

2003

January

Drams of **Bushmills 10 y.o.** and **Glenfarclas 105** at Wim, Rheden

More tasting at home for a possible future Cloonaughill bottling: samples of **Cooley cask sample K92/31-3764** (nose with (smoked?) ham or bacon, dry, short finish), **Cooley cask sample K92/33-4108** (gentle, light toffee), **Cooley cask sample K92/33-4110** (light fruit and spices, very dry finish) and **Cooley cask sample K92/34-4187** (soft smoky-peaty, balanced with sweet notes; luscious!)

Drams of **Springbank 21 y.o.** and **Ardbeg 30 y.o.** at Mike Siva-Jothy, Sheffield, after Sophie Armitage's viva



Dram of **Nock-Land** (strong leather nose, palate leather with brittle sweetness) at home; sample from Dennis Klindrup

Opened a bottle of **Laotian Snake Whisky** (earthy, herbal tea; very bitter and utterly disgusting) at home; thanks to Pete, Ziki & Anne Futerman for bringing it back from Thailand!

Dram of **Lammerlaw 12 y.o. Raw Cask; Meenan** (fruit basket (raspberries, pears, pineapple?) and toffee) at home, sample from Peter Wood

Drams of **Macallan 12 y.o.**, recent bottling (nutty, heavy sherry) and **Macallan 12 y.o. 1960s/70s bottling** (biscuity, waxy, whiff of peat, hardly any sherry) at home, samples from Mark Watt and Marc Segers, respectively

Dram of **Port Ellen 1982 - 18 y.o.**, **Douglas Laing** (soft heavy peat, rubber tyres) at home, sample from Tom Little

392 whiskies, of which 296 single malts (5 new-make and 35 cask samples) plus 13 'edge of whisky' spirits and 6 whisky liqueurs

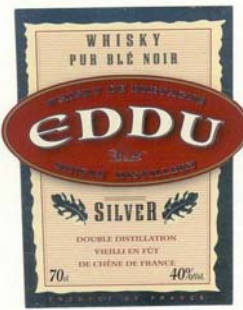
February

Dram of **Alenmorangie 10 y.o.** at home

Dram of **Longmorn 1972 – 29 y.o.**; **Blackadder** at home, sample from Rob Stevens

Tasting session with Edinburgh gang at home: drams of **Bruichladdich 10 y.o.**, from bottle brought by Tom Little, and **Mortlach 1989 – 12 y.o.**; **SMWS** (dark chocolate, cream), bottle brought by Tom Little, who left it quarter-full. Opened a bottle of **Leapfrog 1987 – 12 y.o.**; **Murray McDavid** (soft smoky-peaty; smokier and less medicinal than normal Laphroaig), pressie from Riannon for launching 'Whisky on the Edge'

Opened a bottle of **Alenroc** (orangy-sweet nose, minty-sweet palate; rye?) at home, thanks to Minus van Baalen for bringing it back from France!



Tasting session with Thomas Berendonk and Tom Little at home: dram of **Bruichladdich 10 y.o.**, from bottle brought by Tom, and opened bottles of **Ben Nevis 10 y.o.** (big, grassy-malty, rye-ish notes) and **Eddu Silver** (nose with rich 'red fruits' sweetness, creamy notes, palate drier, short finish). Both Thomas and Tom passed the initiation rites to become members of the 'Brotherhood of the Snake'



Dram of **CLOC 1964 – 5 y.o.** (dram of two halves: light peaty nose; cloying sickly-sweet palate), sample from Martin Markvardsen

398 whiskies, of which 300 single malts (5 new-make and 35 cask samples)
plus 13 'edge of whisky' spirits and 6 whisky liqueurs

March

Dram of **Kininvie 12 y.o. cask sample – refill hogshead** (malty, rich honey, sweetness whiffs of old blue cheese) at home, sample from Mark Watt

