1ACGRIDFEST - RESULTS / SETTERS' LEADERBOARD

Rank	Grid No	Title	Setter	Total Points		Favorite Clues	Strengths	Suggestions
1	9	22 4/5 Across	Ragitvach	95.5	HS	LUDIC	Many clever clues; good grid balance; fun solve	Composite anagram wasn't consistent with overal difficulty level (may have been just me!)
					RK	IOTA	Nice surfaces, some chuckle-worthy clues	TIRES needs a US spelling ref.
2	2	Griddle	Euclid	93.1	HS	VENUS	Super defs; many "Aha!" moments	Perhaps fewer pop culture references, for balance
					RK	Many, but I'm picking WINDMILLS	Super-smooth surfaces, many '&lit'ish clues	Overdose of telescopics 🙂
3	13	In August Company	Ahab	93.0	HS	OMELETTE	Many outstanding clues; fun puzzle	Some cryptic readings seemed awkward
					RK	OMELETTE	Nice clues, smooth surfaces	Some clues (GLANDS, IMPLANTS) seemed a bit indirect
4	8	Food For Thought	Sphinx	89.7	HS	DOWRY	Many clever clues and "Aha!" moments	A few surfaces could be smoother
					RK	TENSE	Many aha clues. Extra likes for clues like "leather" for 3rd anniversary	Some of the longer words have resulted in surfaces that are a bit clunky to read.
5	10	And Thereby Lies a Tale	Touchstone	88.6	HS	PISCINA	Amazing theme fill; sound, fair defs	Watch clue balance (many hidden word clues)
					RK	PHOTOBOMB, ALCOVE	Great effort with the theme – good learning for the solvers. Clues gettable from the wordplay + crossing letters even if one is not familiar with the actual play or character	Adherence to the theme has made some clues almost straight / GK type. E.g. Isabella
6	11	7, 21, 27, 29, 1	Toshi	88.2	HS	CLANG	Some super-clever clues; colorful fill	Spotted a few issues with cryptic reading & defs
					RK	CELEBRATION (NARRATION, LIONCUBS were nice too)	Many smooth clues, nice literary refs to Ancient Mariner, Evita etc.	Would suggest avoiding surfaces having a) def "gives" wordplay, def "for" wordplay – should be the other way around.
7	12	3 Cheers!	Sapphire	87.7	HS	PRIDE	Overall fun puzzle; colorful fill (almost pangram!)	Watch for multiple unchecked letters in a row; a few defs had shared root issues
					RK	ARRACK	Very nice surfaces – could have easily been made a pangram by making 11A as say STARVE 🙂	Multiple unchecked squares, also some minor nits in the cryptic reading e.g. 2d could have used "becoming" instead of "become"
8	5	[Π]	Menage a Troi	85.0	HS	STENO	Overall excellent cryptic grammar; sound defs	Fewer obscure/uncommon entries and defs; avoid two unchecked letters in a row
					RK	STENO	Sound cryptic grammar	Missing "aha" moments

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9	3	Cerebration	Mythical	84.0	HS	MOUSE	Consistently sound defs & fun clues	Check cryptic grammar here and there
					RK	Many, but would pick AFTERNOONS and BONE	Chuckle-worthy clues, smooth surfaces	Wordplay <of> def can be avoided – should be Def <of> wordplay
10	1	Party Time	Teezer	83.2	HS	Gyrated (HS)	Colorful fill with several party-related entries	Avoid two unchecked letters in a row
					RK	Carousal	Crisp clues, subtle indications like "in California" for the American spelling	Can pay more attention to the POS issues e.g. ANICUT (clue says "divides" which translates to "cuts" not "cut")
11	4	A Tribute To 1ACross Adm	Whodunt	82.9	HS	BRIAN	Fun theme; consistently sound defs	Some surfaces could have been more plausible
					RK	BRIAN	Good attempt at the theme!	Can pay more attention to cryptic grammar e.g. "some" as a tele-ind should come *before* the fodder. In some cases overly long def (though makes it very precise), reduces the surface plausibility
12	7	F(i)EST(A)	Enterist	81.5	HS	BLAZE	Colorful fill; mostly sound defs	Watch clue balance (many deletion clues); some surfaces could be improved
					RK	NO PROBLEM	Good mix of clues	Pay more attention to cryptic grammar e.g. "almost BLESSED" does not give BLES (3 letters removed) IMO.
13	6	Border Trouble	Santulan	79.4	HS	AGIN	Colorful, interesting grid fill	Watch out for POS and root-sharing issues
					RK	TWOC	Some tough but fair clues, new words to learn like CONGE, AULD REEKE etc.	Same root issues e.g. RECRUITING and RECRUIT

Note: HS: Heidi Schroeder, RK: Ramki Krishnan, Vinod was able to provide only the detailed scores owing to some other commitments