

Greystoke 'Boot & Shoe' Whisky Club

Established December 2013

NEWSLETTER – 7th January 2020

The Meeting

Happy New Year to all of you.

You might have guessed that the first meeting of a new decade would not be on the regular night. Thanks to our flexible, unwritten, constitution it was deferred to the second Tuesday of the month. For some, the thought of a 'hair of the dog' evening immediately following the recovery day for New Year celebrations was too hairy. Now fully recovered the meeting soon adopted its usual 'laissez-faire' approach – 'loose doing' for those not as 'oh fate' with the francais as what I am. Sometimes we even bypass 'loose doing' into 'non-doing'. That never applies to the 'tastings' I might add. Donald donated a bottle of Woodford Reserve, which gave rise briefly to thoughts of a Bourbon evening – soon discounted. A different bourbon, however, was procured for comparison purposes but another couple of proper whiskies were added for balance – or imbalance, I thought, at the end of the meeting. Thanks to Allan for providing the Glen Moray.

Scoring of Samples (/100)

Jack Daniels Nr 4	76
Woodford Reserve	74
Glen Moray	80
Aberlour 10 Yrs	81
Laphroaig Select	75

Age statement turns out favourite again. There seems to be a much more distinct edge to them against the slightly woolly, sweet expressions.

Comments

One or two commented, on sampling the third – Glen Moray, that 'a proper whisky at last'. Corrine thought the Aberlour was 'unctuous' – not sure if to be bowed down to or to be bowed down because of. New Boy Bob made a few comments but were undecipherable to my eyes. Allan gave three 'I like it', a 'Best one tonight', and 'TCP taste – my tongue is numb'. Lyn thought the Jack Daniels was surprisingly good, for a bourbon, then commented that Laphroaig was too peaty. Shelagh on the other hand called it 'shmokin – pure class'

John Fleet

Apparently he is not too good and is not out and about. Everyone is thinking about him and hoping he can make another attendance.

Christmas tree display in Church

Shelagh, Donald and Keith made up a decorated Christmas tree as the Whisky Club entry in the Church display. The tree was widely viewed, positively commented on and received a credible ranking from the judge.

Sort of Technical / News

Whisky Advocate

A lot of whisky related bumf can be gleaned from their website, and a free newsletter (a proper one!)

Liquid Viagra

Thought that might gain your attention. Heard the words but did not follow up the conversation, sorry. Anyway I thought it couldn't be about Whisky.

Meeting with Pub Meal

February meeting will be replaced with a pub meal gathering in the Boot & Shoe. Details will be processed by Harry

National Whisky Scores

Some of the whiskies that we know the names of and maybe sampled, perhaps not the exact ones, were scored on a national tasting basis and positions and costs were as follows:-
1st Ardbeg 19 yrs, £300: 5th Kilchoman Cask/Sherried £140: 6th Lagavulin 12yrs £110:
9th Mortlach 26 yrs £2000: 10th Pittyvaich 29 yrs £430. We're quite happy with the Glen Marnochs of this world (Aldi)

Is Cask Strength Scotch a Better Deal?

Flavour molecules bind to alcohol so the bigger the proof the better. But you are paying for the alcohol. Water can be added to own taste. Springbank 12 cask, Glenfarclas 105 and Aberlour A'bunadh all proved lesser value. Benromach was even, but Laphroaig cask was better.

A selection of humour, gleaned from various mags and rags:-

Problem. I have two hands but only one mouth
Whisky is better than a battery because a battery has a negative side.
I don't use ice in Whisky because I have forgotten the recipe.
A Whis-ky (key!) will open the door to heaven

Date of Next Meeting(s) – Tuesday 4th February 2020
Then Tuesday 4th March 2020

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 !
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.