

Greystoke 'Boot & Shoe' Whisky Club

Established December 2013

NEWSLETTER – 7th december 2021

The Meeting

A small but select group of seven tasters, and Rod's chauffeur, this month enjoyed a good selection of whisky throughout the evening. The tastings were seasonally complemented by some mince pies from Rod's Ruth, and some cake from Harry's Janet.

The tasting was carried out on a 'blind' basis, so that the contents were scored rather than labels – it is likely to be used more often in future. Harry suggested that Bottle 5 was to be sampled first. He knew it was his concoction from dregs in bottles left over from previous meetings and if it had been tasted other than first it would have struggled to reach as high as fifth out of five. Nobody enjoyed it and, needless to say, it will be going no further.

Scoring of Samples (/100)

Subjected to a 'following morning' audit that revealed a small error of 'averaging' division. The top scorer was reported half a mark higher than the check, but there was no change to the placings.

Bottle 1	Ben Riach10	74/100	(3 rd)
Bottle 2	Cotswold (No age probably 6/7)	75/100	(2 nd)
Bottle 3	Deveron 10	76/100	(1 st)
Bottle 4	Glen Marnoch Speyside 12	72/100	(4 th)
Bottle 5	HU Blend of previous 'dregs'	70/100	(5 th)

Post Meeting Note – Since the 'morning after' audit another check of the scoring sheets showed that three people had scored bottle 5 considerably above bottle 1, totally against expectations. It is suspected that they marked bottle 5 (first one up) in column 1. The column marked up with the same as the bottle number should have been used. Switching the (assumed wrong) scores for bottles 1 and 5 increases bottle 1 to 79/100 and decreases bottle 5 to 64/100, obviously altering the placings. This is all conjecture and possibly the scores are correct anyway. It is likely that other scores for other bottle numbers are correct as subsequent tasting sequence was at individual discretion. Leave the result, therefore, as first listed and put it down to a learning point for future - not to confuse the issue by meddling with the sequence 1,2,3,4,5.

Tasting Comments

Rod said about bottle (1 or 5?) 'Rather bland. If it had gone up my nose I wouldn't have noticed', about another one 'I could drink a lot more', and another 'I like this. Life is wonderful with whisky'. In pantomime spirit Lyn commented 'wishy-washy'. On Donald's sheet a sixth tasting was introduced- hand sanitizer- achieving his highest mark. Allan

maintained the theme 'pleasant, need I say more?' Well no actually perhaps. Keith took the trouble to comment favourably on, and score, the mince pies and the cake.

Christmas tree Display in Church

Allan offered to liaise with Maria and Harry to collect the tree, acquire baubles / decorations, and arrange to set it up / dismantle it at the appropriate times.

Technical / News (notes you may not have heard, or that were intended but not said.)

A bottle of very rare McCallan LaLique, aged 55 years, will be auctioned at Bonhams and is estimated to fetch around £65,000 to £85,000.

D.C. Comics have commissioned a 'Batman' Single Malt.

The AnCnoc aged 12 years (2009 vintage) is new to the Knockdu distillery.

Bowmore Masters 21 in association with Aston Martin is the second malt whisky. The first was Black Bowmore DB5 in 1984.

Short Story Competition

Glencairn Glass (provider of our glasses) are hosting a short story competition with the title "A Crystal Clear Crime". Length not more than 2,000 words and deadline midnight on 31st December 2021. Death at the Distillery, an adaptation of the former "Murder at the Distillery" is under production, or at least being thought about. Details of the competition are on their website.

Date of Next Meeting(s) – Tuesday 4th January 2022

Then remainder of 2022 Feb 1, Mar 1, Apr 5, May 3, Jun 7,
Jul 5, 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."

.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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