

Restaurant Week

by Ucaimhu

So once again it is Restaurant Week in Boston, and a group of pals (who will be listed in the shaded squares, in an arbitrary order) are all ready to pay a modest fee for a fabulous dinner together; alas, their negotiations about where to go are deadlocked. In keeping with the spirit of the week, the letter sequence produced by the wordplay part of each clue is “overstuffed,” containing one extraneous letter; these letters, in clue order, will state (in terms of their positions in the list’s ordering) who will prevail in the negotiations, and who is just a paper tiger. This, in turn, should resolve the ambiguities about the identities of half of these pals, so you can determine exactly what the whole group is, all put together.

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8
9				10			11		
12									
13	14		15		16				
				17					
18						19			
	20				21				

The group is:

ACROSS

2. Start to blend shelled peas with an edible item (4)
5. Singer Bob expelling one syllable at the end with some force (4)
9. Intoned jargon (4)
10. Dog’s comment about the first guy’s fleet (6)
12. Noble monk loses head around discussion sites (2 4)
13. Guitarist famed for saying “cuchi-cuchi” with “ch” misdirected in the mouth (5)
16. Barry barely spots tapestry (5)
17. Is interrupting pianist-comedian Victor’s topless bacchanals (6)
18. Nothing follows Silver Surfer’s penultimate plan (6)
19. Earth goddess provided asparagus, primarily (4)
20. Knowing about one half of town (4)
21. Nameless barkeep on *Cheers* is like a bull (4)

DOWN

1. One offspring turned secular and prone towards solitude (7)
3. Get angry about, say, net error (6)
4. Grandmother with old iPod (4)
6. Mythical giant outside of yon space station (4)
7. Added weird collection of Norse poetry (4)
8. Finally, lummoX and fool try rotating instrument (4 3)
11. Atmospheric Spielberg film about . . . well, HAL (6)
14. Embrace two bits from Romanian author Victor (4)
15. Descartes appears before the finale of that Broadway musical (4)
16. Region east of Edom or Syria, in the Bible (4)