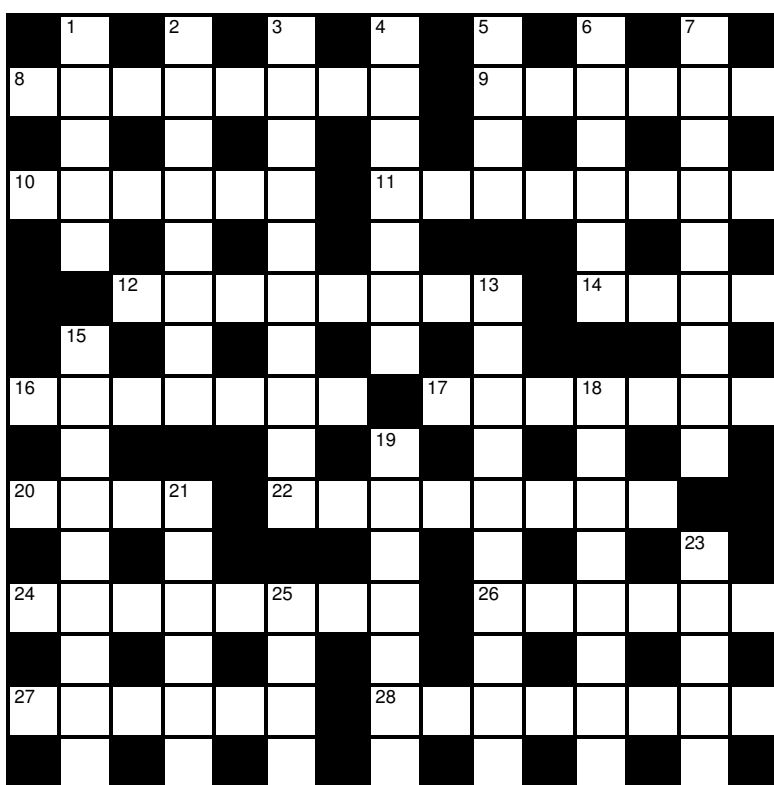


## Comets' Return: Theme and Variations



*The theme, which is not in the grid but is deducible from the title, is in three parts, of which each has two subsets. Only the part of the answer which is not part of the theme is to be entered. The subsidiary part of the clue refers to the entry, the definition to the whole phrase. The asterisked clues lead to entries which are not recognised words or phrases.*

### Across

- 8** Professional model may need a second (8)  
**9** Professional who was cheeky? (6)  
**10\*** VAR 1B: Will organise a spree (6)  
**11\*** VAR 3B: Worst place for needle and screw? (2,3,3)  
**12** Staggering weight, for example, in a bit of breakfast (5,3)  
**14** VAR 1B: Extortion by the bank (4)  
**16\*** VAR 3B: Bureau chief to stand (3,4)  
**17** Many doomed to be at the end (7)  
**20** VAR 2A: Very small comfort (4)  
**22** Cure by wrapping Jenny in special denim top - it's on track! (5,3)  
**24** Roy Jenkins' vocal complaint after excessive masturbation is a blast! (8)  
**26** Poem heard in Chinese city (6)  
**27** Amorous priestess with hollow iron horse (6)

- 28** A spell and what it may produce back to front in swamps (4,4)

### Down

- 1** VAR 2B: Banger cooked in parts (5)  
**2** Advertised for whip - hurried round (8)  
**3** Bass parts set, so I developed internal inflammation (10)  
**4** VAR 2B: Beat when dizzy (7)  
**5** VAR 3A: Torn from total income (4)  
**6** Marge, perhaps, in barren study (6)  
**7** Two anagram indicators for 'fart' (5,4)  
**13\*** VAR 1A: Treasured worker gets pay-off (6,4)  
**15** Armies won scuffle with rake (9)  
**18\*** VAR 2A: It's hit or miss in *Stick Man* (3,5)  
**19** VAR 3A: Player makes gymnastic move (7)  
**21** VAR 2A: Chicken with cockscomb (6)  
**23** VAR 2B: Fights with herbs (5)  
**25** VAR 1A: Flaw in West Indian half (4)