

# Greystoke 'Boot & Shoe' Whisky Club

Established December 2013

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## **NEWSLETTER – 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2021(revised)**

### **SLAINTE at last after 18 months**

#### **The Meeting**

Based on pre-meeting feedback everyone recommended to stick with the £10 per attendance basis and subsequently accepted that a 7.30pm start was better (than 6.30pm). In fact everyone was 'quaicching' in anticipation of a live event at last. The Newsletter previous to this one was for April 2020, based on the first of many subsequent (new –fangled) Zoom meetings. Coincidentally, not only was it the first pandemic Zoom Newsletter, it was the last.

It was good to see all the old faces sat in the round again, in the comfort of Ben's "Tarzan" hut, offer the welcoming Quaicch again and listen to the usual noise levels returning. No idea why it is called the Tarzan hut other than what is going round on the jungle drums. It is a well-known theory that whisky fends off all manner of virus and Covid-19 is no different. Our monthly meetings could be listed as vaccination clinics. The August meeting had lots of VFTs (Vertical Flow Tests), all results positive but no worries. There were a number of vaccines to choose from and most were injecting doubles jabs without any major problem: perhaps a little wobble. Nobody experienced the 'long-effect.' There were one or two spikes during the evening but only in the volume. It is recommended to attend for a booster every month.

#### **The Meeting**

A good turnout of twelve attendees, despite four or five of the hardcore absent, with three new members Marie, Garry and Phil.

Ben and Jan were thanked for finding us facility to meet and for providing the occasional bottle of whisky.

There was a relative dearth of whisky procured resulting in a dry finish. This situation was due to a larger turnout than expected in these uncertain times coupled with the lack of reserve brought along. At least the accumulative financial deficit was reduced.

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

(Subjected to a 'following morning' audit which altered the scores but not the result)

Samuel Gelstons	70
Monkey Shoulder Smokey	71
Cotswold	66

Looks as though the Cotswold distillery needs to pull its socks up with its new single malt. Even a blended whiskey scored better. Monkey Shoulder, a blend of four malt whiskies, won through even though it was the Smokey version.

### **Newcomers**

Garry is obviously a quick learner – one thing he learned, said he, was “not to arrange an early morning swim session for the day after the Whisky Club”. (I must admit that Wednesday mornings, after the Whisky Club meetings, have been a low key affair with me for years.) Marie appears to be the consummate expert, or is it consuming, turning out tasting comments like a professional. It is possible, however, that the comments came from the bottle labels. Phil just applied himself clinically to the task in hand and referred to the colour of one sample (operative word?) as ‘uti’ presumably a hospital type acronym. He was clinical about the scoring too, unless he can’t count very high. He may have been thinking about, and distracted by, a later engagement

### **Tasting Comments**

Shelagh thought that the particular Whisky was a poor representation of the lovely Cotswolds. Mike Bousfield thought that the Smokey Monkey might have killed a few of his tastebuds. Garry also found the old adage true in that the later samples seemed better.

### **Sort of Technical / News**

Unfortunately there were no snippets of technical information to break up the flow of gossip / craic due totally to a lack of preparation by the facilitator.

### **World Gin Day**

A small gathering celebrated this auspicious event, deferred from last year due to lockdowns, in Harry’s garden on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2021. It was Gin all the way!

### **Date of Next Meeting(s) – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

Our unwritten constitution states(?) “meetings are on the first Tuesday in the month (unless they aren’t)” but the 7<sup>th</sup> of September really is the first Tuesday. Don’t turn up on 31<sup>st</sup> August expecting a meeting and demanding Whisky (that is, without giving me a call!)

#### **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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