

GREYSTOKE DRAM CLAN

(Started December 2013) Re-established & Re-named November 2023

NEWSLETTER

5th December, 2023 (Month 121)

The Meeting

The Village Panto, and some globe-trotting, is still taking its toll on attendances but ten hardy individuals turned out again. They were undaunted as usual and soon had the Swimming Pool Café room ringing with Christmas cheer.

It was the fourth heat of the “Best of the Best” and it did not disappoint although, as usual, the resultant scores were not as anticipated – once again proving in our gang that greater price does not guarantee better placing. Since the time (could be almost ten years ago) when they were first place on the night, some whiskies have moved into cult status, with appropriate pricing sometimes four times the early prices.

Over the period all whiskies have been subjected to price rises and increasing tax burdens imposed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The latest was last September, 2023.

Over the four heats of “best of the Best,” (Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec, 2023) cost has turned a £167 gradually earned surplus ‘cushion’ (August 2023) into a current £251 deficit. A similar balance result in the January Final would result in an accumulative deficit of circa £400.

In view of this it seemed prudent to curtail the “Best of the Best’ in its current format and avoid paying out another £241 for the heat winners, Aberlour 12yrs, Glenturret 12yrs, Balvenie 14yrs (Rum Cask), and the relative cheapo Talisker Skye.

There are bottle bottoms of most of the whiskies so they will form the basis of the meeting, with no scoring.

The suggested minimum donation each attendance in future is £15.

As mentioned last month we have received a request to, once again, put a tree in the Church Christmas Tree Display, erect 15th/16th December, remove by 5th January. I will be away 15/16 but if anyone is interested I have the artificial tree in my attic together with a collection of decorations (some whisky related).

November Scoring of Samples (‘Best of the Best’ Heat 3 of 4)

Contrary to usual procedure, of removing the top and bottom score for each bottle, scores were calculated on full values. Not sure if this was by design or accidental: probably the latter. At least it meant that four out of five Bernie’s scores went into the mix!

Bottle 1	Talisker Skye	85 / 100	(1 st)	To final of “Best of Best.”
Bottle 2	Glenlivet 15	78 / 100	(2 nd)	
Bottle 3	Bushmills 10	70 / 100	(5 th)	
Bottle 4	Glenfiddich 18	74 / 100	(3 rd)	

Bottle 5 Glen Marnoch Highland 73 / 100 (4th)

Tasting Comments -

According to Donald Bottle 1 was good for a smokey one; Bottle 3 was approached with little chance of tasting now; at Bottle 4 his sensory perception was compromised; bottle 5 comments about 'Finish' were "to be announced."

The Whiskies

- Talisker Skye - no age statement.
ABV 45.8%
Distillery at Carbot on Isle of Skye
- Glenlivet 15 - age 15 years (min)
ABV 40.0%
Distillery in Banffshire (Speyside)
- Bushmills 10 - age 10 years (min)
ABV 40.0%
Distillery at Bushmills in County Antrim, Ireland
- Glenfiddich 18 - age 18 years (min)
ABV 40.0%
Distillery at Dufftown, Banffshire (Highland)
- Glen Marnoch Highland - no age statement (3 years implied)
ABV 40.0%
Distilled, matured and bottled in Scotland for Aldi Stores

HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS, A HAPPY NEW YEAR



AND SEE YOU IN JANUARY 2024



Date of Next Meeting(s) – Tuesday 2nd January 2024: Then Tuesdays – 6th Feb, 5th Mar, 2nd Apr, 7th May, 4th Jun, 2nd Jul, 6th Aug, 3rd Sep, 1st Oct, 5th Nov, 3rd Dec.
Put the dates in your diary now.

Acknowledgements

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

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."

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."

Whisky is the glue that brings people together like nothing else

.Libel or Slander issues should be addressed to the editor Harry Upton who will flush them down the appropriate filing receptacle

SLAMNTE

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