



## Object of the Newsletter

*To promote the appreciation of fine Scotch Whisky, the area from inhabit the land and it's history. By the way, I do not profess to be expressing an opinion on the whiskies I am tasting. "Slainte."*

In this issue I look at Sheep Dip "Old Hebridean" which I tasted at Jack & Tony's Restaurant and whisky bar in Santa Rosa California. This deluxe special bottling of three iconic malts from Dalmore, Fettercairn and Ardbeg was blended and further aged for 15 years, not a common practice and only 12,000 bottles were ever produced.

The end product is quite wonderful with the marriage of flavors giving a rich sweetness. Quite a low ABV at 40%.

I haven't come across a bottle yet, but if I do I intend to buy it, and I suggest you do the same. This is a lovely wee dram.

You can buy Sheep Dip "Old Hebridean" for around \$100.00 a bottle.

### Tasting Notes;

**Nose** - Fudge, Marmalade, Heather Honey and light Peat

**Palate** - Briney, Fudge, Marmalade, Honey and light Peat

**Finish** - Soft Peat, Oaky, Vanilla, Honey and Caramel

*If you have a personal favorite and you would like it to feature in future "Slange" newsletters, please let me know. I can be contacted at my website [www.scot-talks.com](http://www.scot-talks.com)*

*"Slainte Mhath"*

*Paul Bissett*





## Leader Of The Flock

by Gavin D Smith

(for the full article go to <http://www.whisky-pages.com/stories/spencerfield-spirits.htm>)

Pig's Nose and Sheep Dip may sound like the sort of jokey whiskies available in miniature format as gifts for Father's Day and Christmas, but in fact they are serious brands currently receiving a new lease of life in the hands of Alex Nicol's Spencerfield Spirit Company.

Nicol's Spencerfield Spirit Company is based not in some characterless city office block but around Spencerfield Farmhouse, which dates back to the early 16th century and is located a few miles north of Edinburgh, near the northern shore of the Firth of Forth, and close to Inverkeithing. Here he and his wife Jane combine running a thoroughbred horse livery business with selling their two core brands of whisky.

### So what of those whiskies?

Sheep Dip is a blended malt, introduced in 1974 by Gloucestershire gentleman farmer MJ Dowdeswell, who also owned a pub in Oldbury-on-Severn. Legend has it that whisky was regularly referred to as 'sheep dip' in the area, but the theory has also been put forward that farmers could outwit the tax authorities by claiming that invoices for 'Sheep Dip' referred to essential agricultural supplies!

Pig's Nose was introduced to the market in 1977 as a companion for Sheep Dip. The name derives from the notion that the whisky in the bottle was as smooth as a pig's nose. Both brands were ultimately acquired by the Invergordon Distillers Group, and passed to Whyte & Mackay when that company took over in 1993.

Since taking on the two brands, Nicol has revitalized the packaging, but the liquid in the bottles has also changed for the better too, thanks to the attentions of Whyte & Mackay's master blender Richard Paterson.

Sixteen different malts aged between eight and 12 go into Sheep Dip, while Pig's Nose has a comparatively high malt content of 40 per cent.

Both whiskies have benefited from the inclusion of a greater proportion of older Speysides and Dalmore single malt, principally from first fill casks.

**“You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.”**



Below is a simple guide to help you choose your single malt Whisky, and the flavor notes you should expect from it. Being Scottish I recommend you find a likely candidate and try it in a bar before buying the whole bottle. With each issue of the newsletter I will add in another Whisky to the flavor map. This Issue; Sheep Dip "Old Hebridean". For more information go to [www.facebook.com/pages/Sheep-Dip-Whisky/132043933556610](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sheep-Dip-Whisky/132043933556610)





## Some Reasons To Drink Whisky (by the way I'm not a doctor)

Whiskey is low-carb and fat-free, so your thighs will thank you.  
One shot has zero fat and .04 carbs.

The word whiskey means “water of life.”  
Whiskey comes from the Gaelic word “Uisge Beatha,” which means “water of life.” That phonetically became “usky,” and eventually was pronounced as “whiskey.”

In frontier country, whiskey was as valuable as gold.  
In 18th century Pennsylvania, the favored currency was whiskey — which was used for cooking, medicine, and drinking, among other things. That whiskey loyalty would eventually lead to the 1794 Whiskey Rebellion, where farmers fought against the taxes that threatened their liquor livelihood.

Drinking whiskey can lower your risk of having a stroke.  
To be clear, drinking large amounts of alcohol is related to a higher incidence of stroke. However, if you can master the art of moderate consumption — meaning one drink a day — that may provide protection against an ischemic stroke. In fact, having one drink per day is better than no drinks per day when it comes to protecting against ischemic stroke.

Winston Churchill drank whiskey and soda for breakfast...and lead a nation through World War II.  
The whiskey soda washed down his eggs and cigar, naturally.

Oh, and did I mention that Mark Twain was a big fan?

A closed bottle of whiskey will be good for 100 years.  
And after you open a bottle of whiskey, a half-full bottle will remain good for five years.

It also may reduce your risk of developing heart disease.  
A 1998 study found that a big shot of whiskey can help protect against heart disease, and boost the body's defenses against disease by raising the body's level of antioxidants.

Whiskey might be the smartest investment you'll ever make.  
The fact that whiskey lasts almost forever means its value can appreciate in a big way. So, instead of that 401k plan, just buy a couple of rare bottles and watch their value soar! (It's a whole lot more fun that way too.)



**Cont.**

George Washington, the father of America, also founded one of the country's largest whiskey distilleries.

After his term as the first president of the United States ended in 1797, Washington's Scottish farm manager encouraged him to build a whiskey distillery. It was the largest of its kind in America, producing 11,000 gallons of whiskey in 1799.

Whiskey was originally crafted only by monks, making it a holy spirit. That practice changed in 1541, when King Henry VIII dissolved all of their liquor-ridden monasteries. Poor sober monks.

Drinking one to six glasses of whiskey a week can lower an adult's risk of dementia. A 2003 case study with the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center found that the odds of incident dementia were lower among those adults who consumed moderate alcohol, rather than none at all!

Cold is no match for whiskey; even below-freezing temperatures won't freeze it. Nothing proved that more than when a crate of 100-year-old whiskey was unearthed in Antarctica. And even though it suffered through the -30 Celsius temperatures, the bottles and liquor were all in great condition.

Whiskey is measured in "fingers" — your body is the only pouring tool you need! To measure out whiskey, all you have to do is hold your finger horizontally against the glass and pour out a finger's width. Or two, if you're feeling frisky.

Did I mention that whiskey looks GREAT on bars?



But let's be honest: The very best reason to drink whiskey is because it's delicious.