

FEINTS & FORESHOTS

Daniels Accepts Mandate!

New MWSOA Committee structure finally revealed

ADELAIDE -- *The following is the text of the acceptance speech made by MWSOA Chair Craig Daniels outside Adnunda Place, Beaumont.*

I have just accepted the Malt Whisky Society of Australia's kind offer to form a new administration and committee for the country.

Tim Tibbett's dignity and courage over the last few days and the manner of his leaving, is the mark of the man. I am pleased to pay tribute to him.

As I stand here before Adnunda St I know all too well the huge responsibility that is upon me and the great trust that the Australian malt drinkers have placed in me.

I know well what this country has voted for today. It is a mandate for the MWSOA and I say to the people of this country -- we ran for office as the New MWSOA, we will govern as the New MWSOA.

This is not a mandate for dogma or for doctrine, or for a return to the past, but it was a mandate to get those things done in our country that desperately need doing for the future.

And this new MWSOA committee will govern in the interests of all our people -- the whole of this nation. That I can promise you. When I became leader of the MWSOA some three years ago I set a series of objectives. By and large I believe we have achieved them. Today we have set objectives for the new MWSOA committee - a world class Malt Whisky Convention. A Convention is not the privilege of the few but the right of the many.

A new MWSOA Committee that remembers that it was a previous MWSOA Committee that formed and fashioned the First Malt Whisky

Convention. It was our proudest creation. It shall be our job and our duty now to modernize it for a modern world, and that we will also do.

We will work in partnership with business to create the dynamic malt community, the competitive malt community of the future. The one that can meet the challenges of an entirely new century and new age.

And it will be a government that seeks to restore trust in malt whisky in this country. That cleans it up, that decentralizes it, that gives people hope once again

that the single malt is and always should be about the service of the public. And it shall be a Committee, too,

that gives the spirit community strength and confidence in leadership both at home and abroad, particularly in respect of Europe.

It shall be a committee rooted in strong values, the values of justice and progress and community, the values that have guided me all my whisky life. But a committee ready with the courage to embrace the new ideas necessary to make those values live again for today's world -- a committee of practical measures in pursuit of noble causes. That is our objective for the whisky drinkers of Australia.

Above all, we have secured a mandate to bring this whisky nation together, to unite us -- one malt drinker, one nation in which our ambition for ourselves is matched by our sense of compassion and decency and duty towards other people. Simple values, but the right ones.



Chairman Daniels (centre) with new Secretary William Harris (l) and Treasurer Matthew Rosenberg (r)

*Today, enough of
talking --
it is time now to do.*

Today we are charged with the deep responsibility of government. Today, enough of talking -- it is time now to do.

Inside...

**The makeup of the
new MWSOA
Committee**

**Seasonal greetings
to all our readers**

**Bulgaria strikes
back!**

**Mr Macallan finally
has a son!**



MALT WHISKY SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA
INCORPORATED

**Australia's 3rd Malt Whisky Convention
Where will it be? 2007**

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Musings from the Chair



What's in a Word?
Or why did the appearance of Pure on a label cause such a stink?

Some lateral-thinking mavericks in Diageo recently stirred the Scotch Whisky Association into action. The "Cardhu Pure Malt" controversy brought the category into sharp focus, but just why did the corporate machinations of Diageo kick up such a stink and get the malt connoisseur community (unkindly put down as anoraks) seriously agitated?

It wasn't a launch of an especially old and hideously expensive malt or yet another foray into wood finishes (yawn) or another consolidation of capital (via some take-over the value of a small planet) within the industry.

Au contraire, this was at its deepest core of meaning about nomenclature, specifically what you could do with the words "Single" and the word "Pure" on bottle labels within the malt whisky category.

The window of opportunity for a little bit of fancy footwork was afforded

Diageo because the word "Pure" had been applied historically to both single malts (Glen Grant and Glenfiddich to name but two prominent examples) and vatted or

'blended malt' product such as in Hankey Bannister, Ballantines and Clan Campbell Pure Malts.

What the Cardhu experiment was all about was manoeuvring a name on a label of an existing distillery (and by understood convention, guarantee of origin) into a mass brand, which was what got everyone including the SWA upset.

