

Greystoke 'Boot & Shoe' Whisky Club

Established December 2013

NEWSLETTER – 2nd november 2021

The Meeting

Another good turnout to the meeting held in the Oak Room of the Boot & Shoe. In one respect the meeting was not typical – the noise levels were high from the start, probably due to the numbers involved.

Donald was thanked for keeping the whisky flowing last month.

Harry explained his absence was due to Golden Wedding Anniversary vacation in The Orkneys and doesn't expect it to happen again.

Bottles 1 and 4 were donated (Harry & Stephen / Corrine) so Midlands Derek's Dalmore Cigar Malt had a stay of execution again. Time is fast running out though so watch this space.

Scoring of Samples (/100)

Subjected to a 'following morning' audit which revealed, surprisingly, no errors

Bottle 1	Loch Lomond 10	78/100	(2 nd)
Bottle 2	Speyburn 10	74/100	(4 th)
Bottle 3	Glenrothes 10	77/100	(3 rd)
Bottle 4	Tobermory 12	82/100	(1 st)

Tasting Comments

The scoring was very close but the clear favourite was the Loch Lomond (Vanilla & Spice). Some of the comments along the way:-

Rod thought Glenrothes needed more kick but he liked the bottle.

Not sure if one led to the other but Phil commented on a few characteristics of the Tobermory and then queried if Tobermory was a wobble.

Shelagh was quite prolific this meeting (in her comments that is!) stating that the Loch Lomond was sweet and sharp like the Loch. Shelagh also commented that Glenrothes does not come from Glenrothes. Who said it did? It was a bit confusing for a while until we realized that it came from the Glen in Rothes, miles away from Glenrothes. Well spotted Shelagh, in your condition. Her final comment that the Tobermory was a proper whisky and puts hairs on your chest brought a response from Phil that he might have to re-consider – not sure what.

Allan made a comment that Bottle 1, the Loch Lomond, was better than all that follow – not sure if comment was written before or after all the sampling.

Christmas tree Display in Church

Subject to verification Marie offered to project manage the production so be prepared to help out. Harry has the (artificial) tree and some decorations available. Allan is good at building frames.

Sort of Technical / News

The Scottish Whisky Industry is engaging in the Greenhouse Gas Emissions, usual smoke and mirror tactics of statistics. The emissions have reduced by 50% since 2008. Strategy is to hit Zero emissions by 2040. 40% of production fuel is non-fossil, up from 28% in 2018. A special COP26 dram is produced packaged in re-cycled materials.

There is a disturbing proliferation of the word Blend applied to / associated with single malts. There are occasions when it is valid but there seems to be some sales 'fogging' possibly to lure buyers in the direction of the (cheaper) blended whiskies.

Bunnahabhain is the first Islay distillery to go Zero. The Biomass energy centre saves 350 tonnes carbon annually.

Glen Grant has a 60 years old issue in connection with Rolls Royce.

Suntori Yamazaki has a 55 years old, distilled 1965 & bottled 2020, destined for exclusive travellers in the main cities.

Short Story Competition

Glencairn Glass (provider of our glasses) are hosting a short story competition with the title "A Crystal Clear Crime". Length not more than 2,000 words and deadline 31st December 2021. Harry will take a 'stab' at it with an adaptation of his 600 word "Murder at the Distillery". Details of the competition are on their website.

Last Month's name the Object

The model was of the Round Church, in Bowmore, Islay

Date of Next Meeting(s) – Tuesday 7th December 2021

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 good whisky go to a good 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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