



Well, another month has come and went. These days it seems the months are getting shorter as our schedules fill up with to-do's and warmer weather events to attend.

Speaking of which, we have our annual Irish Open disc golf event this month, an event that was the brainchild of Grady and O'Connell a few years back. The event was small back then and we didn't know how it would fare, but we gave it a shot and now it is a permanent part of our fundraising efforts.

We are always looking for new ideas for fundraising and community service, so if you see a need, or have an idea, no matter how off-the-wall you might think it is, share it. Who knows how far it can go, or how it might benefit the club. This includes our current events. If you see a way to improve them, let us know, or better yet, get involved with the event committee.

My goal is to increase our sponsorships and donations. How? I am not sure yet, but I know with your help we can do it. Let's see what this group can do! I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

Stay classy, Sons.

President Tim Schuck

Wearin' of the Grin

"So how's everything going?" the doctor asks his patient, George. "Great," says George. "I've found religion. God knows I have poor eyesight so he's fixed it so that when I get up in the middle of the night to go to the bathroom – poof! – the light goes on, and then – poof! – the light goes off when I'm done."

Later in the day, the doctor calls George's wife. "I'm in awe of George's relationship with God," he says. "Is it true that he gets up during the night and – poof! – the light goes on in the bathroom, and then – poof! – the light goes off?"

George's wife sighs. "No," she says. "It means he's peeing in the refrigerator again."



Beware of your teetotaler friends:

In a number of controlled trials, scientists have demonstrated that if we drink one litre of water each day, at the end of the year we would have absorbed more than one kilo of E. coli bacteria found in feces. In other words we are consuming one kilo of poop.

However, we do not run that risk when drinking beer, whiskey, or wine because alcohol has to go through a purification process of boiling, filtering and/or fermenting. So remember: water=poop, Beer, whiskey, etc.=health. Therefore, it's better to drink beer and talk stupid than to drink water and be full of shit.

in 2006. Back then, only three distilleries were operating on the island, which accounted for all of the available brands. Now, more than a dozen distilleries are making whiskey, and at least 12 more are in the planning stages.

"As it is, most of these newer distilleries are so young that they haven't issued any whiskey commercially yet. So a good deal of further growth is coming."

"David and Robert both agreed that the revival of the pot still, which in the mid-20th century had largely given way to the column still (used mostly for clear spirits like vodka), had played an important role in elevating Irish whiskey. Where once purists had to search long and hard for a traditional single pot still Irish whiskey, now examples abound, including at least three among our top 10."

"To complicate matters further, single malts are also pot still whiskeys. 'Single pot still' refers to whiskeys that are a blend of malted and unmalted grain, hence not single malts."

"Not to worry. The pleasure is in the drinking, not the recitation of facts. Our tasting showed many excellent, distinctive whiskeys, ranging from young and fresh to deep and complex, with most showing a sense of purity and freshness."

"David felt the best ones had a subtlety that is rare in Scotch whisky and almost nonexistent in American. In nearly all the bottles, he said, he found depth, elegance and clarity."

"Robert agreed that even with all the expansion, it's all identifiable as Irish whiskey, fruity and lighter in body."

"The 20 bottles in our blind tasting ranged in price from \$23 to \$95 (we limit ourselves to bottles under \$100), and we apparently preferred the more expensive bottles, which tended to have more age. Even so, we found worthy entry-level whiskeys, like Kilbeggan for \$30 and Clontarf for \$23. They are young, but don't ignore these good values even if they couldn't crack our top 10."

"Our favorite was a new brand, Barr an Uisce (pronounced bahr-an-ISH-kah). The single malt 1803, aged 10 years, was wonderfully complex and smooth, with flavors of fruits, caramels, spices and oak. Like many new Irish whiskeys, it is currently made under contract with an existing distillery, West Cork, until its distillery is built."

"Next were a couple of old favorites, the Knappogue Castle single malt 12 years old, classic and complex with flavors of butterscotch and heather, and the 12-year-old single pot still Redbreast, a once rare but now widely available whiskey that was pure, smooth, fresh and delightful. At \$57, the Redbreast was our best value, although it's still pretty expensive."

"The last in the top echelon was the Irishman Single Malt, minimally aged but lovely in its floral, mossy freshness."

"At No. 5 was a rich, round and complex 10-year single malt from Lord Lieutenant Kinahan's. The No. 6 was the 12-year Yellow Spot, a single pot still whiskey that was our most expensive bottle at \$95 but showed layers of flavors. Its sibling, the No. 8 Green Spot, is a slightly younger single pot still whiskey, and the difference was apparent. Where the Yellow Spot showed flavors of fruits, nuts and caramel, the Green Spot was grassy and fresh."

"In between the two Spots was the distinctive Connemara peated single malt, the rare Irish whiskey in which the grain is dried over a peat fire as is traditional with so many single malt Scotches, giving it an almost Islay-like smokiness, although its gently floral undertones identify it as an Irish whiskey."

"Don't disregard the last two on our list, the subtle Bushmills, a 10-year-old single malt, and the fresh and floral Donegal, just \$34 for this minimally aged whiskey."

