## AFR Cryptic (Saturday 18/11/2023) Solution

| S |  | ${ }^{2} \mathrm{~A}$ |  | ${ }^{3} \mathrm{~L}$ | E |  |  | ${ }^{5}$ E |  |  |  |  |  | ${ }^{8} \mathrm{~L}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\cup$ |  | G |  | E |  | ${ }^{\text {A }}$ |  | A |  | N |  | E |  | A |
| B | U | 1 | L | D | 1 | N | G | G | 0 | C | 1 | E | T | Y |
| J |  | S |  | G |  | T |  | Y |  |  |  | K |  | E |
| E | S | T | E | , | M | E | D |  | ${ }^{12}$ | 0 | S | S | E | T |
| C |  | M |  | S |  | A |  |  |  | S |  |  |  | T |
| ${ }^{13} \mathrm{~T}$ | E | E | N | N | ${ }^{14} \mathrm{~S}$ | T |  | ${ }^{15}$ | L | E | M | ${ }^{16} \mathrm{~A}$ | T | E |
|  |  | N |  | ${ }^{17}$ |  | E |  | L |  | D |  | M |  |  |
| M | E | T | A | A | A | R | P | A | L |  | ${ }^{19} \mathrm{~S}$ | P | A | ${ }^{2} \mathrm{~F}$ |
| 1 |  |  |  | E |  |  |  | S |  | ${ }^{21}$ B |  | L |  | E |
| ${ }^{22} \mathrm{~S}$ |  | ${ }^{2}$ L | 1 | 1 C | E |  | S |  | E | E | R | 1 | N | N G |
|  |  | A |  | R |  | ${ }_{4}^{25}$ |  |  |  | M |  | F |  | U |
| ${ }^{26}$ | N | T | R | R E | P | R | E | N | E | U | R |  | A | A |
| A |  | 1 |  | A |  | 0 |  | G |  | S |  | E |  | A |
| ${ }^{27}$ | Y | N | A | A M | 1 | T | E | E | ${ }^{28} \mathrm{M}$ | E | N | D | E | R |


| Across | Clue | Explanation |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 STAPLE | Principal is to join paper (6) | Double definition |
| 4 REVERSAL | Odd bits of rust appearing in display switch (8) | (R)u(S)t inside REVEAL |
| 10 BUILDING <br> SOCIETY | Barrister's first guilty decision ruined prominent <br> lender (8,7) | (B)arrister + anagram of <br> GUILTY DECISION |
| 11 ESTEEMED | Honoured guests at the centre came down <br> heavily (8) | gu(ES)ts + TEEMED |
| 12 POSSET | Model nearly finished congealed milk-based <br> drink (6) | (POS)e + SET |
| 13 TEEN | Youngster's tin pinched from tuckshop (4) | CANTEEN minus CAN |
| 14 STABLEMATE | Companion's bishop played in no-win situation <br> $(10)$ | B inside STALEMATE |
| 18 METACARPAL | Touched a fish, a large bony thing (10) | MET + A + CARP + A + <br> L |
| 19 SPAR | Part of rigging a boxing match (4) | Double definition |
| 22 SPLICE | Some of cricket bat's power demonstrated in cut <br> $(6)$ | P inside SLICE |
| 24 STEERING | Mechanism used to control energy, twice reset <br> in line (8) | (E + E) inside STRING |
| 26 | Distracted, inept learner rues not finishing <br> business (15) | Anagram of (INEPT <br> LEARNER RUE)s |
| 27 DYREPRENEATE | New-fangled diet keeping many up is explosive <br> $(8)$ | Anagram of DIET outside <br> (MANY reversed) |
| 28 MENDER | Troops recalled embarrassed person in recovery <br> $(6)$ | MEN + (RED reversed) |


| Down | Clue | Explanation |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 SUBJECT | National coach turned up on aeroplane carrying clubs (7) | $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \hline \text { BUS reversed + (JET } \\ \text { outside C) } \end{array}$ |
| 2 AGISTMENT | Stock-keeping cost in agriculture is, time after time, divided by people (9) | $\mathrm{AG}+\mathrm{IS}+[(\mathrm{T}+\mathrm{T})$ outside MEN] |
| 3 LEDGES | Sides put on the back of large shelves (6) | EDGES after L |
| 5 EASY | Tune a system's components - it's not difficult (4) | tunE A SYstem |
| 6 ENCLOSED | End in itself is not out in the open? (8) | CLOSE inside END |
| 7 SEEKS | Searches for saying of religious people (5) | Sounds like SIKHS |
| 8 LAYETTE | Baby's set of clothing still inside after hours (7) | YET inside LATE |
| 9 ANTEATER | Pest exterminator retired in retreat after an evening meal (8) | (RET reversed) after (AN TEA) |
| 15 BLASTING | Explosions may be continuing after appearance of bomber at the front (8) | LASTING after <br> (B)omber |
| 16 AMPLIFIED | Expanded financial services company lied about one fee initially (9) | AMP + LIED outside [I + (F)ee] |
| 17 ICE CREAM | Cooked rice came with cold dessert (3,5) | Anagram of RICE CAME |
| 18 MISLEAD | Fool is crazy about place surrounded by water (7) | MAD outside ISLE |
| 20 REGULAR | Gun retrieved by a resistance fighter (7) | $\begin{aligned} & \text { LUGER reversed + A } \\ & +\mathrm{R} \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |
| 21 BEMUSE | Be first to make and run through puzzle (6) | BE + (M)ake + USE |
| 23 LATIN | Romantic language is mostly dead at home (5) | (LAT)e + IN |
| 25 TROT | Go off after start of triathlon's run (4) | ROT after (T)riathlon |
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