

Greystoke 'Boot & Shoe' Whisky Club

Established December 2013

NEWSLETTER – 4th October 2022 (MONTH 107)

The Meeting

I have always said, when complimented about the running of the Whisky Club, that “it runs itself.” To my chagrin I found this month that it was almost true. A clash of meetings resulted in me asking Allan to hold the fort, and he did so admirably: so much so that when I arrived 90 minutes late I heard quite a bit of dissenting comments (although I put it down to the usual ‘jolly’ banter.)

I can’t say what was discussed (grand word for gossiped) by the fourteen attendees in my initial absence but I gather it was the usual socialising. I can’t recall what was said in the latter part of the meeting that I attended ‘cos I was busy catching up (not on the gossip!). I did gain some brownie points back by arriving just in time to collate the scores

Scoring of Samples (/100)

Bottle 1	Glenturret 12	85 / 100	(1 st)
Bottle 2	Jura ‘The Sound’	82 / 100	(2 nd)
Bottle 3	Glenmorangie 10	81 / 100	(3 rd)
Bottle 4	Benromach 12	67 / 100	(4 th)

The Whiskies and Tasting Comments

Phil reminisced that sample 4 reminded him of the smell of his father’s face after a shave. Shelagh liked sample 4 and commented that it was ‘shmokin.’ At the other end of the spectrum Garry commented that he couldn’t say what he wanted to about sample 4 as the local vicar was next to him – needless to say a poor score resulted. Quite a few comments were that sample 1 was a good start and could be a winner, which it eventually was. The only time recently where expense has won the day – with us.

Glenturret 12 Non-peated – abv 46%. Distilled at Crieff since 1763 – Scotland’s oldest working distillery. The 12 Years Old forms the heart of the range. Matured in American oak and European oak casks gives a sweet and full rich single malt.

Jura The Sound – abv 42.5%. Distillery at Craighouse on the island was established in 1810 and successfully reborn in 1963. Initially matured in ex bourbon casks before being finished in casks that have previously held 15 Year Old Pedro Ximénez sherry.

Glenmorangie 10 – abv 40%. Distilled at Tain, on the East coast 40 miles North of Inverness. Described as creamy, mellow and delicate. Stills are described “tall as a giraffe” (not sure that is more descriptive than feet or metres). Matured in bourbon casks

Benromach 15 – abv 43%. Distilled at Forres in Speyside and matured in first fill oak casks used previously for bourbon or sherry. Peatier than expected – ‘they’ say.

News and / or Technical

Kendal Whisky Festival – December 1st & 2nd, 2022. Session 1 Friday evening, sessions 2 and 3 on Saturday afternoon then evening. Even if there were spaces left you can not book two sessions on a Saturday. Cost is £39.50 per each 4hour session and travel on top – decided not to pursue the event as a trip. There is a mask requirement and need to prove negative. Also need to accept T&Cs which states no refunds for any cause.

American Single malt Standard - proposal to essentially mirror the Scotch Whisky Distillers requirements except (a) in the minimum age – 2 rather than 3 years and (b) the use of pot or column stills rather than just pot stills in Scotland.

Midleton – Irish Distillers planning a 250 million euro expansion with a new distillery build, adjacent the existing, to cope with the increased sales from 10 million to 15 million cases of Jameson per annum.

Lakes Distillery – continues to develop its Whiskymaker’s Edition range with a new release “Infinity” single malt. Bottled at 52% abv and non-chill filtered it is available for purchase following its debut at the Whisky Exchange’s Whisky Show in London.

Duty on Spirits – the Scotch Whisky Association has praised the Government’s decision to scrap a rise in spirits duty saying the move will benefit both consumers and producers

Old Pulteney - a new ‘Coastal Series’ collaboration with other coastal drinks producers will see a phased release of four expressions. The first, rolling out in January 2023, will be Old Pulteney Pineau des Charentes

Date of Next Meeting(s) – Tuesday 1st November 2022

Then remainder of 2022 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.”

"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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