At WM Live, London, tasted **Orangerie** (strong orange nose, whisky shines through in the palate), **Springbank new-make**, **Hazelburn 5 y.o. cask sample – Jamaican rum cask** (brittle sweetness, dried fruits), **Hazelburn 5 y.o. cask sample – oloroso cask** (sherry drowns out everything), **Springbank 12 y.o. cask sample – bourbon cask** (butter! sharp kick in finish), **Springbank 12 y.o. cask sample – port finished** (lots of fruit (strawberry?) and vanilla), **Longrow 10 y.o. cask sample – refill sherry cask** (leathery, developing peatiness), **Longrow 12 y.o. cask sample – bourbon cask** (buttery, stronger peat than sherry cask sample), **Sendai 12 y.o.** (very dry, restrained spiciness), **Bowmore Dawn** (odd soapiness, FWP?), **Yoichi 15 y.o.** (much less peaty than the 12 y.o.), **Bowmore Dusk** (same soapiness), **Nikka 'From the Barrel'** (quite full, fruity and dry), **Bowmore Darkest**, **Dallas Dhu 1979 – 23 y.o.**, **Murray McDavid** (very fruity), **Highland Park 25 y.o.** (intense!), **Octomore new-make** (very clear peat), **Ardbeg 21 y.o. Committee Reserve** and **Macallan 1968 – 33 y.o.** (thick sherry and sulphur)

'Session after the session before the session' at home with Stefan Bügler; drams of **Kinclaith 1966 – 28 y.o.**, **Gordon & MacPhail** (cocos, fruit), **Laphroaig 1967 – 26 y.o.**, **Signatory** (soft smoke, fruit basket), **Ardbeg 1998 – 4 y.o. cask sample** (bananas, soft smoke, stunningly good for such a young whisky), **Ardbeg 1990 – 12 y.o. cask sample** (bananas, fruit, rancid butter), **Ardbeg 1974 – 26 y.o.**, **Douglas Laing** and **Ardbeg 1974 cask sample** (complex and perfect balance)

Dram of **Caol Ila 1966 – 30 y.o.**, **Gordon & MacPhail** (sherry, touch of peat, hints of lighter spices, dry finish) in the train from Ascot to London

Back at WM Live, tasted **Glen Elgin 12 y.o.**, **Glen Ord 12 y.o.**, **Lagavulin 25 y.o. Cask Strength**, **Dalmore new-make**, **Dalmore 12 y.o.**, **Dalmore Cigar Malt**, **Dalmore 50 y.o.** (thick marmelade, incredibly complex, no trace of wood and long, long, long finish; wow!), **Jura 16 y.o.**,

Hedonism 4th release (= Cambus 11 y.o.) (drier than vatted Hedonism), Edradour 4 m.o. cask sample – tokaj cask (touch if unusual sweetness?), Ardbeg 1972; Douglas Laing, Edradour 10 y.o. Unchillfiltered, Dalwhinnie 1966 – 36 y.o. Cask Strength (less grassy than standard 14 y.o.), Glenlivet new-make (very fruity), Glenlivet 12 y.o., Glenlivet 1984 – 18 y.o., Glenlivet 1971 – 30 y.o. American oak finish (clear vanilla underlayer), Glenlivet 1967 – 33 y.o. Cellar Collection, Glenlivet 1959 – 43 y.o. Cellar Collection (fresh fruits, slight soft wood), Oban 1969 – 32 y.o. Cask Strength, Edradour 13 y.o. Cask Strength and Springbank 1969; Signatory

Dram of **Gwenroc** (same as **Glenroc**) at home, sample from Serge Valentin

Dram of **Whisky de Bretagne** (similar to **Glenroc/Gwenroc**, but lighter and drier with some vanilla notes) at home, sample from Serge Valentin



Drams of "**Vallée de Turckheim**" new-make (light, gentle, notes of honey) and "**Vallée de Turckheim**" 1 y.o. cask sample (overwhelming cask influence: thick cloying raisins, tannins, slightly sour) at home, samples from Serge Valentin

First pay cheque for my whisky-writing!