What they were trying to do was about 'blending' or vatting (as I prefer) 100% malt whisky made from malted barley but coming from different sources and then placing it into the market bearing the name of an operational distillery, although Diageo did provide a little bit of tissue paper to cover the emperor's modesty by renaming the distillery as Cardow.

The underlying issue was about 'branding': about turning a previously understood guarantee of origin (distillery name) into a mass brand, basically by changing the word "Single" to "Pure" on the Cardhu label reflecting a decision to reposition Cardhu from a single malt to a vatted malt. There were all sorts of nasty accusations of "bait & switch" practices and a general brouhaha that Diageo couldn't close down, despite their best efforts.

The Cardhu manoeuvre was always likely to stir passions and you can understand why William Grant & Sons got so upset. They've spent the best part of 40 years trying to protect the cachet of single malts and to make sure that anything with Glenfiddich on the label was 100% Glenfiddich, including their decision to denature any Glenfiddich sold by the addition of a homeopathic amount of Balvenie so that the purchaser couldn't on-sell it as Glenfiddich.

No wonder they didn't take kindly to the idea that someone could muddy the waters by attaching a distillery name to a vatted or blended malt product.

This bun fight has left a big mark on the industry including a very clumsy and confusing language construction to re-define the various categories within the Scotch Whisky Industry. But probably the most significant ruling that came out of the whole sorry episode was the following: "a distillery name should not be used on any Scotch whisky which has not been wholly distilled in the named distillery."

The furore was never really about the fate of a mediocre Speyside, even if they were selling buckets of it in Spain? No; it was about a breach of tradition and the establishment of a precedent; this latter is critical; if they could do it to Cardhu, they could do it to distilleries that the malt whisky connoisseur actually cared about.

And it wasn't only about Diageo, although they copped all the flack- it was about stopping anyone trying the same strategy with any single malt distillery. Mind you the denouement and the rephrasing of industry definitions which has resulted in the confusingly clumsy 'blended malts' might not have the marketing benefit that the SWA figured.



However the ruling quoted above means that there is still the odd rock that the SWA hasn't turned over.

One that might exercise them at some time in the future is what are they going to do about Dewar Rattray's little bit of necromancy with the launch of Stronachie - it's a single and Stronachie is the name of a distillery, but a distillery that died and disappeared in the 1920's, so again the name on the label isn't a guarantee of origin. What's next, someone relaunching Grand Tully or even Ferintosh? Whoops - I think someone's already rattled the bones of poor Ferintosh!

This article first appeared in the earls of Zetland Newsletter in 2005—ed

Feints & Foreshots...The vaguely official organ of the Malt Whisky Society of Australia, the editor is The Big G, contact: graham@theoddwhiskycocoy.com.au, and all errors & omissions are expected. Apologies to all authors of the news articles...but we do love your work!

The New MWSOA Committee

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Back L to R: Craig Daniels, Franz Scheurer, Martin Brackman Shaw
Middle L to R: William Harris, Matthew Rosenberg
Front L to R: Paul Rasmussen, Graham Wright, Amanda Parker

Equal representation across all factions *Portfolios yet be allocated*

The new look MWSOA Committee has been finally announced with equal representation for both the Tie and Non-Tie factions of the MWSOA. But in a surprise vote, the Tie faction was able take control of the Executive, leaving the Non-Tie faction with four minor portfolio. The make up of the Executive Committee is...

Chair: Mr Craig Daniels (Tie)
Secretary: Mr William Harris (T)
Treasurer: Mr Matt Rosenberg (T)

The rest of the Committee is made up of...

Miss Amanda Parker (Non Tie)
Mr Franz Schueur (NT)
Mr Martin Brackman Shaw (NT)
Mr Graham Wright (T)

Also in a departure with tradition, the MWSOA elected NSW Non Tie candidate Mr Franz Scheurer to committee. Portfolio's at time of press had yet to allocated.

The new faces of the MWSOA

Martin Brackman-Shaw

Having already served one term on the MWSOA Committee and then dumped after the 2003 Convention for an unspecified misdemeanour involving a gentleman by the name of George T Stagg. Brackman-Shaw's election will herald the return of some lively debate and fiery oratory at committee meetings in 2006.