"Only three distilleries were operating on Ireland in 2006, which accounted for all of the available brands. Now, more than a dozen distilleries are making whiskey. It is hard not to be excited about what comes next." ☘

Panel Results (East Coast prices)

1. BARR AN UISCE IRISH WHISKEY SINGLE MALT 1803
10 YEARS 92 Proof, \$85
2. KNAPPOGUE CASTLE IRISH WHISKEY SINGLE MALT
12 YEARS 80 Proof, \$58
3. REDBREAST IRISH WHISKEY SINGLE POT STILL
12 YEARS 80 Proof, \$57
4. THE IRISHMAN IRISH WHISKEY SINGLE MALT
80 Proof, \$53
5. LORD LT. KINAHAN'S IRISH WHISKEY SINGLE MALT
10 YEARS 92 Proof, \$59
6. YELLOW SPOT IRISH WHISKEY SINGLE POT STILL
12 YEARS 92 Proof, \$95
7. CONNEMARA IRISH WHISKEY PEATED SINGLE MALT
80 Proof, \$45
8. GREEN SPOT IRISH WHISKEY SINGLE POT STILL
80 Proof, \$60
9. BUSHMILLS IRISH WHISKEY SINGLE MALT
10 YEARS 80 Proof, \$53
10. DONEGAL IRISH WHISKEY
80 Proof, \$34

Board News

First some good news: the **NCAA Tournament** is honoring Des Moines with a return visit in 2019. And some bad news: the NCAA Tournament is honoring Des Moines with a return visit in 2019.

Our parade that year will be on a Saturday, since we don't target any St. Pat's that falls on a Sunday, as it does then. But our noon-ish disruption may be no problem.

It's possible more parade scheduling conflicts with the city may lie ahead. Who knows? Film at eleven.



The **7th Annual Irish Open Disc Golf** outing is **Sat., May 13** at Grandview Park's disc course.

Registration begins at 10 a.m. and a \$25 entry fee includes a high-quality souvenir disc. Top prizes are \$200, \$50 and \$25.

For more info, or, better yet, to volunteer to help, contact **Mike O'Connell** (277-0018) or **Jerry Grady** (554-3006).



The search to "repeal and replace" **Bill McCarthy**'s always excellent, but seemingly endless, monthly chef duties is still on.

Come on, guys. Get a friend or two and consider volunteering to handle one month's dinner, won'tcha?

Mike Murphy, Bree Young and some friends will handle this month's steak feast. On a related note...



...polite requests for help in cleaning up the room and washing some dishes after the meal have had little effect.

The board kindly urges you to show a little club spirit and volunteer to jump on this once in a while. Otherwise, the probable sad result will be ditching our wonderful meals...no cleanee, no eatee.



Four **new walnut plaque boards** have been ordered from Mallard/Russell Trophies.

Two will be used to add names of past presidents and Irishmen of the Year and two will contain the names of former queens.



Just "tossing" this out there: The board is considering a charity **Bean-Bag Tourney** to hold about the time of the Halfway to St. Pat's bike ride. We could have 20-30 competing teams. Got any ideas for us?



Donations approved:

\$50 to the memory of Frank Carroll's mother;
\$1500 to the Art of Compassion foundation (*see right*).

BLARNEY BITS

A rt of Compassion is a foundation raising funds to support the fifty-plus programs offered to Iowa's most vulnerable individuals and families, the patients and clients of **HCI Hospice Care Services**, **Visiting Nurse Services of Iowa** and **Amanda the Panda Family Grief Center**.

Compassion - "concern for the sufferings and misfortunes of others" - is the core mission of these long-time Iowa services.

Their services impact the lives of 130,000 Iowans through programs in four priority areas: innovating aging, emotional well-being, family empowerment and community and family advocacy.

A signature, celebratory event for this charitable body will be held on **Thurs., Oct. 12 at the Capital Square Atrium** in downtown DM. That evening a program, dinner, silent and live auction, and sponsorship recognition will be held.

That evening the FSOSP will be proudly acknowledged as a Premier Sponsor. ☘

A ttention long-time patrons at Sully's Pub in WDM: The move to new digs is officially on for **July 1**. But not far, just a couple hundred feet east to 1st St., just south of the Grand Ave. intersection.

And mark your calendars for the **official Grand Re-opening on July 22**, coupled with the pub's **40th Anniversary Party**. Get your ya-yas out! ☘

Upcoming events

MAY 6

KENTUCKY DERBY PARTY
SULLY'S PUB, 2 P.M.-MIDNIGHT

MAY 13

IRISH OPEN DISC GOLF TOURNEY
*GRANDVIEW PARK, DM
\$25 / REGISTRATION @ 10 A.M.*

MAY 17

STU RYAN O'BRIEN SING-ALONG
SULLY'S PUB, 7-9 P.M.

JUNE 7

TRIVIA NIGHT
SULLY'S PUB, 7-10 P.M.

JUNE 17

ANNUAL LEPRECHAUN OPEN GOLF OUTING
*COPPER CREEK GOLF IN PLEASANT HILL
\$65 / SHOTGUN START @ 1 P.M.*