

Greystoke 'Boot & Shoe' Whisky Club

Established December 2013

NEWSLETTER – 5th May 2020

Stop Press – Zoom meeting recording of Whisky Club attendees. Play back was extremely revealing. Harry is open to suggestions as to how to avoid him posting it to the world!

Attendees and Whiskies on show

Scores may have been proffered but not seen – too late in the session!

Ali & Maureen	Aberlour 12	Harry	Balvenie 14 Caribbean Cask
Shelagh	Laphroaig Select	Corrine	Balvenie 12
Lyn	Aberlour 10	Donald	Glendronach
Allan	Glen Moray	Keith	Glenlivet 12
Bob	Jura 'Journey' / Glen Marnoch Speyside		
Adam	Balvenie 14 Peated		

The Meeting

And yet another first for us. The meeting was conducted (loose terminology) through the visual meeting facility of 'Zoom'. You might think that it would regularise proceedings and cut out private conversations, but it didn't. The meeting was almost as normal, full and lively.

I did explain that the meeting was being recorded, a temporary facility offered by the package, in order to trawl through later and extract some notes. Bad idea!! I went through the first hour (of three hours) recording and almost lost the will to live. Thereafter I dipped in at 5 or 10 minute intervals to see the gist of conversations. **IF THE NEXT MEETING IS ON ZOOM IT WILL NOT BE RECORDED AND THERE WILL LIKELY BE NO NOTES – unless someone fancies a secretarial input.** The following, therefore, is a list of comments, probably disjointed, but which may jog your memory about something.

Keith's cake and Champion Tea Mug. Donald in rocking chair. Early spat between Maureen and Ali about Pedro. Lyn efforts trying to join in. Debate about mirror-imagery of cameras. Bob's apparent 60's dancing was pouring a drink. Allan entered and Shelagh expressed disappointment that he had his clothes on. (See last month). Allan suggested anthem of "There stood a Glass." Lockdown hairstyles were commented with agreement that everyone needed shears like Donalds. Forget the 'gussets' in print. Belarus President says Vodka staves off the virus – especially mixed with Dettol. Corrine related the tale of a little old lady at B&Q wanting a bag of cement carried but could not be helped by staff. Allan asked if checkout ladies touch you! Football cropped up – Donald's blind referee, and Harry's late tackle. Refereeing progress, Football difficulties with VAR and seemingly benefit of Technology to Rugby, Cricket and Tennis. Donald's scoring system for Whisky is 'I like it / It's ok / It's rubbish.' The rise and fall of the original whisky "Book Club" explained in very little detail. Adam likes to juggle round the 'Gill.' Donald's 'My Dog Has Fleas.' Allan stated Rats are deterred by presence of Guinea Pigs. Squash preferred to golf as a mis-hit ball always returns to you. Water source spring by the

Allotments was a Prayer Well in 16th century. Donald's expertise is needed to design an irrigation network for allotments. Adam update regarding forthcoming closure of Newton Rigg Agricultural College. Loss of holiday deposits etc due to lockdown and variation in Australia by Lyn. Meeting closed after 2 hours 49 minutes. Let's see what next time brings – possibly some crack about whisky.

Industry Notes of Interest?

World Whisky Day is on Saturday 16th May, 2020. Pity we're lock-downed.

Old Middleton, Co Cork. Announced a very rare silent distillery collection with a February 2020 first release then one per year until 2025. Chapter 1 is a 45 years, the others range from 45 to 50 years. Last release will coincide with 200th anniversary of opening. Operating from 1825 to 1975, when it fell silent, some distilleries are rejuvenated and brought back to life. This will stay silent and be lost.

John O'Groats Distillery. Planning permission has been granted for a new micro-distillery which will be the most northerly in mainland Scotland. It is due for completion in 2021 and the name attributed to it – 'End of the Road Distillery' – seems most apt. It is only small at 33,000 sq ft but it's capacity will be big at 60,000 litres per year. The owners state "we believe our product will be unlike any other." Now where have we heard that before?

Glenfarclas. Issuing a limited edition pagoda ruby reserve, 62 years in the cask, from 1954. The presentation will be pretty, in a ruby studded Glencairn decanter, as will the price.

Tullibardine. 15 years issued following re-opening of the distillery in 2003, after being mothballed for ten years. Hopefully in a more sensible price league than the ones above.

Glencairn Glass. It will be 20 years old this year. The Boot and Shoe Whisky Club are pleased to have done business with them for 20 engraved glasses (18 of which are still surviving).

Royal Lochnagar 12 years. Available from Whisky Exchange for £26.95 – a good deal!

Date of Next Meeting(s) – Tuesday 2nd June 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.