

Greystoke 'Boot & Shoe' Whisky Club

Established December 2013

NEWSLETTER – 3rd may 2022

The Meeting

This gathering of seventeen ensured a lively meeting with the usual high decibel count. Two newcomers lent a hand with the disposal of the samples. Phil introduced Phil W. and his wife Liz, (both) from Alston, and Garry introduced his friend Wayne from his world 'somewhere south of Cumbria'. We were also introduced to a new word –“chauffeuse” relating to the driving wives of two attendees.

Another 'blind' tasting. Most members had eventually cottoned on to the idea that blindfolds were not necessary: also that the scoresheet numbers correspond with the Bottle numbers so that continued 'blind' tastings increased only the intrigue and not the subsequent mathematical hassle.

The task, should you wish to accept it, is to 'blind-taste' five whiskies. They are all Highland / Speyside. Two are Blended Malts (not blended whisky!) of various ages, two are Blended Malts (see previous) all aged 12 years, and one single malt aged 10 years. Try also to identify which bottle number is the single malt.

With large attendances of late the 'pot' is in surplus but small attendances sometimes occur. Unfortunately the £10 per person attendance contributions were one light. There is no check on who puts in their tenners (trust prevails), and this is not meant to be a witch-hunt, just a reminder to be careful to put your contribution in as that is what ultimately keeps the whisky flowing. Thanks.

Scoring of Samples (/100)

Bottle 1	Stillman's Cask	76 / 100	(5 th)
Bottle 2	Monkey Shoulder	78 / 100	(4 th)
Bottle 3	Tesco Speyside 12	80 / 100	(3 rd)
Bottle 4	Glenmorangie 10	81 / 100	(2 nd)
Bottle 5	Tesco Highland 12	82 / 100	(1 st)

Tasting Comments

The full set of Allan's comments are worth noting as they show a simple approach to tasting which could probably be used worldwide, supplemented by Corrine's emoticon 'smileys.' Bottle 1 was 'a lovely whisky.' He also surmised that it was the single malt in the batch that everyone was asked to ascertain. He was wrong on that count. Bottle 2 was 'another nice one.' Bottle 3 was 'almost as nice.' Bottle 4 was 'nearly as nice.' Bottle 5 was 'as above.' His scoring was in line with his comments but, as it happens, was totally opposite to the aggregate scoring of everybody. Five people identified the only single malt correctly: for clarity, it was a 'blind' tasting, with each bottle decanted into a plain bottle prior to the meeting, so that the single malt could not simply be identified by the label!

There is a consensus in meetings that whatever the sequence of tasting is the last sample will always be favoured. This meeting supported that view. I had thought Bottle 4 would take the accolade but the consensus proved correct.

World Gin Day 11th June 2022 – Is anyone organizing a ‘do’ for this Saturday ?

Technical - Doctors’ Notes (in absence of other News)

The following statement was gleaned from Facebook and forwarded by a friend, as probably appropriate to our gathering.

Many people ask me why I drink so much whisky. It's actually because I have a genetic condition whereby my body doesn't produce it's own alcohol. Therefore I'm forced to take a supplement.

This reminded me of one member who, not so long ago, gave up attending our whisky club on Doctor’s advice that drinking whisky is unhealthy i.e. not good for you. I suspect that the advice can be disputed on a number of fronts. Methinks it may be ‘quack’ advice and a second opinion should be sought – form an orderly queue. The member has indicated the possibility of a non-alcohol drinking return with the same payment status as the chauffees - £nil. (NB They contribute by assisting a drinking member of course.)

Date of Next Meeting(s) – Tuesday 7th June 2022

Then remainder of 2022 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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