

AFR Cryptic (Saturday 16/12/2023) Solution

	¹ C	² H	A	³ L	E	⁴ T		⁵ B	U	⁶ C	K	⁷ L	E	⁸ D
		A		A		R		A		R		Y		A
	⁹ V	I	R	T	U	A	L	R	E	A	L	I	T	Y
¹⁰ S		L		E		C		N		F		N		C
¹¹ O	N	S	T	R	I	K	E		¹² S	T	I	G	M	A
	N		T		O		E		¹³ B		E			R
¹⁴ G	R	O	W	N		¹⁵ V	E	L	O	D	R	¹⁶ O	M	E
		N				E		U				N		
¹⁷ C	L	E	A	¹⁸ R	A	N	C	E		¹⁹ S	O	B	E	²⁰ R
H				E		T		C		H		A		I
²¹ A	S	²² S	I	S	T		²³ N	O	T	A	B	L	E	S
B		H		P		²⁴ F		L		L		A		E
²⁵ L	E	A	V	E	W	E	L	L	A	L	O	N	E	
I		D		C		R		A		O		C		
²⁶ S	W	E	E	T	E	N		²⁷ R	O	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 REALITY	A rival utterly upset about one computer-simulated environment (7,7)	Anagram of A RIVAL UTTERLY outside I
11 ON STRIKE	Facing out (2,6)	Double Definition
12 STIGMA	Spot a sportscar - it's reversing (6)	(A + MG + ITS) 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 + ROME
17 CLEARANCE	Head of corporation organised a cleaner's authorisation (9)	(C)orporation + anagram of A CLEANER
19 SOBER	Employees of sincere boss returned clear-headed? (5)	sinceRE BOSs 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 (8)	NO TABLES
25 LEAVE WELL ALONE	Don't change spring, a large one, after break (5,4,5)	(WELL + A + L + ONE) after LEAVE
26 SWEETEN	Sugar bags sent back with little inside (7)	NETS reversed outside WEE
27 ROTTEN	Corrupt attorney losing case somehow? (6)	Anagram of (a)TTORNE(y)