Brackman Shaw, a renowned motivational speaker and oyster shucker, will also bring a much needed sense of urgency to proceedings.

His background is in front line management training and is a creative free-thinker.



Franz Scheurer

One of the few remaining true bon-vivants left in Australia. Noted food and beverage columnist for Australian Gourmet Pages and noted apologist and propagandist for the Ardbeg distillery, Franz brings a degree of culinary charm and old world sarcasm little witnessed in the short but glorious history of the MWSOA. Being based in Sydney, Franz will also add a much needed breathe of fresh Sydney air to the MWSOA's bunker in SA.



William Harris

Mr Harris is a qualified accountant with a Bachelor of Commerce (major in Finance, minor in Law) and an MBA from the University of Adelaide. His focus over the next 2 years will be on Governance, which includes further developing the Constitution and procedures, clarifying and documenting the roles and responsibilities of Committee Members, increasing accountability to the membership, and developing a formal business plan. *Now we are getting really serious! ed*



Amanda Parker

At long last, we finally have picture proof that Miss Parker actually exists

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Ask The Good Doctor?



And your next assignment Dr P comes from MWSOA member Glenn, *What's all the fuss about chill filtering?*

What is Chill Filtering?

It's a crime, that's what it is!!!

Basically, the spirit is chilled to 4 °C and passed through a filter before bottling.

But why I hear you ask?

Well, why indeed!

The reality is that the process is carried out solely for the appearance of the bottled product and this in turn is all borne out of the Industries perception of how whisky (malts or blends) should appear on the shelf to its customers. Under some circumstances (usually cold temperatures), some molecules come out of solution and form a haze or sediment in the bottle and this puts customers off the product (it doesn't seem to put them off Cooper's Pale Ale

though, does it, so it beats me!). The chill filtering is merely a pre-emptive strike to form the haze and remove it before it can occur in the bottle.

What's really happening?

Don't panic, I'll try to explain!

To get a bit more technical, the whisky spirit is a mixture, mainly water and ethanol with a few traces of more complex organic molecules or congeners (aldehydes, fatty acids, esters and higher alcohols) that give the drinker the whole taste experience, from the nose, mouth feel, flavour etc. The spirit that comes through the distillation process is recovered at a high ethanol concentration (around 70-80 % alcohol by volume) and stored in oak for maturation. The congeners are readily soluble at this concentration of



ethanol but many are much less soluble in water. Most whisky is bottled well below the alcohol concentration in the cask, so the less water-soluble products precipitate out forming a hazy deposit. You can also see this phenomenon occur if (Heaven forbid!) you add a drop of water to a full-blooded cask strength single malt – it can take on a cloudy appearance!

In detailed physical and chemical terms, ethanol reacts with fatty acids (principally lauric, palmitic and palmitoleic acid) during maturation forming ethyl esters that are insoluble in water but soluble enough to stay in solution at 46 % alcohol. Bottling at lower alcohol (40 %) and the esters are (depending on their concentration and chain length) just on the point of coming out of solution. Apply more pressure by chilling and the energy required to keep their molecular lattice structure apart is removed, the attraction forces between the solute particles and the solvent molecules are no longer greater than the forces which tend to bind the solute molecules together in a lattice and the molecule comes out of solution. These energetic processes are finely balanced and described in terms of enthalpy and entropy, which are beyond the scope of this column!

So what's all the fuss about? *It's enough to make a camel spit!*

In summary, chill filtering removes some of the wonderful congeners that should be present in your dram. As the Scotch is chilled,

those components responsible for many of the predominant aromas (esters) and for the mouth feel (fatty acids) precipitate out of the spirit and are removed in the filter – lost forever!

Why do we non-chill filter wines, spirits and beers? *Same meat, different gravy!*

Non-chill filtering is used to remove undesirable hazes and deposits and generally “polish” the product. The usual cause of this in beers and wine is protein or pectic haze. This can be quite granular and is easily removed with a filter. I believe this is gentler and less deleterious to the product than chill filtering as it does not force dissolved solutes out of solution, but it is still predominantly used for ascetic appeal.

Members Have Their Say!

Hi Graham,

How is Scapa availability going? Oh, by the way. The whiskies I brought back from the convention consisted of 2 x the convention special releases (won't be opening either of them till a special occasion), a Flenfarclas CS 105. It went pretty quick.

