

A prize of The Good Word Guide by Martin Manser and How to Sound Clever by Hubert van den Bergh will be awarded for the first correct solution opened. Solutions by Wednesday February 12, marked Monday Prize Crossword 14,536 on the envelope, to the Financial Times, 1 Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. Solution on Monday February 17.

## ACROSS

- 1 Signing for course (6)
- **4** Outrageous articles about Western capital (6)
- 8 Quietly withdraw and go before the others (7)
- 9 Prisoner active when out, quiet when locked in (7)
- **11** Order one still refuses to obey (4,6)
- 12 Wary about appearing crooked (4)
- **13** Sort of mistake that could make one late (5)
- 14 Flat round insect that's a nuisance on the lawn (8)
- **16** For a difficult problem he asks for a hand (8)
- **18** Expression of pleasure for wild allout ballyhoo (2,3)

20 It's a rum drink (4)

- **21** Game for an old school gettogether (5,5)
- 23 Prohibit article when nutty (7)
- 24 Strait-laced girl entertained by joke (7)
- 25 Songs the first violinist heard? (6)
- 26 Stations, or just platforms (6)

## DOWN

- 1 As many as there can be (5)
- **2** Where feathers used to fly, and pilots still do (7)
- **3** He played a lion-tamer, plus about 100 parts (9)

- **5** Pluck shown when one has the final piece of meat to eat up (5)
- 6 Appeal when vehicle overturns in a race (7)
- 7 Set back very sad to get upset about it (9)
- 10 Grasp idea incorrectly and belittle it (9)
- 13 Thwart made of wood, entirely (9)
- **15** Suffering with a relative? Write to her for advice (5,4)
- 17 His life in the army is usually anything but (7)
- **19** Mandatory work for a bookmaker (7)
- 21 English novelist to peruse soundly (5)
- 22 Love slap-up jewellery (5)

## SOLUTION 14,524



The winner's name will be published in Weekend FT on February 15