

Greystoke 'Boot & Shoe' Whisky Club

Established December 2013

NEWSLETTER – 3rd March 2020

Including note of Whisky Club Dinner on 4th February 2020

4th February

The second Club meal at the Boot & Shoe, after the first a year ago, was a good social occasion, with partners, well received and could be the start of an annual event on our calendar. A couple of bottles of single malt were provided, without the usual task of scoring the tastings. With a slight interruption of the informality, there was a mini-speech recognising various incidents and comments over the past twelve months. It was noted that the new decade saw us enter our seventh year of meetings and we had a good basis for continuance. On a sad note John Fleet will be missed for his commitment and enthusiastic support. He was a staunch member whilst admitting that whisky was not his favourite tipple. He enjoyed the camaraderie.

The Meeting 3rd March

In the recent news there was a growing concern about the outbreak of a potentially deadly virus from Asia. People were advised to take special care to avoid picking up / transmitting the virus so it was decided to fore-go the Quaich for this meeting. Instead the first sample in individual glasses was used as a communal "Slainte". Despite the horrors of virus-infested China, the meeting soon 'dissolved' into the usual 'liquid' format. This was despite four of the key players sending apologies.

Scoring of Samples (/100)

Glenlivet Founders Reserve	81
Tamnavulin Double Cask	76
Bunnahabhain Struireadair	87
Arran 10 Yrs	75

Looks as though Bunnabhain has hit the right notes with this one.

Comments

Probably the most apposite (written) comment on the night was by Shelagh who said that Glenlivet was 'lovely, and anti-viral'. Mind you, her comment against the Arran of 'hilarious' suggests it's a good job it was the last bottle.

Sort of Technical / News

World Gin Day

Worldwide celebration of Gin was scheduled for Saturday 13th June 2020 and we intended to meet in Harry's garden & shed for similar event as last year.

Whisky Providers

There are many providers of whisky and a list, gleaned from the internet, containing about 20 of the main online ones was circulated.

Whisky Festival

The Spirit of Speyside Whisky Festival, now in its 21st year, will take place between 29th April and 4th May 2020. There will be 700 varied events at venues along the River Spey. The blurb mentions ideal for the traveller, whisky lover, outdoor activity enthusiasts (walking & drams, canoeing & drams), or just learning. The end will be a five course communal banquet in the barn.

Tamdhu

This year they have scooped 4 world whisky awards.

Dalmore

A 51 years old dram has been produced with a limited supply of only 51 bottles worldwide. If you could acquire a bottle it would set you back about £5,500, and probably a lot more if you delay.

Jura

Labelled 'Water', the final of the Old Particular Elements range is a 12years old, cask strength with a Pedro Ximinez finish. Sounds like an unfortunate sales tag.

Highland Park

Must have had Donald in mind when, during an 'Insight' presentation of '2020, The New Year Ahead' it was announced that a new cask strength expression would be appearing early summer 2020.

Date of Next Meeting(s) – Tuesday 7th April 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.