



WHISKY CLUB

Established Dec 2013

NEWSLETTER – February to March 2019

Meetings on 12th February, 5th March, 2nd April & 7th May

General

What's going on here? The monthly frequency (of Newsletter issue that is) has dropped not just to quarterly but even lower to thirdly. Hopefully it's a one-off, or rather a three-off once only.

Meeting on 12th February

For one night only the usual format was dispensed with and a group of twenty, regulars and some partners, took over the Boot & Shoe dining room for a pub-meal social. Normal service, however, was resumed in short order and the noise level rose about a hundred decibels. I'm not sure what caused it – I think it must have been when the food 'kicked in'. After the meal the flames were fanned when three bottles of single malt appeared, from whence I know not. The varieties were Speyside, Highland and Island, all with a distinctively different taste and enabling the diners to compare notes. A brief history of the Club, and its goings on, was presented and, to everyone's delight, scoring was not required. A good night was had by all and most people went home sober

Meeting on 5th March

There was a fleeting thought that, following Shelagh's birthday bash on Saturday at the Howtown Bobbin Mill, the meeting might sing Happy Birthday in Gaelic. A good idea with no takers when the words "Co la breith sona dhuit" appeared. A good, solid turn out to test the samples this evening provided some very meaningful, definitely unpretentious, tasting notes

Comments:

Ali was fairly direct with "Crikey, without water, Less crikey with water." "BLAND BLAND BLAND" from Gavin with upper case presumably emphasising very bland, not just ordinary bland "Good for the sinuses" was an observation from Allan. Colin, imported from Canada, slipped into Mills & Boon mode with "The tarry aftertaste clung firmly to my palate." Margot mentioned "Good – but not as an all-nighter!" I hope she meant the whisky.

Scoring of Samples (/ 100) – Shelter Point (88), Glenfarclas 105 (82), Steel Bonnets (73), Casg Annamh (81)

Meeting on 2nd April

Holidays took their toll but a small, very select, group attended the meeting this evening. Thanks to the stand-in host.

Comments:

Must have been a poor whisky for Corrine to say "I'd rather have Highland Park!!"

Scoring of Samples (/ 100) – Glen Grant 10 (82), Shackleton (67), Glenrothes 10 (82), Loch Lomond 12 (76)

Meeting on 7th May

It might be considered unlucky for some, but not this 'thirteen', who attended and squashed into the 'snug' to enjoy a diverse range of samples.

Comments:

From her comments about feeling affinity with the proverbial 'newt', it was clear that Margot was not going to be doing much after the meeting. Donald, on the last sample, commented that he couldn't remember what his thoughts were about it – I expect there are a few guesses all round at the time in the meetings.

Scoring of Samples (/ 100) – Loch Lomond 12 (80), Ardmore (70), Glenmorangie 10 (76), Kilkerran 12 (82), Old Pulteney 12 (82)

Other Matters (Along the way)

- World Gin Day will be Saturday 8th June 2019 and Stephen issued a note that he and Corrine would host the inaugural 'Bring a Gin' do on that night at their place, 1 Hay Meadow Garth, Greystoke. Make your way for 18.30 hrs, armed with a bottle of (non-usual) gin per couple and any nibbles and specific tonics you need. RSVP by the end of April. A volunteer host is sought for next year.
- Whisky funds just about keeping pace – needs better (or even some) management.
- A by-passing call-in at the Annandale distillery near Dumfries established that, at about £170 for the cheapest bottle of single malt, we would not be in a hurry to arrange a visit.
- A new saying came to attention recently – "Tasting and appreciating of Whisky is a science not to be sniffed at"
- As a sequel to the 'Whisky Galore' film there could be 'Field of Drams' (Kevin Costner?)

Date of Next Meeting(s) – Tuesday 4th June 2019

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 Slam ja, means Cheers, Good Health etc

Quaich, pronounced Quaikkkkkk, 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.