

Greystoke 'Boot & Shoe' Whisky Club

Established December 2013

NEWSLETTER – 7th June 2022

The Meeting

A jolly meeting again with 13 samplers, and 2 other attendees, enjoying another 'blind' tasting where each sample is pre-decanted into a plain bottle. This ensures that in the scoring process no-one is tempted to favour a particular label. It also means that the cheap stuff is disguised until all is revealed at the end. From the comments, however, it is clear that some folk are not taken in and can still (no pun intended) spot the lesser value produce. There was no slow build up to the usual noise level, it was immediate, so any items of news were quickly related before the first bottle sampling was dispensed. There was no enthusiasm (evident) to host the local World Gin Day event 2022.

Scoring of Samples (/100)

| | | | |
|----------|-------------------------|------------|--------------------|
| Bottle 1 | Glen Scotia | 82.5 / 100 | (1 st) |
| Bottle 2 | Aber Falls | 75 / 100 | (4 th) |
| Bottle 3 | Dalwhinnie Winter Gold | 73 / 100 | (5 th) |
| Bottle 4 | Tamnavulin (White Wine) | 77.5 / 100 | (3 rd) |
| Bottle 5 | Tobermory 12 | 82 / 100 | (2 nd) |

The Whiskies and Tasting Comments

In other comments Allan wrote 'put your money on Blue Peter in the 2.30 at Doncaster.' He also commented on Bottle 4, in the style that we had mentioned, that it 'tastes of Granny Smith apples.' Rod thought that Bottle 5 was a 'better tongue-tickler.' John wrote more on this score sheet than he has done the last 10 months in total, so I pose the question 'is this all his own work?'

Glen Scotia – abv 40%. From Campbeltown, referred to as "Wee Toon." Matured in first fill bourbon casks. Their own tasting notes include fruit, a sea spray overlay, and underlying peat.

Aber Falls – abv 40%. 100% Welsh constituents. From River Aber in North Wales between Snowdonia and Menai. Matured, probably not very long yet, in a mix of Bourbon, Sherry and Virgin Oak casks. Tasting notes refer to sweet / fruity Nose, Palate as same but added chocolate & espresso, a long and lingering Finish.

Dalwhinnie 'Winters Gold' – abv 43%. On the A9 just short of Inverness, often snowbound. Mostly distilled in the cold between October and March. Expert opinion suggests tasting after chilling the bottle. Not sure about that as iciness / cold tends to kill the taste development. Tasting notes say smooth, heather honey taste.

Tamnavulin White Wine Cask – abv 40%. From the edge of Speyside, in the foothills of the Cairngorms by the River Livet. The distillery is known as "the Mill on the Hill". Matures

in American Oak casks then in Sauvignon Blanc Casks. Their own notes are Nose fruit and vanilla, Palate sourer fruits, and Finish soft sweet and fruity.

Tobermory 12 yrs – abv 46.3%. From the North of the Island of Mull. Non-chilled filtered (anathema to Americans) and based on non-peated barley (anathema to peat lovers?). Matured in ex-bourbon casks with this release in 2019 to celebrate the re-enlivening of the distillery. Their notes suggest sweet orange and citrus, then vanilla and spice.

Other- Whisky Club is invited to Shelagh and Phil's hog-roast at 12 noon in the Village Hall on Sunday June 26th – the day after their wedding. (Not a bad predictive!)

Future meetings – will try to introduce a 'next price scale up' standard of whisky (hopefully better than the supermarket limitations we usually abide by).

The missing £10 contribution (from May meeting) turned up.

Chestnut House suggested to approach in connection with a whisky (sales?) presentation.

Wacky Tasting Notes – it would appear that we are ahead of the game in tasting notes. The Scottish malt Whisky Society has decided, just ahead of World Whisky Day 2022, that it is time to use updated terminology, easily understood universally. Some examples of 'old' style are the over-specific e.g. Conference pear rather than just pear, Manuka honey not just honey, Wild strawberries not Strawberries, and Columbian coffee not just coffee. They give a false sense of exactness and say more about the ego of the taster than the taste. One comment seen was '(taste) sturdier than Robert Mitchum's trouser press'. Others just said 'like a wet Labrador' or 'like a scented candle' (omitting which scent). The most revered classic was 'tastes like the left wing of a dead seagull on an Islay beach'. How many insults can you cram into one sentence – and how did they know that? Our system of 'like it' or 'hmmmm', or 'don't like it' ought to prevail – with smiley faces too.

Independent Bottlers – acquire stocks of distilleries' produce for their own sales and it is the same and as good. Worth looking out for some old drams etc. Examples of bottlers, not exhaustive, are Connoisseurs Choice, Signatory, Simply Whisky, Provenance, Douglas Laing, Elixir Distilleries, Blackadder, Gordon & Macphail, Carn Mohr, and House of Macduff. Makes for a good tour of the internet.

Date of Next Meeting(s) – Tuesday 5th July 2022

Then remainder of 2022 Aug 7, Sep 6, 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.

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