

# Greystoke 'Boot & Shoe' Whisky Club

Established December 2013

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## **NEWSLETTER**

**2<sup>ND</sup> MAY, 2023** (Month 114)

### **The Meeting**

Thirteen drinkers and one chauffeur contributed to a jolly occasion including the now traditional rise in volume in the room. You would think that they had not seen each other for about a month. One of the attendees looked amazingly like someone who used to come to our meetings. We have an MBE in our midst so the newsletter might bear the words 'by appointment to HRH.' I get an MBE every whisky night – more bloody earache from Janet. Garry asked "how can you do the sums at the end of the evening. If you notice a change in the results ranking (due to next morning check) the answer is "I can't." A quotation was read out "Whisky is the glue that brings people together like nothing else." Everyone raised a glass to this and thought it worthy of entering into the Whisky Club Hall of Quotations, found at the end of most Newsletters. Whilst surfing the web for whisky related news I came upon [whiskycast.com](http://whiskycast.com) and learned of a whisky club with the amusing name of "Dead Liver Society." I also found out that, contrary to lobbying and alleged promises, the Chancellor, Jeremy Hunt was proposing a 10% increase in duty from August 2023.

**Coronation Hat Parade** – two or three individual entries so not one for Whisky Club.

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

The following is a revised list of average scores and placings resulting from a check the morning after. Bottle 3, the highest score on the night, had an addition error of plus 100 causing an adjustment of almost minus 10 to its average – demoting it to equal 3<sup>rd</sup>. For bottle 5 I knocked off the lowest score of 60 then later saw a lower one of 55. This raised the average of bottle 5 to the same as bottle 4. The scoring was extremely tight and, with a little more effort, I could have had four equal 1<sup>st</sup> and a 5<sup>th</sup> place.

|          |                        |          |                     |
|----------|------------------------|----------|---------------------|
| Bottle 1 | Glen Marnoch Highland  | 77 / 100 | (=3 <sup>rd</sup> ) |
| Bottle 2 | Garstang (Spirit of)   | 73 / 100 | (5 <sup>th</sup> )  |
| Bottle 3 | Tullibardine Sovereign | 77 / 100 | (=3 <sup>rd</sup> ) |
| Bottle 4 | Glenfiddich 12         | 78 / 100 | (=1 <sup>st</sup> ) |
| Bottle 5 | AnCnoc 12              | 78 / 100 | (=1 <sup>st</sup> ) |

### **Tasting Comments**

Allan thought that bottle 2 had a smell of paint but taste was fruity – Dulux Apple White comes to mind. Marie thought bottle 2 was dangerous like alcopop –easy to drink too much. "Not enough umph for me" was her reaction to bottle 3. When being not a fan of any of tonight's selection she started to think "she was the problem." It is not a problem to have a preference for any style of whisky, the problem is acquiring enough of that you like. Rod said about bottle 4 "my tongue likes this one and so do I." Shelagh was full of antipodean similes to describe the whiskies – 'warm like a possum coat', 'sweet and light like a

wallaby on speed', 'average – like Byron Bay beaches', 'bite like a Tasmanian Devil' and 'tasty like a Kangaroo steak'.

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

#### **Glen Marnoch Highland (abv 40%)**

Produced in Scotland for Aldi. Rich and malty taste. Sherry cask introduced sherbert spice and oaky character. Overall mellow and oak

#### **Garstang (The Spirit of), 8 yrs, (abv 40%)**

Natural colour. Chill filtered (now old-hat). Confusion:- Teamwork achieved a complex range of limited edition malts, all 100% malt and all 9 to 10 years old – contrary to the label! Water from Loch Katrine. A.D. Rattray in Kirkoswald is 'The Whisky Experience' – experienced previously with Angels Share. Bourbon barrel finish gives taste of toffee and cinnamon

#### **Tullibardine Sovereign (abv 43%)**

Family owned distillery in Blackford, Perthshire. Water from surrounding Ochil hills. Takes 15 years to reach the Danny burn alongside the distillery ???? Bourbon barrels. Barley, pear drops and creamy chocolate palate with a lingering finish.

#### **Glenfiddich 12 Years (abv 40%)**

Independent family distillery in Dufftown (not Dufton), Banffshire. Water from Robbie Dhu spring. Glenfiddich is gaelic for Valley of the Deer. Matured in Oloroso sherry and Bourbon casks, then married in Oak tuns Allegedly the world's most iconic whisky.

#### **AnCnoc (say A-nock) 12 Yrs (abv 40%)**

Distillery is Knockdhu in shadow of Knock Hill, Aberdeenshire – known to locals as anCnoc. Whisky is named after the hill and its water source. Sweet and fruity taste with a long, smooth finish

**Date of Next Meeting(s) – Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023:** Then Tuesdays – 4<sup>th</sup> Jul, 1<sup>st</sup> Aug, 5<sup>th</sup> Sep, 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct, 7<sup>th</sup> Nov, 5<sup>th</sup> Dec, (9<sup>th</sup> 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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