

Greystoke 'Boot & Shoe' Whisky Club

Established December 2013

NEWSLETTER – 5th July & 2nd August 2022

The 5th July Meeting

With a record number of apologies for absence (17) the meeting was reduced to five, inclusive of Ben and Jan, but as a quorum is one person the meeting went ahead. Most people were away for lesser important reasons e.g. holidays, visiting and the like. With a settee each in the Tarzan hut the five of us had a sensible (despite Ben's presence) jolly time sampling a few drams – the so-called dregs of previous meetings and, as sort of reward, a couple of the new (better?) whiskies. No scoring was undertaken and the event was a freebie.

The 2nd August Meeting

An improvement in numbers, of attendees and bottles, with twelve tasters involved. The decibel level was back to usual and the backlog of gossip was dealt with in increasingly raucous manner. The myth seems to have been exploded that 'the more expensive a whisky is, the better it is.' In our circle the two most expensive whiskies were outscored by a cheaper one. Not sure if that would have been the case were it not a 'blind' tasting, where the brand labels may have made an impact. We will see how next month turns out.

Scoring of Samples (/100)

Bottle 1	Speyburn 10	80 / 100	(1 st)
Bottle 2	Ben Nevis (Blended)	75 / 100	(4 th)
Bottle 3	Glen Marnoch (Islay)	72 / 100	(5 th)
Bottle 4	Tomatin 12	79 / 100	(2 nd)
Bottle 5	Blair Athol 12	78 / 100	(3 rd)

The Whiskies and Tasting Comments

Allan commented that Bottle 4 was (probably?) the nicest but would get the worst score 'cos he is always wrong'. Marie commented that Bottle 2 was 'one of her favs since she joined.' That was until she tasted Bottle 3 and made the same comment. An abrupt stop with Bottle 4 which achieved a 'meh' – presumably not complimentary. Shelagh, in good recently married humour, likened each sample to one of Phil's traits or to a part of his body. Smooth and welcoming, light and spicey, sting in the tail were all likeness comments but Bottle 4 was 'rich – unlike my husband'. Copies of the scoresheet can be found in next weeks Herald unless Phil wants to forward the ransom!

Speyburn 10 – abv 40%. From the waters of the Granty Burn, a Spey tributary. Matured in American Oak, ex-bourbon and ex-sherry barrels / casks. Lots of fruit and a touch of smoke

Ben Nevis – abv 40%. From distillery in Fort William. Contains grain and malt whiskies from other distilleries and the Scottish Whisky Regs 2008 caused it to be re-branded, for historical reasons, from Dew of Ben Nevis to Nevis Dew. Fragrant, smoke, peat, honey and spice with a long finish.

Glen Marnoch Islay – abv 40%. Less than typical but still peaty whisky from the island of Islay. Procured by Aldi but no details about its make-up.

Tomatin 12 – abv 43%. From the 1897 distillery in the Monadhliath Mountains, with water from the Alt-na-Frith. Matured in ex-bourbon and Spanish sherry casks. Herbaceous, fruity and buttery.

Blair Athol 10 – abv 43%. From 1798 distillery in the Grampians with water from the Allt Dour Burn meaning 'The Burn of the Otter.' Allegedly exudes sherry with xmas pudding and spice, deep toned, strong, fruity and smooth.

Other- I saw this in Shrewsbury town centre last Saturday, 27th August, and it gave me an idea about a potential Whisky Club uniform.



Date of Next Meeting(s) – Tuesday 6th September 2022

Then remainder of 2022 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.”

“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.