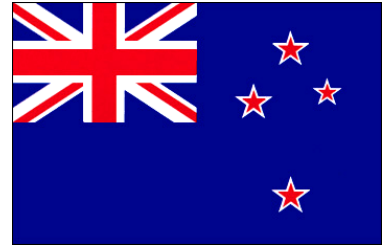


Issue 96

Autumn 2012



# miNiZ

**THE NEWSLETTER OF NEW ZEALAND MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB**



# THIS & THAT & COVER BOTTLES

On the cover we have two Cardhu bottles, the first of which has been in my own collection for many years. I knew that Erica Mulder also had a NZ bottled Cardu and we had both assumed that they were the same until Erica spotted mine at the AGM. Both were bottled by Reginald Collins Ltd of Wellington. This company imported casks and bottled locally, rather than importing the whisky ready bottled. They did not make many miniatures but are known to have bottled miniatures from a genuine cask of Old Hokonui. These are in a small green flask and I would love to get one, or even a photo. I suspect that both these bottles would be highly sort after by Scotch collectors worldwide.



We had a Spirit of Dunedin Scotch on the cover of miNiZ94. The one on the left is a special bottling for the Taieri Gorge Railway and can (in theory) only be bought on the train. It contains 5cl of 40%, 8 year old Scotch and has a picture of the magnificent Dunedin Railway Station. Unfortunately it is plastic.

Later in this miNiZ there is an excellent article by Dave Allen. The last photo is a figural of Scottish King, Robert the Bruce. By coincidence I came across this photo of four Scottish monarch bottles, the first of which is again, Robert the Bruce.



A former member, Don Weichold, writes: "I have 7,400+ minis for sale to the best offer, 99% Scotch with many, many rare one of a kind bottles." I know nothing more but Don can be contacted at: [spfcs7@cox.net](mailto:spfcs7@cox.net)

Maik, from Germany, writes: "I would like to introduce my new miniature bottle online shop where I sell my former Minibottle collection items and some of my duplicate whisk(e)y minibottle collectibles." I have had good dealings with Maik for years and his on-line shop has good photos and is well worth a look: <http://www.MINI-BOTTLE-SHOP.com>

Erica has sent us a note of a wonderful mini bottle offer on Trademe headed 'Rare Miniature Sealed Bottle' the advert went on to say: "Mini olive amber sealed bottle, the seal bearing the manufacturers details ERVEN AND BOLS LOOTJE etc AMSTERDAM (All a bit small and hard to make out). Only five inches tall and mint condition all round. Applied lip c 1900 or so. Reserve set at a realistic price (under the price they usually fetch on ebay)" All for a wonderful starting price of NZ\$125. Unsurprisingly this did not sell. Where do these idiots get their prices from?



*David Smith*

# Ken's WHISKY

# CORNER



## All Black Whisky Miniatures

**While out looking for whisky miniatures over the Xmas break, I came across these from the NZ Whisky Company celebrating The All Blacks winning their two rugby world cups. Both miniatures are 150ml in volume and contain Milford Whisky. I purchased them from Centre City Wine & Spirits in Waring Taylor St, Wellington.**

**The bottle commemorating the 1987 World cup contains 24yr old whisky and cost about \$46, and the bottle commemorating the 2011 World Cup and contains 16yr old whisky and cost \$55.**

**Ken Chin.**



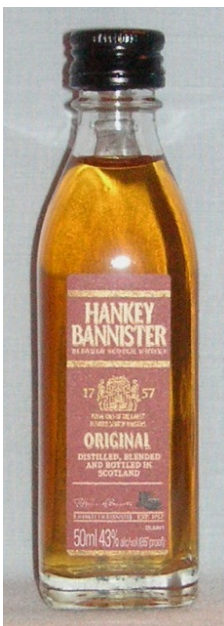
# DAVID'S BOTTLES

David Spaid has sent us so many pictures in the last three months that I thought he deserved a page or two to himself.

Viru Valge of Estonia has a slick web site: <http://www.viruvolge.ee/web/eng/> Below we have five new 50ml vodka and flavoured vodka minis that, unfortunately, seem to be only available in Estonia.