Dram of **Speyburn 13 y.o. Armagnac Finish; Celtique Connexion** (pine apple, mango, vanilla, 'fizzy' mouthfeel; good balance between bourbon and armagnac influence), sample from Jean Donnay

Dram of **Speyburn 12 y.o. Jura Finish; Celtique Connexion** (rich fruitiness, (hazel?) nuts, luscious mouthfeel, sweet) at home, sample from Jean Donnay

Last dram from the sample bottle of **Cooley cask sample K92/35-4292** (lasted 6 months)

Last dram from the bottle of **Mortlach 1989 – 12 y.o., SMWS** (lasted 1 month)

445 whiskies, of which 345 single malts (10 new-make and 47 cask samples) plus 14 'edge of whisky' spirits and 6 whisky liqueurs

April

Dram of **Speyburn 12 y.o. Banyul Finish, Celtique Connexion** (heavy winey, vanilla notes, velvety mouthfeel; wine influence too overpowering) at home, sample from Jean Donnay

Dram of **Speyburn 13 y.o. Sauternes Finish, Celtique Connexion** (light fruity, vanilla, sweetish; all very subtle) at home, sample from Jean Donnay



Last dram from the sample bottle of **Cooley cask sample K92/34-4135** (lasted 7 months)

Opened a bottle of **Orangerie** at home, birthday pressie from Irma

Opened a bottle of **Quillon** (tannic nose, wet dead leaves, tea (Lapsang Suchong)); palate with fudge-like sweetness; short finish) at home

Opened a bottle of **Armorik** (light; savoury (stock) nose, some fruitiness, short woody-dry finish) at home

Dram of **Whisky Breton** (soft and very light, hints of vanilla) at home, sample from Rob Stevens

Dram of **Reflets de France** (maybe a tad more taste than WB?) at home, sample from Serge Valentin

Dram of **Glenmorangie 10 y.o.** at James & Sally, North Ascot

Last dram from the bottle of **Arran** (lasted 3 years and 4 months)

Last dram from the bottle of **Irish Mist** (lasted 5 years and 4 months)

451 whiskies, of which 349 single malts (10 new-make and 47 cask samples)
plus 14 'edge of whisky' spirits and 6 whisky liqueurs

May

Opened a bottle of **Isle of Jura Superstition** (peated whisky used gives more body, character and bite than the 10 y.o.; quite dry finish) at home

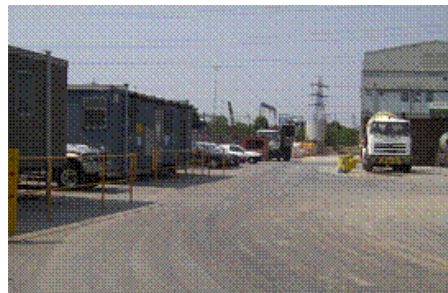
Dram of **Isle of Jura 10 y.o.** (clearly lighter than Supersition, hazelnut-dry finish) at home

Dram of **Isle of Jura 8 y.o.** (phosphorous nose (makes 10 y.o. have a fresh-fruity nose), similar body and finish) at home

Dram of **Whisky Breton** at home, sample from Rob Stevens

Last dram from the bottle of **Macallan Thirties** (lasted 7 months)

Visit to the site of the Lea Valley distillery. Depressing place now with a Tarmac concrete plant and car-breakers, no clear sign of the distillery



Dram of **Isle of Jura 1988 – 13 y.o.; Blackadder Raw Cask** (nose with chocolate and vanilla, light, oily, dry-ish finish) at home, sample from Rob Stevens



Last dram from the sample bottle of **Blaue Maus 1986 - 15 y.o.** (lasted 11 months)

Last dram from the bottle of **Springbank 10 y.o. 'Against the Grain', Oddbins** (lasted 1 year and 6 months)

Dram of **Charbay** (raisins, chocolate, vanilla, biscuits, macaroons, blackcurrants, bourbon; velvety mouthfeel; dry finish) at home, sample from Lara Karakasevic

Last dram from the sample bottle of **Cooley cask sample K92/31-3765** (lasted 8 months)

Last dram from the bottle of **Loch Dhu** (lasted 5 years and 8 months)

455 whiskies, of which 353 single malts (10 new-make and 47 cask samples) plus 14 'edge of whisky' spirits and 6 whisky liqueurs

June

Opened a half-bottle of **Powers** at home, pressie from Meirion from Dublin

Drams of **Tamdhu** (light, sweetish, fruit, hint of cream, short dry-ish finish) and **Tamdhu 30 y.o., Montgomerie's** (touch of vanilla, touch of wood, dry finish) at home, the last sample from Heiko Grusdat

