

# Greystoke 'Boot & Shoe' Whisky Club

Established December 2013

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## NEWSLETTER – 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021(rev)

### The Meeting

Another good turn-out for the meeting, again held in the Pub's back garden 'Tarzan' hut. A 'blind tasting' of samples took place so that no-one knew in advance which whisky was being tasted – to preclude scoring higher or lower by name - although some of the written comments showed they were on the right track. Only two people remembered to bring a blindfold so it was fortunate that the whiskies were in numbered clear bottles.

Shelagh and Phil donated a bottle of Bunnahabhain 12yrs which was used to raise a glass and toast their recent engagement. Enjoyed by all and had we scored the whisky it would have won all ends up.

Newcomer Rod travelled from West Cumbria to be with us and explained that he started life out in Greystoke, leaving the area in 1967. He had witnessed, at close quarters, our shenanigans at the August meeting and decided he wanted to join our Club – a first in his life according to his wife. He could also have set off a new trend as in attendance was his chauffeur, secretary and waitress (wife) Ruth who drove him to the meeting, marked his score-sheet and tended to his drinks. (I think I'll mention it to Janet, who will not be impressed although she often 'marks my card'.)

The Whisky Club Folder made a re-appearance after falling foul of the Covid-19 'remove all moveable clutter' rules and being locked away from the start of lockdowns.

The meeting quickly got going and usual noise levels prevailed. If we were neighbours of Heathrow runway number 1 the airport would probably ask us to turn it down a bit. Silence is unheard of, so to speak.

### Scoring of Samples (/100)

Subjected to a 'following morning' audit which revealed surprisingly accurate calculations from the evening, but a mis-read score for bottle 2 (should be 50 not 80) dropped the sample from 4<sup>th</sup> into last position.

Bottle 1	Auchentoshan (American Oak)	77/100	(1 <sup>st</sup> )
Bottle 2	Glenlivet (Caribbean Cask)	66/100	(5 <sup>th</sup> )
Bottle 3	Jura (Red Wine Cask)	69/100	(4 <sup>th</sup> )
Bottle 4	Tamnavulin (American Sauvignon Cask)	74/100	(Equal 2 <sup>nd</sup> )
Bottle 5	Same as Bottle 1	74/100	(Equal 2 <sup>nd</sup> )

### Tasting Comments

The theme for the tasting was 'added finishes', i.e. wine/rum casks, and there are two possible outcomes of the scores. i) Distillers might fare better if they do not try to apply fancy finishes to the basic product and ii) it is possibly a fallacy that the whiskies are better if sampled last. Allan, however, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> sample declared it "bloody good, alcohol taking

effect'. Corrine was on the ball and remarked, thankfully, that one was 'very alcoholic'. Marie again hinted to her obviously 'professional whisky tasting past' by saying 'it reminds me of Dalwhinnie'.

### **Sort of Technical / News**

Aberlour A'bunadh, of which some of us have been following each batch with great interest, has seen a collection of 66 bottles amassed (all batches) for sale at £15,884 – an average of £240.67 per bottle.

Smokehead are releasing 350ml cans of single malt pre-mixed with either cola or ginger & lime. The resulting 'liquid' is ABV 6%

Norfolk based English Whisky Co has released a 9 years old single cask RYE whisky at £62.50 which is thought to favourably compete with their malted barley product.

Queries i) Decorating Christmas tree, if asked ii) Social meal in March / April  
iii) Lakes distillery visit / meal iv) Speaker (from say Lakes Distillery again)

**Date of Next Meeting(s) – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

**And now for something completely different – poetry attributed to our glorious landlord**

### **OWED TO SIR BEN GALAHAD, KNIGHT OF MANY GARTERS**

**O KNIGHT DIVINE** (Sung to the tune of O Holy Night by Adolphe Adam)

1. O wondrous Knight, the Boot & Shoe is heaving  
It is the night of our landLord's free drinks. (Crowd sing Ha! Ha!)
- Long lay he in wait to hear the till resounding  
When he appears and from work never shrinks. (Crowd sing Ho! Ho!)
2. A thrill of hope the merry throng rejoices  
About to see a miracle free beer. (Crowd sing Yeh! Right!)
- Fall on your knees, oh hear the laughing voices  
O Kni-ight divine, to our landLord three cheers. (Crowd sing Praise de Lud!)
- O Kni-ight divi-ine, O Knight, O Knight divine
3. He fills the pub with love and understanding  
Suppressing anger and all words unkind (Crowd sing Ha! Ha!)
- Led by his wife, a star who gleams so brightly  
He is a wise man to fall in behind (Crowd sing Oh Yeh!)
4. He is the fount of every crumb of gossip  
And all the Village know that he's The Word (Crowd sing Not Thee Word!)
- He knows our needs, he fills our heads with nonsense  
Beho-old your King, - Elvis? Don't be absurd!
- Beho - old your Ki-ing...Behold. Behold the King! (Crowd sing Give us a drink!)

A.Nonnymouse (31.12. 2019)

### **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 good whisky go to a good whisky club.”*

*.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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