

Queen's Gambit

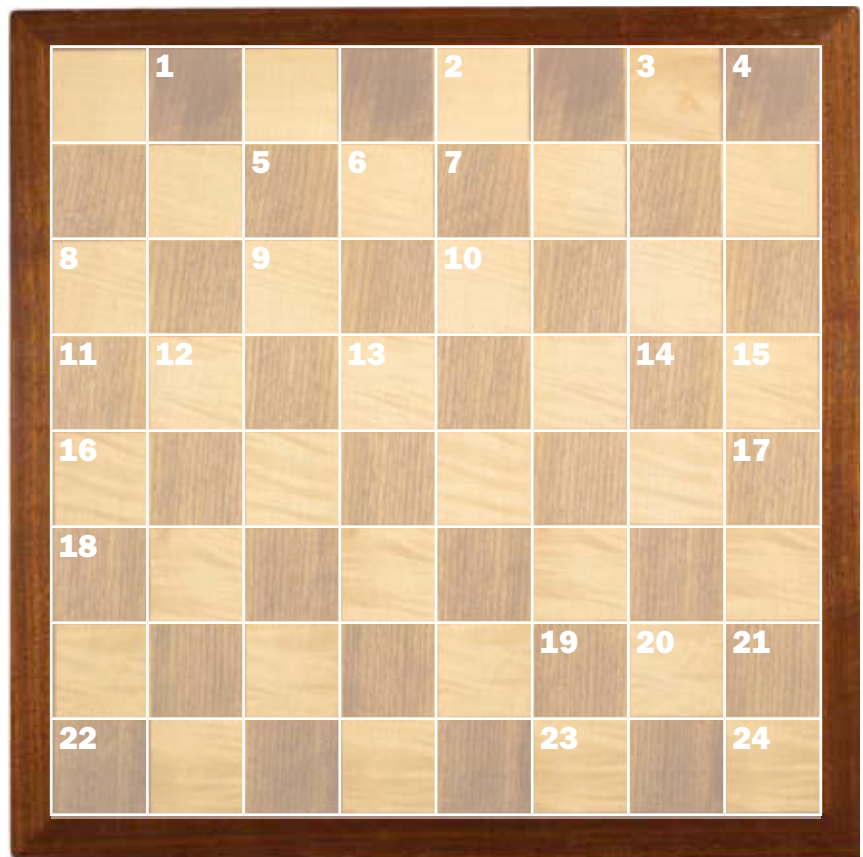
THE CHESSBOARD DIAGRAM SHOWS TWENTY-FOUR STARTING POSITIONS FOR A QUEEN. The answers to the clues will be entered into the diagram in a direction for you to determine. The movement will always be in straight lines. As an aid, there are eight directional answers, one for each of the eight possible ways an unencumbered queen can move. For example, if one of the answers were SLANT, the entry would be slanted, too. Some of the directional answers will suggest unique directions; EAST or EASTERLY would indicate horizontal movement from left to right. Other directional answers, like SLANT, will only narrow down the possibilities.

The hints provided below give the direction for each answer. Let me know whether you used the hints in solving.

There are two proper nouns and one common foreign word. All the other answers are playable in Scrabble. Ignore punctuation, which is designed to confuse.

Thanks to Eric Klis, Bob Fink, and Jerry Miccolis for test-solving and editorial suggestions.

1. Elmer Fudd's progressive woof
2. Inconsequential ironwork
3. Organization of American States taking temperature of grain
4. Hairs I hear found in smoked salmon
5. Poles akimbo on ski trail
6. Colors affixed to mug
7. Duplicity cut short by Uwe's wife
8. Identify one with extra pay as an imbecile
9. Twilight for First Lady
10. Blue feathers
11. Buffet for Spanish king
12. Ted's getting a failing grade: this needs to be reversed—and quick
13. Chips off the old block with overtones of arrogance
14. Sandbar with a bunch of fish
15. Encounter bosom enhanced with a bit of lift
16. Inadequate dexterity with bow
17. Belgrade resident appearing in capitals of Slovenia, Estonia, Romania, and Bosnia



18. Big Brown I'd expect in first place with a big potential payoff
19. Take on a story of Galen, post-surgery
20. Churchgoer beheaded for robbery
21. Untroubled after fluster gets put to rights

22. Long Aida directed with bias
23. Guerrilla leader in pain after inauguration
24. Hesitant to support protégé

24. RL	21. BT	18. BT	15. DRL	12. VLR	9. URL	6. TB	3. TB
23. ULR	20. BT	17. TB	14. RL	11. DLR	8. DLR	5. DLR	2. RL
22. ULR	19. URL	16. DLR	13. DRL	10. TB	7. LR	4. RL	1. LR
<i>Directional hints</i>							

Previous Issue's Puzzle—Are You Sirius?

A Star Is Born

An artisan (let's stretch the definition)

Did wonders with a soup can he had drained.

His model sat near looking mighty pained

And gave no indication of contrition.

"I hate to brag, but I nailed my audition.

My tardiness is easily explained:

You sing; present a scene; then get detained.

My costar calls it 'Broadway Inquisition.'"

The way one sees an ox pull on a yoke.

The way a Lee ad makes one overpay.

You give a gal an inch, pal, and you're through.

So April Fools! She stopped to do some coke.

Now empty your gelée tubes while ye may;

A new star lives on old stars' residue.

artisan = SINATRA

soup cans = CANOPUS

sat near = ANTARES

gave = VEGA

to brag = BOGART

tardiness = STREISAND

sing present = SPRINGSTEEN

costar = CASTOR

ox pull = POLLUX

Lee ad = ADELE

Inch pal = CHAPLIN

So April = POLARIS

gelée tubes = BETELGEUSE

lives = ELVIS

Solvers

Not many solvers this time around. I know it's a hard puzzle when my test solvers need to use reference sources! The star that threw most people was Canopus. I didn't know that one before I started, either. It's surprising how few stars' names are widely known. One of the joys of cryptic puzzles, as opposed to crosswords, is that they don't deal in arcana. A couple of solvers sent lists containing some very obscure stars (Rana, Theta, Ensis). I don't think these can be anagrammed from one or two words; in order to get them you have to make partial anagrams, which wasn't the deal—or at least not the deal as I conceived it. I try in my puzzles to avoid really obscure things. Okay, sometimes to fill out a grid

I have to use a rare or foreign word or something, but for the most part, the difficulty in cryptic puzzles is untangling the wordplay. Difficult wordplay coupled with obscure answers would lead to misery, in my opinion. Because there aren't enough commonly known celestial stars, I used only seven (with apologies for Canopus) and chose stars of a different sort for the other seven. Solvers who realized that early had a much easier time of it. "Lee ad" was the most common entry for identifying the trick.

Solvers at the Excruciating Level:

Dean Apps, Bates, Buckner & Zurhellen, J&J Holloman, Jim Muza, Doug Szper

Solvers using some hints (or not saying):

Todd Dashoff, Sean Donohoe and Josh DenHartog, dba T.O.C.E (The Thousand Oaks Cryptic Enthusiasts), Bob Fink, Phil Gollance, Eric Klis, David Lovit, Tim Luker, Jerry Miccolis, David & Corinne Promislow

TOM TOCE is a senior manager for actuarial services with Ernst & Young in New York and is a member of the Jeopardy Hall of Fame. Solutions may be emailed to thomas.toce@ey.com. In order to make the solver list, your solutions must be received by Sept. 30, 2016.