Dram of **Peated Clonmel** (merged fruit and peat in the nose; palate is drier, less fruity, more spicy) at home, sample from Jean Donnay

Dram of **Mortlach 1989 - 13 y.o., Signatory** (sherried, very nutty, dry finish) at home, from bottle brought by Craig Daniels

Dram of **Cooley 10 y.o., Cadenhead** (nose with peat, fruit (fructose), spices, vanilla; palate less fruity and very dry finish) at home, sample from Jay Stotzky

Dram of **Bowmore Surf** (some peat and sweetness, young-ish, but definitely better than Legend (no metallic notes)) at James & Sally, North Ascot

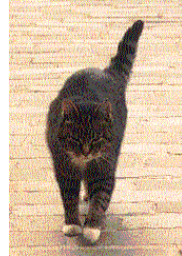


The Salty t-shirt has arrived!

461 whiskies, of which 359 single malts (10 new-make and 47 cask samples) plus 14 'edge of whisky' spirits and 6 whisky liqueurs

July

Holiday to Orkney, Shetland and Jslay! First to Orkney and opened a bottle of **Old Man of Hoy 12 y.o. Cask Strengthy Blackadder** (intense, light peat, clear sherry, dry-ish) at a beach near Kirkwall. Opportunity to have a dram of Old Man of Hoy in view of the Old Man of Hoy



Tour of Highland Park distillery, with a dram of **Highland Park 12 y.o.** Glad to meet the 3 Distillery Mousers: Barley, Malt and Phenols! Visit of Scapa distillery, no one home



Dram of **Old Orkney** (nose with blue cheese, light palate, harsh finish) at the Bothy Bar, Kirkwall

Drams of **Pride of Orkney** (bit of a bite, medium body, what you expect from a vatting of HP and Scapa), **Scapa 1989; Gordon & MacPhail** (rancid buttery nose, very dry finish) and **Scapa 1990; Gordon & MacPhail** (more estery nose, lighter and less dry than the 1989) at Lerona B&B, Kirkwall

In Stromness a visit to the site of the closed Stromness distillery and to an unexpected exhibit of memorabilia of the distillery in the Stromness museum



Dram of **18 Carat** (very 'vegetable' nose, palate is sweeter and very warming) at the Orkney Wine Company. In addition, Emile let us taste all of his wines!



On to Shetland. No distillery there yet, but a visit to Catfirth, the site of the future Shetland distillery. Just missed meeting Caroline

And then finally to Jslay. Staying at Rhona & Hamish's B&B. Hamish



used to be the distiller at Ardbeg and he drove us around the site of the Port Ellen Maltings. The Port Ellen distillery is sadly falling to ruins



Visit to the site of the future Kilchoman distillery; tour of the farm buildings by Anthony Wills



Tour of Bruichladdich distillery; drams of Bruichladdich 10 y.o., Port Charlotte new-make, **Port Charlotte 0 y.o. cask sample**, **Bruichladdich 1984 Valinch 'Harvey Bottling Hall'**, **Bruichladdich 1988 Valinch 'Babe'** and **Bruichladdich 1990 Valinch '988'**



Tour of Ardbeg distillery; drams of **Ardbeg 10 y.o.** and **Ardbeg 21 y.o. Committee Reserve** (more body, depth and complexity than the 10 y.o.). Had the famous 'cloutie dumplings' at the restaurant!



Opened a bottle of **18 Carat** at home

Last dram from the bottle of **Leapfrog 1987 – 12 y.o.; Murray McDavid** (lasted 5 months)

470 whiskies, of which 366 single malts (10 new-make and 48 cask samples) plus 14 'edge of whisky' spirits, 6 whisky liqueurs and 1 whisky-fortified wine

August

Dram of **Dettinger Whisky** (light leather and crispy sweetness) at home, sample from Heiko Grusdat

Dram of **Auchentoshan Three Wood** (nice interplay between bourbon, sherry and PX casks, but no distillery character) at home, sample from Johanna Ngoh

Dram of **Nikka Pure Malt 'White'** (peat and heavy sweetness, soft and warming, drier finish) at home, sample from Serge Valentin

