

Greystoke 'Boot & Shoe' Whisky Club

Established December 2013

NEWSLETTER

1st August, 2023 (Month 117)

The Meeting

Another good turnout and a jovial evening I understand probably due to most knowing that I couldn't make it and Allan was hosting proceedings. Fourteen in the Tarzan shed, on the armchairs, was quite cosy – as it was when we first used it some time ago. Ruth, Rod's chaperone and general aide, normally drinks water but had a pint of beer to steady her nerves from looking after 3 young grandkids all day. Allan decided to leave the scoring calculation until later but had a show of hands resulting in Tomatin 8 votes (1st), Speyburn 4 votes (2nd), Glengoyne 2 votes (3rd) and Glenfiddich 0 votes (4th).

For the detailed scores there were 2 sheets missing plus 1 unnamed and 1 name illegible but scored. These covered the names not found of attendees (Bob, Bernie, Donald, Jonathan). That left 12 sheets to use and the usual purging of the top and bottom score for each sample was 781, 780, 773 and 742 points total, giving the scoring shown below. If you wanted to you could insist morally that Tomatin was the winner as it had 1 point extra and twice as many votes as the Speyburn. Totals are usually rounded to the nearest whole number: in this case 78 and 78.1 both rounded to 78. By the usual process they would be called equal firsts.

Scoring of Samples (/100)

Bottle 1	Speyburn 10	78 / 100	(=1 st)
Bottle 2	Tomatin Legacy	78 / 100	(=1 st)
Bottle 3	Glengoyne 12	74 / 100	(4 th)
Bottle 4	Glenfiddich 12	77 / 100	(3 rd)

Tasting Comments

Stephen commented that bottle 1 was an easy drinker, nothing complicated whereas bottle 2 had a bit hotter finish but was nicer and better. Corrine thought bottle 4 was inoffensive and quaffable but scored it last place. Not sure what Phil usually drinks as he said bottle 1 gave him no explosion on the throat. He did, however, say that bottle 4 was dependable. Shelagh agreed about bottle 4 was easy drinking, unexciting yet always there. Rod said bottle 1 was "a bit rough, sorry." Shall the apology be directed to the distillery in Dufftown? He also thought that "Glenfiddish" (it was the 4th sample!) "smelled and tasted good." Adrienne decided that bottle 3 was good for clearing sinuses. (Should that be sinussi?).

Best of the Best

Will try and research, and obtain, previous bests in meetings for a showdown.

The Whiskies:- (Comments mainly by the distilleries or retail outlets)

Speyburn 10 years, (abv 40%)

Speyside region. Distillery in Rothes, Moray. Built in 1897 on a steep wooded glen by the Granty Burn and remains the only distillery on this main tributary of the Spey. Matured in ex-bourbon and ex-sherry casks.

Tomatin Legacy no age (abv 43%)

Region nominally Speyside but on the Findhorn river with Inverness address. Distillery high in the Monadhliath mountains, with water from the Alt-na-Frith burn. Matured in a combination of ex-bourbon and virgin oak casks.

Glengoyne 12 years, (abv 43%)

Highlands region. Distillery in the Campsie Fells, about 12 miles north of Glasgow. Gaelic is Glen Guin or Glen of the Geese named after the migrating flocks of geese. Stills are the slowest in Scotland, the spirit spending three times as long to pass through the stills than any other distillery – allowing favourable effects of greater copper contact on the spirit. Process has good green credentials – reed bed remove CO2 from liquid waste, solid waste is harvested to provide power to their turbines and the packaging is 100% recyclable.

Glenfiddich 12 years, (abv 40%)

Speyside region. Distillery in Dufftown, Banffshire. Built in 1887 with water from the Robbie Dhu spring. Matured in ex-oloroso and ex-bourbon casks, then married in oak tuns for bottling.

Other News

Meeting venue – no further official discussion about where to meet.

Date of Next Meeting(s) – Tuesday 5th September 2023: Then Tuesdays – 3rd Oct, 7th Nov, 5th Dec, (2nd or 9th Jan 2024). Put the dates in your diary 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
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.”
“Everybody looks better through a glass.”
Whisky is the glue that brings people together like nothing else

.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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