

# Greystoke 'Boot & Shoe' Whisky Club

Established December 2013

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## NEWSLETTER – 1<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2022

### The Meeting

A record attendance of 16 tasters and one t-total driver enjoyed a lively session, full of volume and totally uncontrollable as the evening went on. Nice to see Mark make an (infrequent) appearance supported by his friend George. I believe they both enjoyed the meeting even if they might not know so. Being temporarily t-total I was obliged to sit and watch how the meeting developed instead of encouraging it. I must say that other pub users must be rather tolerant, and perhaps jealous, of the increasingly happy banter.

### Scoring of Samples (/100)

A bit of hilarity was caused when I announced the result of the scorings. One bottle was so good that, even though scores were out of 100 by everyone, the average score for Bottle 4 was calculated at 123.5 / 100. Anyone can make a mathematical error but the travesty was the announcing of it as such and trying to defend it with logic – until the penny dropped. My excuse was the calculator operators Mark and George compounded by my unusual lack of alcohol. The debacle was righted 'straight away' – in about twenty minutes! I now can't remember whether Jura or Tamnavulin were Bottle 1 and 2 – as below I think - but no matter as they scored equally.

Bottle 1	Jura 10	76 - /100	(=2 <sup>nd</sup> )
Bottle 2	Tamnavulin (Sherried)	76 - /100	(=2 <sup>nd</sup> )
Bottle 3	Old Pulteney 12	66 /100	(4 <sup>th</sup> )
Bottle 4	Bunnahabhain 12	77.5 /100	(1 <sup>st</sup> )

### Tasting Comments

John commented that bottle 3 was good but Bottle 4 was gooder. Donald once again went against the grain of opinion by saying Bottle 4, the eventual favourite, was a bit 'ruffty tuffty.' Garry thought that Bottle 3 was 'cack' – and by the scoring it seemed most of us agreed. Mark's comments were very prosaic seeing each sample as a different phase of the Sun. Bottle 1 was reminiscent of a great sunset, Bottle 2 a great sunrise, Bottle 3 an oil slick reflecting on a great summer, and Bottle 4 was the fun, wintry sun. This was his first visit for a while and I suspect he was overcome with emotion drink.

### Club Annual Dinner in the Boot & Shoe

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March accepted by Boot & Shoe to hold our Annual Dinner. Start will be 7pm for 7.30 eating – Main Courses only (or Starter in lieu). Make your selection from the B&S menu and place your pre-order with the Boot & Shoe directly.

### **Greystoke Whisky Festival 2023**

I have long thought about such an event but never got round to actually progressing it. That is until I heard about the one in Kendal held recently. The new Village Hall committee may be interested in hiring out their premises if any profit was to go towards a fund for development of the hall. Anyway it could be a good day out but date fixed so as not to interfere with the Beer Festival. I think (distillery) sponsors would come forward to promote their products and the event could appeal to more than just the local residents. What do you think? Are there any absolute stoppers? Worth a try?

### **Technical / News (notes you may not have heard, or that were intended but not said.**

Kilchoman distillery has been awarded £22.5 million funding from Barclays UK Bank to boost expansion. In 2020 Barclays funded £5.5 million to the Glasgow Distillery. In 2019 £25 million went to the new distillery at Lagg on Arran. Funding of Kilchoman is claimed “to provide forward support to one of Scotland’s most valuable industries.” Kilchoman is Islay’s only Single Farm Single Malt with a £7.7 million (2020) turnover and supplies to over 50 countries.

Eden Mill, gin and whisky distiller, has been sold. A new distillery is planned for the campus at St Andrews University

Midfearn Distillery Co. Ltd proposal (Nov 2021) of a new site on the 3,000 acre Estate at Dornoch Firth. In the ownership of the Brooke family since 1893 it was then acquired “ to provide employment and economic benefit to the wider community.”

### **Date of Next Meeting(s) – Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022 (Annual Dinner)**

**Then remainder of 2022** Apr 5, May 3, Jun 7, Jul 5,  
Aug 7, Sep 6, Oct 4, Nov 1, Dec 6

Mark the dates into your diaries in now

#### **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.*  
*And from one of our own stalwarts – “There are no bad whiskies, just some better than others.”*

Or "If you want a better whisky go to a better whisky club."

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

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