <br> (8) | FOR + anagram of A <br> SECT |
| 5 GROTTO | Source of glow-worms possibly reached crossing <br> river (6) | GOT TO outside R |
| 10 SECOND-IN- <br> COMMAND | Deputy condemns nomadic wandering (6-2-7) | Anagram of <br> CONDEMNS <br> NOMADIC |
| 11 SEPARATION | Split peas spoiled a small amount of food (10) | Anagram of PEAS + <br> RATION |
| 12 MESA | Entries in scheme's actuarial table (4) | scheMES Actuarial |
| 14 SURGED | Cocktail of drugs containing ecstasy caused a rush <br> (6) | Anagram of DRUGS <br> outside E |
| 15 SEEDBED | See head of newspaper about database environment <br> that's needed for development (7) | (SEE + ED) outside <br> DB |
| 18 SCEPTIC | Scoffer's cold contracted by pussy (7) | C inside SEPTIC |
| 20 TWENTY | Run of Cabaret went years - quite a few (6) | cabareT WENT Years |
| 21 ACES | Flying war heroes, a short time back (4) | A + (SEC reversed) |
| 23 OPERATIONS | A surgical team works on these alternatives, taking <br> time into account (10) | OPTIONS outside <br> ERA |
| 26 AMBULANCE <br> CHASER | Cuban male mixed drink for lawyer looking for <br> work (9,6) | Anagram of CUBAN <br> MALE + CHASER |
| 27 ERRAND | Make a mistake with joiner's commission (6) | ERR + AND |
| 28 FLAT SPIN | Confused state fellow connected with changing of <br> last access code (4,4) | F + anagram of LAST <br> + PIN |


| Down | Clue | Explanation |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 FISTS | One's restricted by small feet and small rounded hands (5) | IS inside FT + S |
| 2 RECAPTURE | Care arranged time in sterile recovery (9) | Anagram of CARE + <br> (T inside PURE) |
| 3 <br> CONGREGATE | Kid, for example, brought in to annoy rally (10) | CON + (EG inside <br> GRATE) |
| 4 STILTED | Wooden pole put on an angle (7) | S + TILTED |
| 6 RAMS | Sheep hit hard by start to spring (4) | RAM + (S)pring |
| 7 TEASE | Wind up when in a part of a golf course (5) | AS inside TEE |
| 8 OLD HANDS | Experienced workers sprayed hold as well as bow of ship <br> $(3,5)$ | Anagram of HOLD + <br> AND + (S)hip |
| 9 ACTORS | They play parts or part described in extract or script (6) | extrACT OR Script |
| 13 DESERT <br> CHAT | Leave small potato for gibber bird (6,4) | DESERT + CHAT |
| $16 ~ B O T T O M S ~$ <br> UP | Saying raised in pubs all over the place! (7,2) | MOTTO reversed <br> inside anagram of <br> PUBS |
| 17 ESCALADE | Mount extraordinary case against lad with drugs (8) | Anagram of CASE + <br> LAD + E |
| 19 COPING | Managing brickie's top course (6) | Double Definition |
| 20 TARSEAL | Temperature associated with a laser affected surface (7) | T + anagram of A <br> LASER |
| 22 EMBER | Five of them berated old flame (5) | thEM BERated |
| 24 SIREN | Father now at the front is a charmer (5) | SIRE + (N)ow |
| 25 PLAN | Flyer detailed a proposal? (4) | PLAN(e) |
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