



WHISKY CLUB

Established Dec 2013

NEWSLETTER – October 2019

Meeting on 1st October

General

A brief synopsis of goings-on at the latest Whisky Club meetings.

The Meeting

Two newcomers, David and Jeff both (No! Both is not their surnames) from Lamonby attended the average size group. Not sure what the average size is but would guess about 70kg. David turned out to be not a hardened drinker, as was evident when he met his wife for a lift home: we might not see him again.

Although I say it myself the meeting had an unusual air of rationality and organization, first time experience for me at least. I even gave out snippets of information during forced quiet periods. There's no point waiting for a break in chatter to occur naturally.

The Oak Room is starting to feel familiar as this was the third month running that we were ousted from 'our' snug for Ben and Jan to use the space for diners. Every diner in there on the first Tuesday in the month should have a non-contestable, double-whisky per person included on their bill – no mitigation for youngsters who will, of course, be occupying a seat. I'll check if that is a goer with Ben and Jan. (LOL).

The tastings were in 'blind' format (plain bottles numbered 1 to 4) but not a lot was spilled – until we removed the blindfolds. Yes, it's that old one again. The meetings never stop suddenly, as if all business was completed, they just drain out to a final trickle. This one was no exception.

I would like to thank John Fleet's friend Mick Clark for donating the book 'Whiskypedia' to our club. He found it on a fishing holiday in Scotland and thought we would be a good home for it.

Scoring of Samples (/100) * Highest

Monkey Shoulder (78), Bushmills 10yrs (79), Deanston 12yrs (82)*, The English (72)

Comments about the Whisky

We have found that, over the years, our local comments and scorings are much more realistic than the so-called professional musings. We tell it like it is, not how we might like it to be. Hence "It paralyses the tonsils" said David. Allan commented that "You'll have to ask Mary if this very fruity-tasting whisky makes me feel fruity. Prune springs to mind. Donald commented that "Shelagh says Turnips and I agree it might be Carrots" – what was that about agreeing deals with a Scotsman.

Other Matters (Along the way)

Buy A Brick for the Swimming Pool Improvements

Shelagh explained that as an (dis) organization the Buying a Brick for the swimming pool would be a minimum £100, far higher than the (£25 from funds) contribution envisaged when agreed in principle. Discussions resulted in Shelagh shaming everyone into coughing up another £10 each and will progress the matter on behalf of "Boot & Shoe, Greystoke, Whisky Club." Apologies to the new guys who had no real chance of avoidance.

Whisky Deterioration

For years my whisky drinking partner and I convinced our wives that once the bottle was opened the whisky started to collapse. It was a popular myth to explain, when queried, why the bottle was soon empty. I felt vindicated when I read an expert saying that “whisky goes bad in an opened bottle. It is sealed for a reason and there is a noticeable difference in aroma if exposed to air / oxygen. The best way to stop it having a chance to deteriorate is to drink it”. We were right all along but for the wrong reason!

Balvenie Tun 1509

This is a limited supply (21 casks from 3 types of cask – Refill sherry butts, ex-bourbon barrels and doublewood refill sherry butts). Tun 1509 Batch 6 is a ‘snip’ at £300 per bottle.

Whisky Exchange Show / Tasting

Gleaned another note about the forthcoming Whisky Exchange event at Old Billingsgate in London. I thought it sounded a bit fishy as there will be several hundred whiskies to taste – nobody is expected to taste all of them. Someone commented that ‘it was never good to collapse at a tasting.’ I think worthy of inclusion in these footnotes.

Overheard or Read

I don’t like sherried whisky! Eight years old is just too young! My friends all sneer at this distillery. Each Whisky should hold a story, either personal or through heritage, for each individual

(Aldi) Glen Marnoch 25 years old

Still looking for some!

Date of Next Meeting(s) – Tuesday 5th November 2019
Tuesday 3rd December (may change)

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 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 !
It’s never good to collapse during a tasting.

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