

Greystoke 'Boot & Shoe' Whisky Club

Established December 2013

NEWSLETTER – 5th APRIL 2022

The Meeting

It is probably fortunate that a few of the regular hardcore of members had other things to do and gave apologies for absence. Otherwise there may not have been enough to go round the fourteen attendees. Even so a number of the 'left-overs' from previous meetings met their end after the evening's sampling. The good attendance and the donation of the Australian 'Starward' by Lyn added a surplus to the funds which were already in credit. The traditional opening drink from the communal Quaich is to be discontinued until there is more certainty about negligible chances of spreading Covid – future variation whatever! The evening saw samples from five different countries: Scotland, Northern Ireland, Eire, Australia and Japan. Forgot about England in the build up to the meeting, but in the leftovers there was a representative of Cotswold - not enough to go round and score. Although the meeting was in the Oak Room Ben advised us the happy, convivial atmosphere i.e. noise was percolating into the pub. We were, obviously, increasingly unawares (amongst other things). As usual the technical information was sacrificed for the gossip which never ends.

Scoring of Samples (/100)

Bottle 1	Loch Lomond 10	80.5 / 100	(2 nd)
Bottle 2	Pogues Single Malt	68.5 / 100	(4 th =)
Bottle 3	Starward Two Fold (Oz)	79 / 100	(3 rd)
Bottle 4	Hazotaki Pure (Japan)	68.5 / 100	(4 th =)
Bottle 5	Bushmills 10	82 / 100	(1 st)

Tasting Comments

Lyn commented that Bottle 5 was a 'surprisingly' nice Irish. Of Bottle 2 Shelagh remarked that their music was better. Stephen and Phil both commented on an almond bouquet from Bottle 2 – perhaps a hint of cyanide in the export batches? Martin worked methodically through the samples to establish, in Crufts-like fashion, that Bottle 5 was 'Best in Class.' Allan found all samples to be 'very pleasant and smooth' (with a rider of 'non-descript' to Bottle 4) and gave a 'eureka' comment of 'at last!' to Bottle 4. Mike wrote that Bottle 4 clears the sinuses and hits the back of your throat 'kamikaze-style'. Garry said that Bottle 3 'grows on you as you drink it.' That's a philosophy we can all probably associate with any bottle – with the exception of Donald in one particular respect.

World Gin Day 11th June 2022 – Do we want to organise a 'do' ?

World Whisky Day – 21st May 2022 - Ditto

Technical - Nosing and tasting

1. **Tulip shaped glass is best** - *Trap aromas in bulbous bottom. Release aromas through small area top. Tumblers are acceptable and more practical for drinking – but not nosing.*
2. **Colour** - Hold up to a neutral background and good look at colour. *Often indicates age and wood finish – do not trust your eyes only, confirm by nose. Dark rich amber may be matured in ex-sherry barrels, or may just be an old whisky*
3. **Body weight** - Swirl the whisky around the glass. Wait and watch the drops form and run down inside of the glass - *These are the “Legs” - If legs run quickly, lots of them, thin – light bodied and / or younger whisky. If slow to start, slow to run, thick appearance – heavy bodied and / or older whisky*
4. **Nose** - Nose (sniff the whisky) more than once. *First will be a rush of alcohol – other characteristics follow quickly. Hold mouth slightly open allows intake of more aromas*
5. **Palate** - Have a taste / sip, swirl round quickly and swallow – *wakes up the taste buds. Another taste and savour it (1 sec per year of age in the mouth). Try to pick out any flavours – nose and palate still working in tandem. Think about how the feel is on your tongue – e.g. silky smooth, syrupy, tingly*
6. **Finish** - Does flavor last long time or disappear quickly. Is it long and warming or short, crisp and dry
7. **Water** - Add a splash of bottled still water at room temperature. Carry out process 4, 5 and 6 again
8. **Next** - Cleanse palate and glass with water and move on to another whisky

Note At our level take the pretentious (professional) tasting comments with a ‘pinch of salt’ and possibly stick to the simple “That’s good I like it”

Date of Next Meeting(s) – Tuesday 3rd May 2022

Then remainder of 2022 Jun 7, 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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