

# Greystoke 'Boot & Shoe' Whisky Club

Established December 2013

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## **NEWSLETTER – 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022** (MONTH 106)

### **The Meeting**

Even with seven (usually stalwart) absences the team of twelve waded into the 4 bottles of samples but made little impact on the volume. The falling short may have been due to unsuitability of the whiskies but, more likely, it was because the heavy gang were absent. The decibel level was as usual after the obligatory cautious start. As last month the so called 'better' whisky, Bottle 3, proved not to be so. In our circle the most expensive whisky was outscored by two cheaper ones – and it was a blind tasting so that the brand labels did not affect the scores. There may be an argument to stop the 'experiment' but as long as funds hold out it is worth carrying on sampling whisky that you might never buy a bottle of. After all the meeting is a social gathering with some enjoying a dram or two.

### **Scoring of Samples (/100)**

Bottle 1	Singleton	80 / 100	(1 <sup>st</sup> )
Bottle 2	Sainsbury Highland	76 / 100	(2 <sup>nd</sup> )
Bottle 3	Edradour Ballechin 8	71 / 100	(3 <sup>rd</sup> )
Bottle 4	MuckleFlugger (Shetland)	66 / 100	(4 <sup>th</sup> )

### **The Whiskies and Tasting Comments**

Phil and Shelagh both made good points that the whisky was a good antidote to jetlag. Phil also commented that Bottle 4 was mild-tasting with an inoffensive bouquet of emulsion paint?? A surprising number of comments were favourable about smoke / peat. Donald thought that Bottle 3 was a high peated content and that Bottle 4 was back to normal – drinkable. Rod commented that Bottle 3 was warming and he had to take his jacket off. He also thought that Bottle 4 tasted better after a sip of beer. Lyn suddenly turned literary and said that Bottle 1 was Noble – possibly mis-spelt Nobble. Martin thought Bottle 3 was like engine oil but Bottle 4 was much better – like WD40. John thought that, to him, they were all similar (- at least reassuring that they all tasted like whisky) and seemed to get better the more he drank.

**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

**The Singleton** – abv 40%. Distillery at Dufftown, Speyside since 1896. Water from an artesian spring called Jock's Well, occasionally diverted to their rivals. A blend of various of their single malt casks each given a unique (blending) number. A good introduction for the newcomer with a mild sweet and fruity experience.

**Edradour Ballechin 8** – abv 46%. Distilled at Pitlochry. It is a mixture of produce from Edradour and Ballechin distilleries, the latter resurrected in 2002. The mix is 1 Edradour sherry cask matured whisky and 3 Ballechin bourbon cask matured whisky. Fruity, nut, smoky malt.

**MuckleFlugger** – abv 40%. Distilled on Scottish mainland in American Oak bourbon casks, then shipped to Shetland for 12 months to acquire some of the climatic effect by the sea near the Lighthouse (Muckleflugger) from which it takes its name. Rich and full of fruit with (allegedly) all the roughness smoothed away.

### **News and / or Technical**

Kendal Whisky Festival – will research details of two day event first week of December.

Glen Scotia (remember last month sample) named Distillery of the Year and issuing a limited release of 22 years old.

Littlemill, the oldest Licensed distillery in Scotland is celebrating its 250th anniversary with release of a 45 years old (presumably whisky, not staff).

Campbeltown planning a new distillery “Dal Riata” with a (medium) capacity of 850,000 litres per year.

Rosebank is nearing revival and a 31 years old has been released from pre-1993 mothballed stock.

Arbeg a 1975 cask (and contents) has recently been sold to an Asian lady for £16m.

**Date of Next Meeting(s) – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

**Then remainder of 2022** 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.*