

Greystoke 'Boot & Shoe' Whisky Club

Established December 2013

NEWSLETTER

7TH MARCH & 4TH APRIL, 2023 (Months 112 & 113)

The March Meeting

This was our (Club) Annual Dinner in the Boot & Shoe to acknowledge Ben and Jan's generosity through the year and put a bit more than usual back into their coffers. Three or four late call offs with one or two late additions meant that there were 18 in total. The evening went as usual with good food, excellent (loud) banter and a brief synopsis of the year – more or less the same as previous years with different new 'members'.

The April Meeting

There were almost as many apologies for absence, 7 as there were attendees, 10. The group, nevertheless, applied themselves admirably (like that word – think it was used last month too) to the task in hand. The usual plentiful supply of gossip amidst the real comments about the whiskies.

Scoring of Samples (/100)

Bottle 1	Tasmanian Single	77 / 100	(5 th)
Bottle 2	Slainte	80 / 100	(2 nd)
Bottle 3	The Irishman (Harvest)	78 / 100	(=3 rd)
Bottle 4	Bushmills10	81 / 100	(1 st)
Bottle 5	Loch Lomond 10	78 / 100	(=3 rd)

Tasting Comments

Garry donated a bottle of Tasmanian single malt, from his visit to Australia, and commented that it was a lovely whisky from a lovely and generous chap. No idea who had given it to him but, needless to say his top mark was deleted from the scoring. NB from all the scores each bottle has the top and bottom score removed before averaging – to avoid potential bias either way. Allan used some good old terminology when he wrote 'bottle 1 tastes better than it smells.' Bernie's notes were in proper connoisseur style. Lyn thought that bottle 5 had a stronger aftertaste if you 'sloosh' it. Perhaps it could be an addition to the 'official' tasting process. Mike peaked at bottle 3 with a profoundly accurate statement of 'So glad we had the tasting notes 'cos I didn't get any of that.' He liked bottle 4 with the comment 'this is the Leprechaun's (rather than dog's) something or other.' He also said that he was only tasting bottle 5 because Bernie said he had to. Donald commented on bottle 4 that he had 'no idea' at this stage of the evening. For bottle 5 he just said 'Whisky.' With deference to St Patrick's day, always between meetings, two bottles of Irish were included. Someone astutely remarked that 'funny that it never falls on the first Tuesday.'

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

Tasmania Distillery

Notes about the whisky and source are hazy (see Lyn) but a little general background for information:- In 1838 the Governor imposed a prohibition on distilling in Tasmania which lasted for 150 years until repealed in the 1990s. Following the lifting of the ban there is now about fifteen to twenty distilleries legally flourishing there with some only recently bottled their early casks. Maturing, normally 10 years, is usually in American bourbon casks and wine casks from New South Wales.

Slainte 8 Years (abv 40%)

Commissioned by the Specialist Whisky shop, Wrekin store, in Shrewsbury a collaboration between Inver Associates Ltd / Spirit of the Glen Publications produced a whisky for each of the trail books they had published i.e. the North Coast 700 Route, the Speyside Trail and the Islay Route. Our sample for the North 700 comes with a range of personalised tartan icons that can be added to the bottle.

The Irishman - Harvest (abv 40%)

A re-release of this unusual and unique blend, matured in bourbon casks. No age statement. Fruity sweet taste with some spiciness. The blend is 70% Single Malt and 30% Single Pot Still with Nil% inferior grain whisk(e)y. Usually only malted barley is used in a distillation but, in Ireland, a mix of malted and green barley is allowed in a Pot Still. Other types of grain / cereal can be used as basis for (other) distillation.

Bushmills 10 Years (abv 40%)

A regular old friend from allegedly the oldest distillery in the world, located in Antrim. Triple distillation (three times round the equipment compared to the normal twice) makes for a smoother dram. This is a blend of their single malt all at least ten years old, all aged in bourbon and olorosa sherry casks.

Loch Lomond 10 Yrs (abv 40%)

Another regular for us. Fruit, honey and soft smoke notes. Matured in American Oak casks – bourbon, re-fill and re-charred.

News and / or Technical

Arbeg BizarreBQ unveiled to capture / complement flavours of smoky barbecue. Entry level short course on spirits industry, 10 hours learning over 90 days, available from Institute of Brewers and Distillers priced at £99.

Date of Next Meeting(s) – Tuesday 2nd May 2023: Then Tuesdays – 6th Jun, 4th Jul, 1st Aug, 5th Sep, 3rd Oct, 7th Nov, 5th Dec, (9th 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

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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