I also got a 25 year old Glenfarclas which I took to my next meeting. One of my mates was giving me a hand to carry things from the car when he dropped and smashed it. Just an accident. He nearly shit himself when he saw how much it cost. I told him not to worry about it but we haven't seen him back at the club since.

I think he has a fit of the guilts.

Bryan Silvester
Bugga...ed

Hi Graham,

I discovered by chance your second number of your very interesting newsletter "Feints & Foreshots" and your kind words about my website "www.whisky-distilleries.info".

I'd like to thank you for this article, even if there is a very little mistake: i'm not a Frenchman, but a Belgian. I imagine that on the Australian scale, this does not make any difference...It is written somewhere on one of the 600 pages of the site... And you were right, my mother tongue is French, and the site is visited by a majority of French people.

I understand you are a whisky club... I'm just alone, working on my site after my normal working hours... It is sometimes rather hard, but the results are very gratifying, as I see the number of visitors (with a significant increase in the last weeks), and the success of the forum (just in French), with about 1000 messages a month.

Further I decided also to make a newsletter in 2 languages and there are about 300 abonnees. This begins to be quite heavy, but I do not want to stop any of the activities;...

I also would like to keep in touch with you, and may be we could imagine a kind of cooperation. I have no special idea at the moment, but we could share articles for our newsletter, exchange local information, etc...

There are lots of things we could imagine to do...

Slanthe Mhath,
Jean-Marie Putz
www.whisky-distilleries.info

The Back Page

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Dear Sir,
My name is Plamen Petroff - The Whiskyman. I am from Sofia, Bulgaria, Europe. I am in love with whisky and whiskey from 1994. I have visited 86 ditilleries in Scotland, all distilleries in USA - Kentucky and Tennessee and two in Canada. I decided to write a book about whiskies in the world. I will be very grateful if you can help me with more interesting and detailed info about malt whisky distilleries in Australia. How many are there now? How many was? How many whisky labels are now existing? If it is possible can you send me pictures of the distilleries and the bottles in digital quality for my book? If yes, please use my other e-mail:

plamenpetroff@mail.bg

And finally if you can help me to add to my collection some of the Australian whiskies, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!!

Thanks again!

Regards

Plamen The Whiskyman

Swedes name daughter after whisky brand

Stockholm, Sweden

A Swedish couple have won the right after a court battle to name their daughter Edradour, after a Scottish whisky brand, media reported on Friday.

Initially the tax office, which in Sweden registers the names for newborns, refused the name, saying it was too closely linked to an alcoholic drink.

But the girl's parents, Magnus and Maria Ekloef, persisted, taking the case to court in their home town of Soederhamn, on the east coast of Sweden.

The Ekloefs argued that Edradour is also a beautiful town in Scotland, and said they had been charmed by the place as well as the local tiple.

"I'm interested in whisky, but this is more about the place," Magnus Ekloef told the Haelsing-Kurir daily.

The Edradour distillery claims to be the smallest in Scotland, producing a Highland single malt whisky with the efforts of just three men. -- AFP

Beer waste flavours Japanese whisky

WASTE yeast from Adelaide's Coopers Brewery is to help flavour a popular Japanese whisky.

Coopers managing director Tim Cooper said the waste yeast would be shipped to giant Japanese distiller Suntory to help improve the flavour and complexity of its whisky.

Suntory previously used ale yeast from a UK brewer, however falling demands for ales in the UK mean that yeast is no longer available.

A trial shipment of two tonnes of yeast is now bound for Japan and, if successful, a further 20 tonnes will be shipped next month.

"Coopers produces around 600 tonnes of live waste yeast a year and we are confident Suntory will eventually take it all," Dr Cooper said.

He said the yeast would provide "fruity flavours" to the whisky. *Courtesy of the Courier Mail*



**Goo, goo...
gaa, gaaa...
Now who's going to
burp this little babe?**

MWSOA meets to elect new committee and test theory that distilled Coopers Pale Ale is better than Japanese beer!



Correction:

The new James Bond 007 is Mr Daniel Craig, not Craig Daniels as reported in F&F. F&F apologises to Mr Daniel and MGM/UA for

any confusion caused by our sub-editor's error.

