

# Greystoke 'Boot & Shoe' *Whisky Club*

Established December 2013

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## **NEWSLETTER – 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2022**

### **The Meeting**

This meeting was given over to the third Annual Whisky Club Dinner, having been deferred from 2021 due to the ongoing pandemic. Eighteen of us enjoyed the Boot & Shoe fare, with one joining later after a prior engagement. After the meal three bottles of whisky were let loose on the tables, Talisker, Loch Lomond and Glen Marnoch Speyside, which assured that the meeting was as informal (and noisy) as any of our others. A brief after-dinner chat mentioned it was our ninth full year, the newcomers seen this past year, monthly 'Zoom' meetings for about eighteen months until face to face again in August 2021. A few principles of the meetings were also mentioned, meets are first Tuesday every month unless they aren't, £10 per attendance funds the samples at the moment, and the purpose of the meeting, contrary to popular opinion, is to sample and score a wide range of whiskies in order to discern personal like / dislike, all in a good social atmosphere

### **Scoring of Samples (/100)**

Work-free meeting so not applicable

### **Tasting Comments**

Non officially noted

- **Technical** - In the absence of any contemporaneous news this month I have included a few notes from a Whisky Tasting Presentation, "A Brief Introduction to Scotch Whisky", I gave about four years ago.

### **Scotland's Five Whisky Areas**

1. The Lowlands – South of an imaginary line drawn from Clyde estuary (Glasgow) to the Tay estuary (Dundee). Contains fewest number of distilleries.
2. The Highlands – Most of rest of Mainland and most of the Islands. Much variation and less valid generalisations depending on location.
3. Speyside – Technically part of the Highlands. Area north-west of Aberdeen across to Grantown and up to Inverness. Contains about half of Scotland's malt whisky distilleries.

4. Islay – Island of single importance, and 5. Campbeltown – Another area of singular importance is the Kintyre Peninsular of Argyll making full use of the Gulf Stream effect. Only 3 of the original 34 distilleries left.

Scottish Whisky Regulations define five categories of Scotch:-

Single Malt – Single distillery, water/ malted barley only. Pot still batch process.  
Blended Malt – Mix of Malts from more than one distillery.  
Single Grain – as malt but other malted grains or unmalted cereals.  
Blended Grain – Mix of Grains from more than one distillery.  
Blended Scotch – Mix of one or more single Malts with one or more single Grains.

### Whisky Time-Line

First written record of distilling in Scotland was 1494.  
First mention in Britain was Missionary Monks into Ireland in 6<sup>th</sup> Century AD.  
Greeks knew about it in 4<sup>th</sup> Century BC and the Far / Middle East in 8<sup>th</sup> Century BC.

### Scotch Sales Blurb

In 2015 exports were £5 billion, to 175 countries, earning at a rate of £120 / second.  
20 million casks were lying maturing in warehouses in Scotland.

### Myths

Water – personal choice but no point in the whisky if it is drowned. Ice or lots of water kills taste but a drop of water increases heat and bouquet.

Older - is not necessarily better. And it does not improve after bottling.

Angels Share – about 2% of volume lost from casks during each year maturing.

Proof / ABV – measure of alcoholic content. Differs Scotland and Americas.

Units of a Alcohol – simple calculation Volume (mils) e.g. bottle =700 x Strength e.g. 40% to 60%, divided by 1000mils. Therefore typical bottle of 40% contains 28 units.

### **Date of Next Meeting(s) – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

**Then remainder of 2022** 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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