Opened a bottle of **Drumguish** (old rubber, young, dry) plus drams of **Speyside 8 y.o.** (beech nuts! sweeter than Drumguish) and **Speyside 10 y.o.** (slight touch of rubber, more similar to Drumguish than the 8 y.o.) at home

Drams of **Tomatin 10 y.o.** (fruity, light creamy-sweet, dry-bitter finish) and **Tomatin 13 y.o.; SMWS cask 11.26** (medium peat, light citrusy notes, dry-ish finish) at home, the last sample from Tom Little

478 whiskies, of which 372 single malts (10 new-make and 48 cask samples) plus 14 'edge of whisky' spirits, 6 whisky liqueurs and 1 whisky-fortified wine

September

Last drams from the sample bottles of **Cooley cask sample K92/35-4291**, **Cooley cask sample K92/32-3952** and **Cooley cask sample K92/32-3954** (all lasted 1 year)

Opened a bottle of **Glenn Deveron 1989 – 10 y.o.** (light sherry) at home, pressie from Jacques van Alphen

Last dram from the bottle of **Caol Ila 17 y.o. Sauternes Finish; Celtique Connexion** (lasted 1 year and 2 months)

Dram of **Glenn Garioch 12 y.o.; Cadenhead** (buttery-sweet ('boterwafels') nose; drier palate and finish) at home, sample was part of Cadenhead's 2003 Nosing Challenge

480 whiskies, of which 374 single malts (10 new-make and 48 cask samples) plus 14 'edge of whisky' spirits, 6 whisky liqueurs and 1 whisky-fortified wine

October

Dram of **Sikkim Old Gold** (strange sweetish, chocolate, like diluted Tia Maria) at home, sample from Serge Valentin

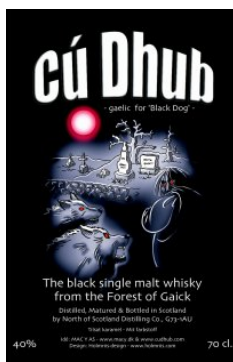
Dram of **Wainscot** (yuck) at home, sample from Stinus Lindgreen

Opened a bottle of **The Bleach** (good amount of peat, but young and rough around the edges; could indeed be a young Lagavulin) at home

Last dram from the sample bottle of **Cooley cask sample K92/30-3709** (lasted 1 year and 1 month)

483 whiskies, of which 375 single malts (10 new-make and 48 cask samples) plus 14 'edge of whisky' spirits, 6 whisky liqueurs and 1 whisky-fortified wine

November



Last dram from the sample bottle of **Cooley cask sample K92/35-4259** (lasted 1 year and 2 months)

Opened a bottle of **Cú Dhub** (caramel-vanilla nose; palate with spicy notes, coffee?; dry-ish short finish; *much* more drinkable than **Loch Dhu**) at home; bottle courtesy of **MacV**

Blind-tasting session at home to compare Lomond still whiskies with 'normal' pot still whiskies from the same distilleries: opened a sample bottle of **Glencraig 1981 – 21 y.o.**; **Cadenhead** (very light sherry, smoke?, mouth-coating), sample bottle from David Stirk, and drams of **Glencraig 1970**; **Gordon & MacPhail** (light sherry, brittle fruit, sweetness, vanilla, quite light), **Alenburgie 8 y.o.** (light, fruity, clean, biscuits), **Miltonduff 10 y.o.** (very light and clean, "taai-taai"), **Miltonduff 1978 – 21 y.o.**; **Signatory** (sherry, fat, chewy) and **Mosstowie 1979**; **Gordon & MacPhail** (fruity, leather)

