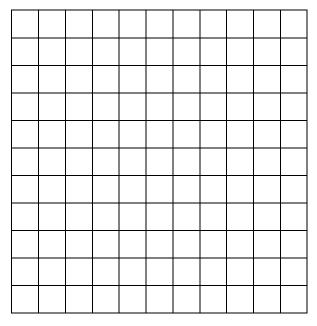
## Puzzle # 86 – July 2008 "Sphairistike"

**Instructions:** Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (words vary in length from three to nine letters and four of them are capitalized), then enter them in the grid one after another in the same order as their clues, starting in the upper left corner. Across words that don't end at the right continue on the next row, and down words that don't end at the bottom continue in the next column. Six across words and six down words won't fit in the grid unless one of their letters is removed. Those twelve letters, taken in order, spell a two-word phrase related to the mystery entry. I thank Kevin Wald for help with the clues.

## Across

- 1. Company list and a whorl of petals
- 2. Talk and wine lead to understanding
- 3. Prepare report of theft
- 4. One in screen mix-up is disingenuous
- 5. Mildewed kernel put in granary for one who cultivates
- 6. Agent he negotiated with at that time
- 7. Gather in celebration after 1st of April
- 8. Wicked nun has pull
- 9. No tripe in a stew; meat, maybe
- 10. Mystery entry
- 11. Note the Italian number for a town in Lombardia
- 12. Gathers about a hundred summaries
- 13. Angry after initially provoking robber
- 14. Little boy in front advances
- 15. Strike, giving up pawn for rook in play session
- 16. Sound out number and letter
- 17. Never moving without starting to change direction
- 18. No sire in ancestry is respectable
- 19. Concerning strategy to initially reattach by surgery
- 20. Rolling chant about frayed rug
- 21. All astronauts about to go on



## Down

- 1. I cannot wantonly embrace
- 2. Column is inside wall, in effect
- 3. Light touch when making up stories, essentially
- 4. Turf division occurs after start of season
- 5. Abrupt split around road
- 6. Note metal top of android's eye membrane
- 7. Writer got up as a mathematical physicist
- 8. Verne *mot* about captain of Nautilus
- 9. Start living in color for a thrill
- 10. Actress taking off ring and clothes
- 11. Triple running energy for tortoise, perhaps
- 12. Petition's opening paragraph is originally misworded to a great extent
- 13. Ten real changes that last forever
- 14. Finally hear a note that's uncommon
- 15. Cuevas rudely abandons us in grotto
- 16. Long Ridge's reference framework
- 17. Echoing "adios" when one goes for a drink
- 18. And peel off to exit aircraft
- 19. Finish covering of old platform
- 20. Fall back . . . run . . . pass
- 21. Oldster exchanges one for small hearing device, maybe
- 22. Endlessly hopeful for medication
- 23. Brazen and unwise to eliminate Republican