

AFR Cryptic (Saturday 15/6/2024) Solution

¹ S	P	² R	U	³ C	E		⁴ R	⁵ A	N	⁶ S	O	⁷ M	E	⁸ D
E		E		A				C		T		I		E
⁹ C	H	A	I	R	E	¹⁰ D		¹¹ Q	U	A	R	R	E	L
O		C		B		R		U		R		A		I
¹² N	A	T	I	O	N	A	L	I	S	T	I	C		
D		E		N		B		R				L		¹³ N
¹⁴ B	U	D	G	I	E		¹⁵ G	E	T	¹⁶ T	H	E	R	E
A				S		¹⁷ F		D		R				E
¹⁸ S	E	¹⁹ C	R	E	T	L	Y		²⁰ V	A	L	²¹ U	E	D
E		L				A		²² F		C		N		L
		²³ E	L	²⁴ E	C	T	R	I	C	K	N	I	F	E
²⁵ G		A		S		M		R		S		F		S
²⁶ E	U	R	A	S	I	A		²⁷ S	T	U	D	I	E	S
R		E		A		T				I		E		L
²⁸ M	O	R	A	Y	E	E	L		²⁹ S	T	O	R	M	Y

Across	Clue	Explanation
1 SCHEMES	Men, before finishing in chess, developed strategies (7)	(ME)n inside anagram of CHESS
5 PREAMP	Piano salesperson moved around AM stereo equipment (6)	P + REP outside AM
9 A-FLAT	Group of football players engaged in musical production (1-4)	AFL + AT
10 CRESCENDO	Finish in soccer rematch is a high point? (9)	END insider angram of SOCCER
11 ESCORTED	Guided business established in redeveloped desert (8)	CO inside anagram of DESERT
12 BLOATS	Craft handling large swells (6)	BOATS outside L
13 PIPE	Spot butt from cigarette smoker (4)	PIP + cigarett(E)
14 INCEPTION	Awkward one on about carbon's rise (9)	(INEPT + I + ON) outside C
17 ABERRANCE	Deviation can be rare in disorder (9)	Anagram of CAN BE RARE
18 SCAR	Mark is writing inside Christmas cards (4)	christmaS CARds
20 TOP HAT	Surgery conducted in that head gear considered first-class (3,3)	OP inside THAT
21 GROUPING	Alcohol banking up in class (8)	GROG outside (UP + IN)
24 COLLISION	Company is hostile about active opposition (9)	CO + [(IS + ILL) reversed] + ON
25 GREEN	Reduction of energy excited environmentalist (5)	Anagram of (ENERG)y
26 STATIC	Steady activist not supporting one against changing (6)	Anagram of ACTIVIST minus (I + V)
27 SADNESS	"The Blues Brothers", at the end, damaged sedans (7)	brother(S) + anagram of SEDANS

