

Greystoke 'Boot & Shoe' Whisky Club

Established December 2013

NEWSLETTER

3RD January & 7th February, 2023 (Months 110 & 111)

The January Meeting

Merry Christmas to all. At the January meeting there were only 7 attendees mostly due holidays and another round of colds and viruses. On a cheery note 5 bottles were up to be 'sampled' (or 'drunk' in Whisky Club parlance) and everyone's spirit was immediately lifted. I have to report that, unfortunately, we failed in our task to complete the bottles: actually quite relieved that we did.

Scoring of Samples (/100)

Bottle 1	Balvenie 14 (rum casks)	84 / 100	(1 st)
Bottle 2	Dalwhinnie Winter's Gold	79 / 100	(=2 nd)
Bottle 3	Port Askaig 8	65 / 100	(5 th)
Bottle 4	Tamdhu 10	79 / 100	(=2 nd)
Bottle 5	Speyburn 10	76 / 100	(4 th)

Tasting Comments

Bottle 3 received a variety of negative comments from everyone (only one from each not a variety from each!) John said that he "couldn't smell or taste but from other comments – lucky me." Mike could have submitted his sheet as an academic dissertation on 'Why I come to Whisky Club'. His comment on Bottle 2 for example was that "advice from the distillers is that if you put it in the freezer then it comes out warmer." ???

Christmas Tree Display An entry was included but without special mention.

The February Meeting

Harry was away for this meeting and Allan stepped in: quite admirably. The event was a social, soaking up lots of dregs from previous meetings- especially January. There was no obligation to score or even comment, hence no stressful maths at the end. From the comments made there was a spread of likes and dislikes across the samples.

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

The Balvenie, 14 years, (abv 43%)

Extra maturation in ex-Caribbean rum casks. Probably 2 years after initial 12 years. Distillery established in 1892 in Dufftown, Banffshire. Glenfiddich, same site and owners 6 yrs earlier. Sited at the meeting of rivers Fiddich and Dullen, on their way to join the Spey Still produces using old crafts. Own grown barley, floor turned maltings, own cooperage, a coppersmith to maintain stills.

Port Askaig 8 Years (abv 45.8%)

No distillery at Port Askaig. Bottled for Elixir Distillers from Islay spirit, Not much detail available

Dalwhinnie Winters Gold (abv 43%)

Highest distillery in Scotland at 326 m (1073ft). Founded in 1897, Dalwhinnie Village Inverness-shire, initially called Strathspey. Gaelic for meeting place as it situated within the surrounds of three mountain ranges and the Forest of Atholl. Site of much early whisky smuggling at the junction of Drovers routes from North and West down to central Lowlands. Distilled from spirit made only between October and March (winter time – Scotland snow covered in general. Bottle freezing (?) prior to drinking is advised to improve smoothness.

Tamdhu 10 Years (abv 40%)

Impeccably well-kept distillery close to the Spey, taking water from Tamdhu Burn. Founded in 1896, Knockando Morayshire, and largely rebuilt in the 1970s. Mothballed in 2009, Macleods bought in 2011, production resumed 2012 and has been marketed enthusiastically as a heavily-sherried 10 year old.

Speyburn 10 Yrs (abv 40%)

Pretty much the only expression of Speyburn on the market until 2008. The 10 year old may now have stable mates but it still keeps its place as the easy drinking centre of the range. Speyburn continues to gather quiet momentum in the wake of updated packaging and 2012's shock World Whisky Award win for the 25 year old.

News and / or Technical

Annual Dinner Tuesday, 7th March 2023, 7 for 7.30pm. Don't forget to pre-book your meal direct with the Boot & Shoe no starters unless you are having one in lieu of a main course meal. Reminder / details to be issued in due course.

Date of Next Meeting(s) – Tuesday 7th March 2023 – Annual Dinner in the Boot

**Then Tuesdays – 4th Apr, 2nd May, 6th Jun, 4th Jul, 1st Aug, 5th Sep,
3rd Oct, 7th Nov, 5th Dec, (9th Jan 2024)**

Put the dates in your diary / calendar 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.”

“Everybody looks better through a glass.”

.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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