

# Greystoke 'Boot & Shoe' Whisky Club

Established December 2013

---

## NEWSLETTER

6<sup>th</sup> June, 2023 (Month 115)

### The Meeting

Another big turn out tonight, of members too, which made for an enjoyable atmosphere which is music to Ben's ears – the noisier the better! He was not disappointed tonight. There was a discussion concerning potential 'winds of change' and the future of the venue. It was decided in principle that a contribution for use of the facility should be made. Attendees were welcome to purchase drinks from the bar but should not be made to feel obliged. Status quo remains at the moment until detail is worked out and agreed. Another blind-tasting event was used (once again forgetting the blindfolds) and this threw up (horrible phrase) the fact that there are both pro-peat and anti-peat members, occasionally with different ends of the spectrum within the same household. This is why a variety of whiskies are provided and that the result of scoring is not always a foregone conclusion.

### Scoring of Samples (/100)

Bottle 1	Bunnahabhain Stiùireadair	76 / 100	(2 <sup>nd</sup> )
Bottle 2	Cardhu Gold Reserve	74 / 100	(3 <sup>rd</sup> )
Bottle 3	Glen Keith	73 / 100	(4 <sup>th</sup> )
Bottle 4	Talisker Skye	70 / 100	(5 <sup>th</sup> )
Bottle 5	Bad Na H-Achlaise	81 / 100	(1 <sup>st</sup> )

### Tasting Comments

Ali explained that she had been sparing with her comments as she was using the Club's ink, but managed "sort of like drinking a kipper" for bottle 5. Rod thought that bottle 1 "could be used for treating STDs" – and he should know! (If you don't understand just ask). Phil commented that bottle 4 "smelt (possible fishy pun) like a fisherman's friend / Quickfit garage. All of Shelagh's comments were 'like a simile' e.g. bottle 5 was "like a ray of sunshine: long and lingering like a summer evening". Garry thought that bottle 4 was "nasty stuff tasting like drain cleaner". Marie was also critical of bottle 4 comparing it to "a cross between Chatreuse and Listerine that didn't quite work out". Keith suggested that bottle 5 was "well balanced – unless you have too many". Adrienne getting the hang of official tasting notes with bottle 5 – "tingly on the tongue". According to Bernie bottle 4 was "oily, petrol, old ashtrays, yuk! No thank you!" We get the drift. Mike confirmed Garry's alleged comment that bottle 4 "tasted like North Korean Rocket fuel – explosive and unlikely to take off". Donald thought bottle 2 was "excellent but he could not spell longevity", his final attempt being "longeavate". He also thought that bottle 5 had a difficult gaelic name but was "nae bad".

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

#### Bunnahabhain Stiùireadair, (abv 46.3%)

Pronounced Boonaharven Stew-rah-dur (means Helmsman)

North Eastern tip of Islay.

Fruit, nuts and spices.

**Cardhu Gold Reserve, (abv 40%)**

Speyside.

Honey, dark chocolate and orchard fruits.

1824 (199 years ago) founder Helen Cummings, then successor Elizabeth Cummings, used to hoist a flag to warn neighbouring distilleries of the approaching revenue officials.

**Glen Keith Distillery Edition, (abv 40%)**

Speyside.

On the Linn of Keith, a free flowing waterfall on the River Isla.

Once the stronghold of the Ogilvies of Milton a branch of one of the most prominent Clans of Scotland.

**Talisker Skye, (abv 45.8%)**

Skye.

If you trek to Talisker bay you'll be one bay away from the distillery.

**Bad na h-Achlaise Tuscan Oak, (abv 46%)**

Pronounced Bad na hash-lick

Village of Badachro, Gairloch, North West Highlands.

Lemon grass / hay to peach / apricots.

The Bad na h-Achlaise collection is the result of having vatted two very carefully selected casks from the Badachro Highland distillery, to produce this lightly peated dram which has been finished in Tuscan red wine casks prior to bottling. The inaugural Badachro single malt Scotch whisky was received to great acclaim on its first release. In light of this success there followed Single Cask and Cask Strength additions to the Tuscan wine stock and a ruby port cask finish. Its distinct flavour and blush hue, is likened to a North West Highlander embracing an old Tuscan friend.

**Other News**

None of note.

**Date of Next Meeting(s) – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023:** Then Tuesdays – 1<sup>st</sup> Aug, 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*

SLAMNTE

SLAMNTE