



WHISKY CLUB

Established Dec 2013

NEWSLETTER – August & September 2019

Meetings on 6th August and 3rd September

General

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

Meeting on 6th August

This meeting comprised eight of the hardcore members, who retreated into the Oak Room in the rear garden and carried on in usual fashion. When you are indulging in single malt whiskies it matters not where you are. In fact as whisky matures in oak barrels perhaps whisky drinkers mature in an oak room. Personal experience suggests that the maturing process is reversed as the evening wears on. As far as the whisky tasting was concerned there were only two comments almost worthy of note. One was “promising but failed” (similar to my school teachers early views about me), the other was a sort of schizophrenic “smooth then savage then smooth”.

**Scoring of Samples (/100) – Monkey Shoulder (82), Angels Nectar (74),
Jura Journey (74), Bushmills 10 Single (77), Crabbies Yardhead (77)**

Meeting on 3rd September

Another hardcore group and another session in the Oak Room. It was agreed that the tasting samples were of a high quality. This came about by building a theme around a bottle donated by Stephen & Corrine which was a sherry finish whisky. Three other ‘added finish’ whiskies were procured and made for an excellent evening of close scores. At one point there seemed to be more dogs (usually none except for late arrival of Ben & Jan’s ‘Buddy’) than members and a canine crèche was suggested – tongue in cheek.

Comments: Halfway through the proceedings Donald wrote “have now lost the ability to smell / taste”. Ali said the second sample was “waffy” which I gather, from her score, is not a term of endearment. Margot, scoring the same sample even lower, said “the taste is perfumed but not channel”. I presume the mis-spell was deliberate. Of the last sample, her favourite, she admitted to having “second-hic-helpings”. I think the counting ability stopped at two.

**Scoring of Samples (/100) – Glenfiddich Solera (73), Balvenie 14 Caribbean Cask (87),
Glenmorangie Lasanta (84), The One (80)**

Other Matters (Along the way)

Crabbies Yardhead single malt sold unnamed (Yardhead ?) for mixing by new wave of youngsters wanting more than just 'sipping' and, of course, to compete with the rise in Gin popularity.

Shelagh tentatively suggested that the Whisky Club, as part of the village community, lend support to the Swimming pool fundraising by Buying a Brick. The proposal met with general agreement from the attendees and would be pursued (by Harry, having failed to delegate the action) using the balance of Club Funds to make the donation.

Sales of scotch whisky was up by 7.1% in first quarter of 2019 said to be due to preparations by the whisky industry for a 'no-deal' Brexit. Exports have been advanced, especially to potential tariff countries of South Korea and Morocco. The extent is almost 600 million bottles valued at £2.19 billion.

Arran has a new distillery at Lagg in the South which is sister to the one at Lochranza but with new branding images and icons. Four new whiskies are expected by October 2019.

Macallan's distillery on Speyside is reported to be one of the world's top attractions. Even if that is a claim too far it must be worth a visit.

Ardbeg have a new 19 years old labeled Traigh Bhan.

Keep an eye out for the (Aldi) Glen Marnoch 25 years old. Said to be new but I seem to remember one on the shelves a few years ago at an exhorbitant price compared to their three 'no age statement' standards.

Date of Next Meeting(s) – Tuesday 1st October 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 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.