At the Malt Whisky Festival, The Hague, tasted **Glen Grant 1972 Raw Cask**; **Blackadder** (fruit basket), **Glennfiddich Caoran** (apples, dry finish, where is the peat??), **Juveniles**; **Compass Box** (fruit bowl, "zuurtjes", lime), **Arran Non-chillfiltered**, **Arran 1997 Calvados Finish Cask Strength** (mint, white chocolate), **Arran 1997 Cognac Finish Cask Strength** (dry, hazelnuts), **6 Jsles** (good whiff of peat), **Monster**; **Compass Box** (wow! peat!! sweetness coming through blast), **Bowmore 30 y.o.** **Sea Dragon** (little bits of fruity explosions), **Ardbeg Uigeadail** (restrained peat, quite dry), **Clynelish 13 y.o.** **South African sherry**; **Chieftain's Choice** (no sherry! fruit and then Clynelish bursting through), **Sweet Speyside 1989 – 13 y.o.** 'The Hague Festival 2003'; **Blackadder** (peppery, whiff of smoke), **Smoking Jslay**; **Blackadder** (bananas, medium peat), **Orangerie**, **Longmorn 1968 – 35 y.o.**; **Old Train Line** (rich fruitiness), **Indian Corn 15 y.o.**; **Cadenhead** (perfumy, brittle sweetness), **Springbank 1993 – 10 y.o.** **Raw Cask**; **Blackadder** (fresh and 'salty'), **Strathisla 1963 – 40 y.o.**; **Old Train Line** (sherry, but not overpowering), **Highland Park 1973 – 30 y.o.**; **Old Train Line** (fruit and sweets), **Alenury-Royal 50 y.o.** (old

cognac, touch of wood), **Cragganmore 14 y.o.**, **Cadenhead** (fruitier than standard 12 y.o. bottling), **Blairfindy 1963 – 40 y.o.**, **Blackadder** (heavy sherry with lots of dark fruit), **Glenlossie 26 y.o.**, **Castle Collection** (fruits, whiff of smoke), **Tidal Ebb**, **Lombard** (buttery nose, medium peat), **Springbank 12 y.o. '175th Anniversary'** (fresh 'salty'), **Auchroisk 28 y.o.**, **Bowmore 25 y.o. Moonlight** (drier and less body than the Sea Dragon), **Brora 30 y.o.** (fruit fudge, "schuimpjes" and peat), **Classic of Jslay** (sweet-smoky nose, peat burst on the palate), **Clynelish 14 y.o.**, **Cadenhead** and **Bowmore 1990 – 13 y.o.**, **Helen Arthur**



Dram of **Glenkinchie 10 y.o.** at the Royal Berkshire Hotel before "Advances in Ecology" Dinner

519 whiskies, of which 405 single malts (10 new-make and 48 cask samples) plus 14 'edge of whisky' spirits, 6 whisky liqueurs and 1 whisky-fortified wine

December

Opened a bottle of **Port Ellen 1982 – 13 y.o.**, **Hart Brothers** (medium peat, 'salty') at home

Dram of **Bowmore Surf** at James & Sally, North Ascot

Opened a bottle of **Speyside 1981 – 21 y.o. Port-matured; Waitrose** (strong port, oranges, cocos, whiff of smoke, beautiful balance between whisky and port) at Wouter & Fabienne, Nijmegen

Drams of **Alen Grant 10 y.o.** (more body than n.a.s. GG; quite fruity), **Glenfiddich 15 y.o. Solera Reserve** and **Speyside 1981 – 21 y.o. Port-matured; Waitrose** from own bottle at Wim, Rheden

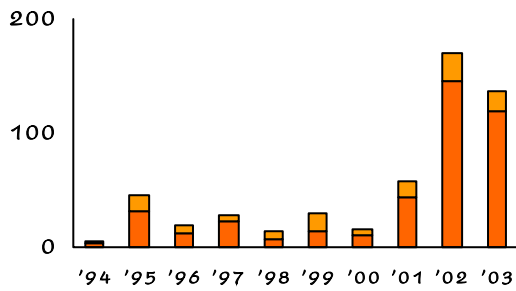
Dram of **Speyside 1981 – 21 y.o. Port-matured; Waitrose** from own bottle at Rob & Tineke, Barneveld



Drams of **Rosebank 1991 – 11 y.o., Signatory** (light but firm, fruity), **Scapa 12 y.o.** and **Speyside 1981 – 21 y.o. Port-matured**; Waitrose from own bottle at Marianne & Kees, Oegstgeest

523 whiskies, of which 409 single malts (10 new-make and 48 cask samples) plus 14 'edge of whisky' spirits, 6 whisky liqueurs and 1 whisky-fortified wine

Whisky Life List
yearly additions



Whisky Life List
cumulative

