

Solution to Puzzle #185 – October, 2016 "Poker Hand"

S	E	L	T	E	R	B	R	A	N	T
T	R	E	E	S	G	R	A	S	P	E
A	S	E	R	P	R	O	V	E	R	B
R	I	L	E	R	A	K	E	B	E	A
D	E	D	V	A	D	E	N	E	I	N
O	N	E	E	Y	E	D	J	A	C	K
M	A	R	R	E	D	R	E	N	T	B
A	T	E	E	L	S	E	S	O	M	A
B	A	M	M	A	E	S	T	R	O	S
I	T	U	A	T	E	S	E	G	U	E
D	I	L	L	E	R	G	R	A	N	D

The omitted letters (in parentheses in the list below) spell
WILD CARD

Across

1. S(W)ELTER
2. BRANT
3. TREES
4. GRASP
5. EAS(I)ER
6. PROVERB
7. RILE
8. RAKE
9. BEADED
10. VADE
11. NEIN
12. **ONE-EYED JACK**
13. MARRED
14. RENT
15. BATE
16. ELSE
17. SOMA
18. BA(L)M
19. MAESTRO
20. SITUATE(D)
21. SEGUE
22. DILLER
23. GRAND

Down

1. STARDOM
2. ABIDER
3. SIENA
4. TA(C)TILE
5. ELDER
6. EMUL(A)TE
7. REVERE
8. MALES
9. PRAYE(R)
10. LATER
11. GRADED
12. SEER
13. BROKE
14. DRESS
15. GRAVEN
16. JEST
17. ERASE
18. BEAN
19. ORGAN
20. PRE(D)ICT
21. MOUNTEBANK
22. BASED

Kevin Wald solved the puzzle in 21 minutes.