

The Times Listener Crossword Setters' Dinner — 2022

The 2022 Dinner was held at Stirling Court Hotel, University of Stirling, on 26 March.

78 people attended, including the following setters: **Android, Apt, Artix**, (part of) **Banjaluka, Ben Trovato, Cagey, Chalicea, Charybdis, 'Eck, Enigmatist, Foxglove, Hellebore (Danda), Henry, Homer, Jago, Karla, Leo, Lionheart, Mohawk, Ottorino, Oyler, Pabulum, Ploy, Rebel, Remus, Shark, Spud, Stick Insect, Theod, Tiburon, Trev, Twin, Verbascum**.

Jane Teather and John Henderson were organisers. At the start, Jane welcomed the guests, noted that there were no obituaries this year, then read out apologies for absence from setters. She proposed a joint toast to “Absent Friends” and the people of Ukraine.

Apologies for absence

Aver, Bandmaster, Cubic, Derek, eXternal, Goujeers, Hedge-sparrow, JFD, Kea, Little Hare, Mira, Ozzie, Paddock, Phi, Phobis, Pilcrow, Poat, Raich, Rebel, Sabre, Salamanca, Shenanigans, tnap, Virgilius, Xanthippe. Several of these, and other setters around the world, observed the proceedings remotely via an online video feed.

The Quiz

The quiz was set by John Henderson (**Enigmatist**) and formatted by Jane Teather. Answers led to “Battle [of] Stirling Bridge” and “Braveheart”, and solvers were required to write a clue for WILLIAM WALLACE. The winning clue, as judged by John, was Table 3’s “Scot’s law I claim we all broke”.

The Prizegiving

Shane Shabankareh (**Tiburon**) announced the winners of the Radix Auditorum claret jug — Abigail Royal and Nick Butler, who submitted 51 correct out of 52 entries in their first year.

Currently top of the consecutive All-Correct rankings is Peter Blayney, on a run of 261 puzzles. The Solver Silver Salver passed to David Giles (**Ottorino**), who gave a very entertaining presentation.

The top five puzzles for the Ascot Gold Cup, based on recommendations from the all-correct solvers, were:

- 4686: Dice Nets by Arden (43 points)
- 4662: Hungry by Android (89 points)
- 4677: Variety Show by Enigmatist (100 points)
- 4674: Elusive Figures by Poat (142 points)
- 4680: Manhunt by Shark (153 points)

Shark therefore accepted the Ascot Gold Cup.

The Bronze Casket, presented to Table 3 for the winning clue, was filled with five-letter sweets, on the theme of Wordle. After its presentation, “formal” proceedings ended with an indication that the 2023 Dinner will probably be held somewhere in the southwest, and guests adjourned to the Bar.