## AFR Cryptic (Saturday 16/12/2023) Solution

|  |  |  |  | $\mathrm{A}^{3}$ |  |  | ${ }^{4} \mathrm{~T}$ |  | B |  | ${ }^{6} \mathrm{C}$ | K | ${ }^{7} \mathrm{~L}$ |  | E ${ }^{8} \mathrm{D}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | A |  |  | A |  | R |  | A |  | R |  | Y |  | A |
|  | ${ }^{9} \mathrm{v}$ | 1 |  | R | T | U | A | L | R | E | A | L | 1 |  | T |
| ${ }^{10} \mathrm{~S}$ |  | L |  |  | E |  | C |  | N |  | F |  | N |  | C |
| " | N | S |  | T | R | 1 | K | E | E | ${ }^{12} \mathrm{~S}$ | T | 1 | G |  | M A |
| N |  | T |  |  | 0 |  | E |  | ${ }^{13}$ |  | E |  |  |  |  |
| ${ }^{14} \mathrm{G}$ | R | 0 |  | W | N |  | $\sqrt[15]{ }$ | E | L | 0 | D | R | ${ }^{16}$ |  | M |
|  |  | N |  |  |  |  | E |  | U |  |  |  | N |  |  |
| ${ }^{17} \mathrm{C}$ | L | E |  | A | ${ }^{18}$ | A | A | C |  |  | ${ }^{19} \mathrm{~S}$ | 0 | B |  | $E{ }^{2} R$ |
| H |  |  |  |  | E |  | T |  | C |  | H |  | A |  |  |
| ${ }^{21} \mathrm{~A}$ | S | ${ }^{22} s$ |  | 1 | S | T |  | ${ }^{23}$ | 0 | T | A | B | L |  | E |
| B |  | H |  |  | P |  | ${ }^{24}$ |  | L |  | L |  | A |  | E |
| ${ }^{2}$ L | E | A |  | V | E | W | E | L | L | A | L | 0 | N |  | E |
| 1 |  | D |  |  | C |  | R |  | A |  | 0 |  | C |  |  |
| ${ }^{26} \mathrm{~S}$ |  | E |  | E | T | E | N |  | ${ }^{27}$ | 0 | T | T | E |  | N |


| Across | Clue | Explanation |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 CHALET | Short fellow rented small house (6) | (CHA)p + LET |
| 5 BUCKLED | Stag once showed the way and collapsed (7) | BUCK + LED |
| 9 VIRTUAL <br> REALITY | A rival utterly upset about one computer-simulated <br> environment (7,7) | Anagram of A RIVAL <br> UTTERLY outside I |
| 11 ON STRIKE | Facing out (2,6) | Double Definition |
| 12 STIGMA | Spot a sportscar - it's reversing (6) | (A + MG + ITS) <br> reversed |
| 14 GROWN | Big sigh that's audible (5) | Sounds like GROAN |
| 15 VELODROME | Loved revamped Italian city's Olympic venue (9) | Anagram of LOVED <br> + ROME |
| 17 CLEARANCE | Head of corporation organised a cleaner's <br> authorisation (9) | (C)orporation + <br> anagram of A <br> CLEANER |
| 19 SOBER | Employees of sincere boss returned clear-headed? <br> (5) | sinceRE BOSs <br> reversed |
| 21 ASSIST | Stubborn one is last to accept benefit (6) | ASS + IS + accep(T) |
| 23 NOTABLES | Sign put out by a full restaurant, say, for celebrities <br> $(8)$ | NO TABLES |
| 25 LEAVE WELL <br> ALONE | Don't change spring, a large one, after break (5,4,5) | (WELL + A + L + <br> ONE) after LEAVE |
| 26 SWEETEN | Sugar bags sent back with little inside (7) | NETS reversed <br> outside WEE |
| 27 ROTTEN | Corrupt attorney losing case somehow? (6) | Anagram of <br> (a)TTORNE(y) |


| Down | Clue | Explanation |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 HAILSTONE | Very cold skydiver welcomes one finishing time (9) | HAILS + (ONE after T) |
| 3 LATER ON | One not supported by misguided relation in time (5,2) | Anagram of RELAT(i)ON |
| $4 \text { TRACK }$ EVENT | Racket developed before opening running competition $(5,5)$ | Anagram of RACKET + VENT |
| 5 BARN | Restrict opening of nice farm building (4) | BAR + (N) |
| 6 CRAFTED | Skilfully-made bow of canoe glided over water (7) | (C)anoe + RAFTED |
| 7 LYING | Dishonesty only in Government's division (5) | onLY IN Government |
| 8 DAY CARE | Nanny, finally entering arcade, arranged supervision for children (3,4) | nann(Y) inside anagram of ARCADE |
| 10 SONG | Succession of notes on gramophone? (4) | noteS ON <br> Gramophone |
| $\begin{aligned} & 13 \text { BLUE- } \\ & \text { COLLAR } \end{aligned}$ | Working-class nightclub ultimately varied local rule (4-6) | nightclu(B) + anagram of LOCAL RULE |
| $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \hline 16 \text { ON } \\ \text { BALANCE } \\ \hline \end{array}$ | Cooked lean bacon and all things considered (2,7) | Anagram of LEAN BACON |
| 17 CHABLIS | White wine, two types of cheese, and blended basil (7) | (CH)eese + anagram of BASIL |
| 18 RESPECT | Consideration, especially, established in record time (7) | ESP inside (REC + T) |
| 19 SHALLOT | Slug consuming every bit of salad vegetable (7) | SHOT outside ALL |
| 20 RISE | Extra money reissued unevenly (4) | (R)e(I)s(S)u(E)d |
| 22 SHADE | Relative darkness experienced in middle of desert (5) | HAD inside de(SE)rt |
| 24 FERN | Growth of bracken is restricted in low marshy land (4) | R inside FEN |
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