

Greystoke 'Boot & Shoe' Whisky Club

Established December 2013

NEWSLETTER – 6th December 2022 (MONTH 109)

The Meeting

Merry Christmas to all.

Another well attended meeting with much merriment. Succinct eh? You know the usual.

Scoring of Samples (/100)

Bottle 1	Singleton Malt Masters	77 / 100	(=4 th)
Bottle 2	Singleton 10	77 / 100	(=4 th)
Bottle 3	Speyburn 10	80 / 100	(3 rd)
Bottle 4	Glengoyne 12	83 / 100	(2 nd)
Bottle 5	Aberlour 12	85 / 100	(1 st)

Tasting Comments

Allan arrived at bottle 3 with a dilemma – “another nice one, how do you pick a favourite?” John summed up the tastings with two words – “all good.” Donald made a guess at bottle 1 with the caveat – “I’ve been wrong before.” On scoring bottle 5 he declared ‘Too late now.’ Garry thought it was such a great start that he forgot to score bottle 1 until the end. Maureen had a ‘whole-body experience’ with bottle 4. Lyn thought that the body of bottle 1 was “rather thin – unlike mine.” The body of bottle 2 was not “not great” but Lyn refrained from personal elaboration. Lyn also commented that bottle 4 was the “full monty” – she can keep her hat on! Ali commented that “each sample was an improvement on the previous – delicious.”

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

Singleton Malt Masters Selection (abv 40%) AND Singleton 12 Yrs (abv 40%)

The Singleton of Dufftown is distilled in the Dufftown distillery in Speyside . Whisky has been distilled at the distillery since 1896. It has the flavour profile for new drinkers to malt whisky due to its smooth, rich, accessible flavour. The unmistakable taste of The Singleton comes from a unique selection of European Oak casks that bring rich fruit aromas and American Oak casks that release honeyed hints of vanilla

The re-launched Singleton 12 years old, this time from Dufftown, to replace the now-defunct Singleton of Auchroisk. This smooth, mellow dram is designed to attract new drinkers to the malt category.

Speyburn 10 Yrs (abv 40%)

Pretty much the only expression of Speyburn on the market until 2008. The 10 year old may now have stable mates but it still keeps its place as the easy drinking centre of the range. Speyburn continues to gather quiet momentum in the wake of updated packaging and 2012's shock World Whisky Award win for the 25 year old.

Glengoyne 12 Yrs(abv 43%)

A 12 years old Highlander from Glengoyne, famed for their unpeated single malt. Glengoyne is always very pure in style, allowing their high-quality, easy-drinking whisky to shine in its natural state.

Aberlour 12 Yrs (abv 40%)

Aberlour is always a good choice - one of the best value Speyside malts around. This double matured version is a mix of traditional oak and sherry casks and is rich and fruity with delicious Christmas cake notes.

News and / or Technical

It was agreed to submit a Whisky Club tree in the Christmas display.

It was agreed to hold another Annual Dinner in the Boot & Shoe – Feb or probably March. A straw poll indicated a need(?) for a meeting on the 3rd of January (not delay to 10th)

10th November 2022 - A bottle of Ardbeg 1974 31 Year Old Cask #2742, one of only 36 bottles from Cask #2742, the smallest-ever official single cask release from the distillery, has achieved an auction hammer price of £35,000, a record for a single bottle of Ardbeg. The whisky contains the last batch of spirit to have been made using exclusively on-site-peated malt.

17th November 2022 - The Macallan has released a short biopic film which reveals the real-life story of former managing director, Janet ('Nettie') Harbinson, an incredible woman who in 1926 crafted the most valuable bottle of wine or spirit ever sold at auction, The Macallan Fine & Rare 192

23rd November 2022 - London's Bimber Distillery announce a ballot to get hold of their first peated single malt appropriately called 'Bimber The 1st Peated'. A marriage of four heavily peated American oak ex-bourbon casks it is presented with an 'in-bottle PPM' of 14.4 PPM.

Date of Next Meeting(s) – Tuesday 3rd January

Then Tuesdays – 7th Feb, 7th Mar, 4th Apr, 2nd May, 6th Jun, 4th Jul, 1st Aug, 5th Sep, 3rd Oct, 7th Nov, 5th Dec, (9th Jan 2024)

Put the dates in your diary / calendar 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 Quaikkkkkk, 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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