

GREYSTOKE DRAM CLAN

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

NEWSLETTER

7th November, 2023 (Month 120)

The Meeting

Ten regulars made the meeting at the new venue – Swimming Pool Café - which was warm and comfortable, with four more joining later after Panto rehearsal. A new name for our meeting was agreed (letterhead above) as was the donation led arrangements – in other words status quo as a private party.

November Scoring of Samples ('Best of the Best' Heat 3 of 4)

The score calculation on the night was not quite top notch which, on audit the next morning, reversed first and second places. For those not familiar with mental arithmetic such as adding up I forgot to carry the 2 from the units column into the tens column for bottle 4 resulting in the average being +2 more. This made no difference to the selection going in to the final because, as quite rightly spotted by Stephen in his comments, Bottle 1 was a 'ringer' and had never won best position. Although it's good that a 'real' winner is going through it must be noted that Aldi's Glen Marnochs are always well received.

Bottle 1	Glen Marnoch Highland	81 / 100	(2 nd)
Bottle 2	Speyburn 10	78 / 100	(3 rd)
Bottle 3	Aberlour Casg Annammh	76 / 100	(4 th)
Bottle 4	Balvenie 14 (rum cask)	82 / 100	(1 st)
Bottle 5	Aberlour A'Bunadh	73 / 100	(5 th)

Balvenie 14yo goes forward to the final of 'Best of the Best.'

Tasting Comments -

Corrine's smiley / grumpy face scoring system, used first time ages ago, is now gathering pace. Don't forget, however, to include numbers as a system of averaging facial expressions has not yet been worked out. Surprisingly, which doesn't surprise me, Bottle 5 was most expensive and received a majority of low scores / grumpy faces. We have long since ascertained that high price isn't the main criterion. Apart from the grumpy face for Bottle 5 comments included "No !", "Would clear the mould in the bathroom", "Mingin without water", "A bit oily I'd rather have a diesel". Rod was obviously feeling very creative (correct description I think) with "Bottle 1 was almost (?) excellent", "Bottle 2 was sweeter but I am not that sweet", "Bloody hell Bottle 3 blew my hearing aids out", "Happy now but it is Bottle 4", and then the bathroom mould comment for Bottle 5.

Church Christmas Tree Display

We have again been invited to put a tree into the Church 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).

Has Corrine won 1st Prize ?
No! It's the November selection.



What a good venue for our whisky tastings
Cossies not obligatory



And Finally - A few things you didn't even know you needed to know about Whisky (With acknowledgement to the Times Magazine)

Only 8 to 10% of whisky produced is sold as single malt whisky. The rest goes into blends.

Whisky does not improve or otherwise change with age once it is bottled.

During the prohibition era, Scotch whisky remained available – but only with a doctor's prescription.

Scotch whisky must be aged for a minimum of 3 years, and have a minimum ABV of 40%

The term 'single malt' refers to a whisky from a single distillery using just water, malted (barley or grain) and yeast. Scotland's main distilling areas are Lowlands (South of Glasgow/Dundee line), Highlands (Remainder North of line) including Speyside, Campbeltown, Islay and Islands. Each area imparts a different character to the whisky.

Date of Next Meeting(s) – Tuesday 5th December 2023: Then Tuesdays – 2nd Jan 2024, 6th Feb, 5th Mar, 2nd Apr, 7th May, 4th Jun, 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

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