

# Greystoke 'Boot & Shoe' Whisky Club

Established December 2013

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## NEWSLETTER

4<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 (Month 116)

### The Meeting

Must have been the holiday period as the apologies for absence far outweighed the apologies for attendance this month. Whisky Club meetings this year happen to fall on some historic dates – September 5<sup>th</sup> later and American Independence day this month. To mark the occasion a bottle of Kentucky Rye whiskey was introduced and well received. The original intention was to have a bourbon night but sensibility prevailed. A swift chorus of the Star Spangled Banner, by the multi-national assembly ended the tribute. It was also Ben's birthday, another ancient historical date, and we thought it could be named 'dependence day.' One suggestion for a tasting was to have a selection of the 'best of the best.' Another query was to find out what our most popular whisky was – difficult parameters. For both items the first port (sorry) of call would be Donald's spreadsheet presumably. There was some reference to Donald and his troosers but seems to have been lost in the ether.

### Scoring of Samples (/100)

Bottle 1	Makers Mark Bourbon	78 / 100	(3 <sup>rd</sup> )
Bottle 2	Glenturret 12	84 / 100	(1 <sup>st</sup> )
Bottle 3	Singleton 12	64 / 100	(4 <sup>th</sup> )
Bottle 4	Benriach 10	83 / 100	(2 <sup>nd</sup> )

### Tasting Comments

There was some surprise at how good the Kentucky Straight whisky was and Garry summed up with "God bless America." Ali commented a liking for the hand-dipped top seal. Most liked the Benriach and surprisingly disliked the Singleton. Ali thought it had a hint of cigarette ash and Marie couldn't see the point of it, giving it the lowest score ever. For each sample the highest and lowest scores are deleted before calculation in order to diffuse prejudices.

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

#### Makers Mark Kentucky Straight Whisky, (abv 45%)

Small distillery in Loretto, Kentucky.

Sweet, vanilla, oak characteristics feature in Nose, Palate and Finish

Bill Samuels, a sixth generation distiller didn't care for whisky his family made so, in 1953, he burned the recipe and re-started to his own vision. Margie, his wife, designed the bottle as it is now and suggested hand-dipping the cork in wax, as it still is.

### **Glenturret 12, (abv 46%)**

Distillery is The Hosh, Torreglen, Crieff. Scotlands oldest working distillery. Fewer than sixty carefully selected casks come together to create The Glenturret 12 Years Old - crafted by hand and forming the heart of the range. American oak hogshead casks. leading to a full rich single malt.

### **Singleton 12, (abv 40%)**

Distillery at Dufftown, Speyside. Whisky from both Pedro Ximenez Oloroso seasoned casks and refill ex-bourbon casks have been hand selected for their honey notes and nutty intensity. The taste is a hive of activity full of soft cooked apples, luscious brown sugar, hints of creamy coffee and roasted nutty notes. This is ambrosial decadence worth savouring.

### **Benriach 10, (abv 43%)**

Founded in 1898 by John Duff, the original Benriach was short-lived; following monetary difficulties the distillery was sold to the Longmorn Distilleries Company who closed it at the turn of the twentieth century. Benriach, named for the Gaelic for 'speckled mountain', was one of the few distilleries with its own floor maltings, following closure they remained in use, supplying neighbouring Longmorn. Had many closures / re-openings and owner changes. A 10 year old single malt from Benriach, released as part of a new core range launched in 2020. The Original Ten was matured in a trio of casks - bourbon barrels, sherry casks and virgin oak casks

### **Other News**

None of note.

**Date of Next Meeting(s) – Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023:** Then Tuesdays – 5<sup>th</sup> Sep, 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct, 7<sup>th</sup> Nov, 5<sup>th</sup> Dec, (2<sup>nd</sup> or 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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