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A gaggle of Ardbegs

By Franz Scheurer

There are currently quite a few 10-year-old expressions of Ardbeg available on the Australian market and I have singled out the best three in a direct comparison:

Ardbeg 10 y/o, 46% a/v

This is the standard, easily available expression, solid as a rock. It never fails to allure!

Tasting Notes:

Colour: signature Ardbeg pale straw, almost translucent.

Nose: iodine, smoke, seaweed.

Palate: It attacks your palate with a rush of iodine and seaweed reminiscent of fresh sea urchins. Although smoke and peat are there they don't overpower strong undertones of malt, heather and sweet almonds and hints of French nougat.

Finish: Quite hot with a long, dry, complex and slightly acidic finish.
Score: 8.1

Comment: A terrific Islay, a serious single malt and fabulous value for money.

Douglas Laing, Old Malt Cast, Ardbeg, Distilled in 1993, bottled 2003, 50% a/v

A very successful independent bottler with many years of experience, specialising in cask strength whiskies.

Tasting Notes:

Colour: quite dark for an Ardbeg, akin to an oxidised Chardonnay.

Nose: biscuity, malty, maritime and Angostura bitters.

Palate: Quite sweet at first with definite Sherry notes and mouth-fillingly oily. As the sweetness dries floral and cereal notes assert themselves and eventually gain the upper hand.

Finish: long, dry and satisfying.

Score: 8.0

Comment: this is an interesting Islay; it's sweet and pleasing without ever being in 'lolly land'.

Gordon & MacPhail, Connoisseurs Choice, Ardbeg, Distilled 1994, bottled 2004, 40% a/v

A well respected independent bottler with a long history of and reputation for finding terrific single casks, with a good nose for Islay whiskies.

Tasting Notes:

Colour: Light yellow gold.

Nose: Closed, a little more floral than the other two, with a hint of brine.

Palate: The meaty, briny notes are confirmed on the palate with lots of salty shortbread and biscuity, almost Spanish brandy-like notes. This is the least maritime expression with an almost Highland dryness.

Finish: long, meaty and very dry.

Score: 7.7

Comment: Very much the aperitif style Islay, enjoy it with green olives and salted almonds.

Summary:

What is really interesting is the fact that the distillery's own expression costs about half as much as the other two and not only holds its own but also clearly wins in my book. I noticed the exact same result when I compared a Gordon & MacPhail 1978 bottled in 2005 and an Ardbeg 1977 bottled in 2004.

The boys at Ardbeg get it right!
Every time!

Tequila Wisdom

Begging your pardon for a rare diversion from our usual focus on the fruit of the vine, let's take a Friday break to talk briefly about cactus squeezer's.

Tequila, that is, the clear Mexican liquor that too many of us remember only from appalling youthful experiences in overindulgence; or Herb Alpert and his Tijuana Brass, or, at best, forgettable, birdbath-size margaritas at not-so-authentic Mexican eateries.

But today's tequila is not your father's Mexican white lightning. Following in the well-worn path already treaded by single-malt Scotch and, more recently, small-batch Bourbon, Mexico's producers - or maybe the marketing departments of their multinational corporate owners - are carving out a new niche in Trend City for high-end, artisan-style tequila.

We may jokingly call it cactus squeezings, but tequila is actually made from the blue agave, a Mexican desert succulent that looks more like a palmetto with its spiky, sword-shaped (and purportedly sword-sharp) leaves that conceal a central fruit, the piña, that looks a bit like an oversize pineapple.

The piña is harvested, split and either pressure-cooked or baked in special commercial ovens to extract the fermentable sugars, which are distilled into a clear liquor. Tequila may be bottled immediately after distilling (labeled "Blanco" or "Plata" - "white" or "silver"), or aged in wood - most often, used Bourbon casks shipped down from Kentucky after the single use that the law permits for the Bluegrass's trademark liquor - which imparts a bronze to golden color and more mellow flavor. Wood-aged tequilas may be labeled "Reposado" ("rested") after two months to a year in oak vats or barrels, and "Añejo" ("aged") after a year or more in oak barrels. Aged for a full three years, it wins the right to a "Tres Años" designation.

From The 30 second Wine Advisor