ACROSS
1 Romantic drive? Look around in the same place (6)
4 Good bowling, and no runs for captain (8)
9 Title to settle beforehand (6)
10 At one time a chart-topper with other arrangement (8)
12 Wells included with writers in this case (8)
13 The commanding officer must get present, to be consistent (6)
15 Midnight quarrel to develop (4)
16 Plot links prisoners to criminal activity (10)
19 Firm belief in guilty verdict (10)
20 Wound bringing endless panic (4)
23 Do get up to tidy around a curiosity (6)
25 Girl was about to enter without warning (8)
27 They're much smarter than their mates (8)
28 Admitted to part of hospital – mental perhaps (6)
29 Held in remand perhaps, so paid for release (8)
30 Irishman goes to church meeting to seek spiritual guidance (6)

DOWN
1 Friend rose on the football side – a real flier (7)
2 Analysis of collapse (9)
3 Pretty fastidious (6)
5 Forget to order vermouth (4)
6 State of a hot pie I ordered (8)
7 Norwegian with a choice of directions (5)
8 Castle on Eastern Railway is a bird’s nesting place (7)
11 Bound for Rouen, perhaps, with a note (2,5)
14 Stagger to us and collapse (7)
17 Like to be sure, so find out (9)
18 Ivor’s out to become a skilled performer (8)
19 A reaper in the fall (7)
21 Feel regret about changing the side’s balance (7)
22 Pang suffered by one of two, for example, on rising (6)
24 Runaway debtor in a mess (5)
26 An island heaven, it’s said (4)

SOLUTION 15,478
WHINGLE BEARCATS
HLAM HLAMMH
ILLUME CAMISOLE
SIX TIDEER
TONICS REMEMBER
LOOPED AIDERY
EVINE FC
RES KNEESUP FS
DEER TER
PB EEL RIA
ELONGATE PIGEON
BUO CCO OGD
BUNFIGHT ADDRES
LACE ISIAU
EVENTIDE ACTSUP

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 March 15, marked Prize Crossword 15,490 on the envelope, to the Financial Times, 1 Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. Solution on Monday March 20.

The winner’s name will be published in Weekend FT on March 18.