



WHISKY CLUB

Established Dec 2013

NEWSLETTER – December 2018

Meeting on 4th December, 2018

Merry Christmas!
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Important

1. DEREK – Here's wishing you well! It was remiss of me not to mention the condition of Ben's mate Derek, from the Midlands, who furnished two bottles of whisky for the October meeting and then on the day took ill, and himself, back to his home hospital. All valves, tappets and wiring repaired so he is running smoothly again. We consumed one of his bottles but agreed to save the Dalmore (Cigar Dram) until he was well enough to visit again. There were no votes in favour of giving it back! 'Within a reasonable time' was murmured so I set a most generous 'three months'. This must have been a spur to Derek's quick recovery as he has messaged his intention to make it soon.
2. Date of next meeting is Tuesday 8th January, 2019 - 6.30pm in the Boot & Shoe 'snug'.
3. Date of the following meeting is Tuesday 12th February, 2019 in the format of a meal at the Boot & Shoe with possibly a 'specialist' speaker. Change of date, from first Tuesday, is due to potential absentes. It will be a joint event for Whisky and Gin nights' attendees and if you are definitely interested in attending, and reciprocating support to Ben & Jan, please tell me by 8th January meeting.

The Prologue

Allan Marshall offered to provide a Black Grouse for our samplings so I thought why not have a blended scotch and/or blended malt evening. I then found that Allan's "Black" was only "Famous" so a swift deviation was made. Only the Naked Grouse made it to the tasting and the Famous Grouse was reserved for a more suitable use. Another issue was the lack of the local scoring sheets, usually used to glean appropriate (and sometimes inappropriate) comments about the samples together with its score. Each score was obtained verbally and the calculation of average scores computed. Because of this method of collection, and the fact that I was collecting, no comments were suitable for recording.

The Performance - Tasting Results

The rest of the evening went according to script with all playing their parts. It had been hoped to secure the services of Vin Deisel, Dwayne (The Rock) Johnson and Jason Statham for tonight's production but they were all "busy" with "Fast and Furious 8" or something and did not usually involve in potentially violent productions like ours might turn out to be.

A list of all the tastings and local scores is available separately. This will be emailed as an attachment occasionally and a copy will eventually appear in the Whisky Club folder kept at the Boot & Shoe.

Scores only (local out of 100) are as follows

| | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| a) | Swehu5 (Blended scotch) | 75 |
| b) | Naked Grouse (Blended scotch) | 75 |
| c) | Speyburn 10 Years | 70 |
| d) | Alt-a-Bhainne | 81 |

The star of the show on the night was the Alt-a Bhainne, hailing from Keith in Scotland (not Berrier Road).

The usual stage-door manager went missing halfway through the second act, in order to join proceedings, but there was no panic as he is not employed to keep out autograph-seeking fans after the performance end. His main job is to make sure that all performers hit the hole-in-the-wall exit, and point their feet in the correct direction home for a start.

Other Matters

Whisky Club 'Second Annual Gin Tasting Evening' was fully subscribed and a great success thanks to Corinne, Stephen and Shelagh. Because of Shelagh's pre-event instruction we all now know what a 'double' measure looks like. World Gin Day will be 8th June 2019 and we should prepare another 'bash' for then.

A number of ideas for our contribution to the Church Christmas Tree display were discussed and it was decided to erect a tree with distillery signposts attached showing their distances from Greystoke.

The February meeting will be held as a supper event in the Boot & Shoe, on Tuesday 12th February (couldn't be any other month I suppose). There is a whisky enthusiast (rather than connoisseur) in Thursby who might be persuaded to join us and give us the benefit of his experience. If Stephen provides Harry with email addresses of 'non-whisky' gin attendees, they can be contacted direct.

Corinne will enter, onto the new 'Greystoke online' website, any whisky clubbish material that is forwarded by Harry.

Information has also been requested by the (new) Boot & Shoe Facebook Administrator.

Date of Next Meeting(s) – Tuesday 8th January 2019
Tuesday 12th February 2019 (plus meal)

Acknowledgements

Ben & Jan for provision of Whisky Club engraved glasses. Also for providing the room for the meetings.
Glencairn for producing the logo etched whisky glasses at a favourable cost.
Graham White for donating the welcoming Quaich.
Various people for donations of bottles for the tastings.

Some Gaelic terminology and pronunciation for information

Failte, pronounced Foyle ta, means Welcome
Slainte, pronounced Slarn ja, means Cheers, Good Health etc
Quaich, pronounced Quaikkkkkkk, is a traditional welcome drink vessel
Wee Dram – pronounced Wee Dram - is organically distilled into Dram Wee
Poit Dhubh – pronounced potch ghoo – is a black pot or illicit still

Some random sayings / quotations

"Enjoyment of single malts are best savoured in the company of like-minded souls."
Bearing in mind recent weather the Scots say "Today's rain is tomorrow's whisky."
Never do today what you can put off until tomorrow.
You are your sole arbiter of flavour !

.Libel or Slander issues should be addressed to the editor Harry Upton who will put them down the appropriate file.