

Listener Crossword statistics

Preface to 1991 compilation

Compilation of statistics relating to The Listener Crossword commenced in 1976 with No. 2397, continuing after the puzzle's rebirth in The Times Saturday Review from 23rd March 1991 following the demise of THE LISTENER, the last issue of which was published, containing No. 3089, on 3rd January 1991.

The statistics comprise:-

- (i) Entry details for each crossword; correct, incorrect and overall total, percentage error and number of solvers remaining all-correct
- (ii) Errors of high incidence perpetrated during the year with an explanation of the correct interpretation
- (iii) A list of the more successful solvers, each appended with the puzzle numbers in which an error was made or no entry received
- (iv) Other information of incidental interest. Suggestions for inclusion are welcome, but possibilities are limited by the records being manually rather than electronically maintained.

In latter years the annual review of the Crosswords during the Setters' Dinner has been enhanced by Ascot's endowment of both the *Solver Silver Salver* for the leading solver of the year, and the *Ascot Gold Cup* awarded to the setter of the Salver winner's selected *Crossword of the Year*.

The 1991 statistics have been flawed by the less than perfect sorting of all the News International group's competition entries to the PO Box 486 address, which resulted in an undesirably high proportion of non-receipts. This problem has been eliminated following the change of address from No. 3120.

Potential Salver winners were contacted towards the end of 1991 for confirmation that their missing entries had been correctly solved and submitted. They appear at the head of the list, but other individuals' records are presented as received, or not.

Apologies are due to all solvers, not just those on, and those who should have appeared on, the list; all individual records accompanying the statistics will undoubtedly be affected.