Boker is a Mexican vodka in cobalt blue glass from Corralejo. One of the nicest bottles issued in recent years, a real winner. Corralejo issued 99,000 to celebrate 99,000 hours or over 11 years in business. The unique bottle, almost a parallelogram shape, is an exact replica of the large bottles.



Hankey Bannister is a very old brand of Scotch but this is the new rendition which just appeared in January 2012 in Los Angeles.

Sticking with Scotch, the two on the right are recent introductions from Glenglassaugh. They are also known for their prices. Using the current rate of exchange between the pound and the US dollar, this pair is well over \$100. Very few were bottled as you might guess.





# MELLDALLOCH, RUTHERFORD AND POINTERS

Hello again. For my article in this issue I thought I'd start by giving you the lowdown on a little known and short-lived company that was born and apparently died all in the space of about eighteen months in the early 1990's. They were known as the Melldalloch Liqueur Company, and their product was marketed as the Scottish Island Malt Whisky Liqueur. The name derives from the small island of Melldalloch near Kilfinan in Argyll, an area famous for its wild trout. The island, with its long tradition of illicit distilling had its own ghost which was created by the locals. She was called Cailleach an Lochan (the old woman of the loch), and was invented for the sole purpose of deterring unwelcome intruders! The Still today is unfortunately in ruins, but the whisky for Scottish Island Liqueur was still distilled in Argyll nevertheless, and the promotional material that was published at the liqueur's launch suggested that two or three drams of the cratur were maybe all that it would take for the Cailleach to reappear!



Miniature ceramics were very scarce, but I did manage to find four commercially produced ones while the firm were still active. Photos 1 and 2 show you the front and reverse of two flagon-shaped pieces, sporting images of Otters and Roe Deer. Photo 3 is of the small standard shaped jug and photo 4 shows a small decanter. All four, which were produced at



the Buchan Pottery in Crieff, contain 5cl of Scottish Island Malt Whisky Liqueur at 40%vol. Photo 5 is a design sample that was produced prior to the production of the wee jug. It was never filled and the image clearly shows why this one never got to the production stage!

Last time I promised you something special in the way of new issues for this article, and I'm sure you won't be disappointed. We've had some really exciting new releases from both Rutherford's and Pointer's.



Starting with Rutherford's, photo 6 is the Christmas 2011 issue. It depicts a typical Christmas scene with Santa Claus, presents, holly etc. The jug is of the standard all-white design, is wax sealed, and contains 5cl of the Rutherford blend, bottled at 40%vol.

Photos 7 and 8 are two different images of Titanic, which have been issued in commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her launch and subsequent demise, following her collision with an iceberg and ultimate sinking on 15th April 1912 on the maiden voyage. A short text appears on the reverse of each piece. The image on photo 7 will prove to be a particularly difficult one to find as only 15 were produced, due to the fact that the motifs affixed to these jugs were actually intended for the commemorative ceramic books that were issued at the same time. These two jugs, which are also wax sealed, contain 5cl of the Rutherford blend at 40%vol.



Photos 9a and 9b are the front and reverse of a particularly nice jug that will be issued in March of this year. It was commissioned from Rutherford's by the Miniature Bottle Club of Peru in commemoration of their 5<sup>th</sup> annual collectors' meeting in Lima. The jug is one of a limited edition of just 100 individually numbered pieces and contains 5cl of Glenfiddich 12yo single malt

Scotch whisky, bottled at 40%vol. This one is bound to be highly sought after in a very short space of time.

Moving on now to Pointer's, we have thirteen fabulous decanters, comprising two sets of six, plus one addition to an earlier series that depict Glasgow Celtic greats.



Starting with photos 10 through 15, we see the first set which depicts different images of vintage Scotch whisky adverts, obtained from the Public Records Office archives. In order they are Beatson, McLeod & Co. Ltd., Friar Royd, Gulliver's, Laird's, Strathmill and Thorne's. These ones are, in my opinion, some of the best decanters so far from this company.

The next set, photos 16 through 21 (on next page), comprise images of some of the better known winners of the F1 world motor championship. In turn they are, Jim Clark, Damon Hill, James Hunt, Nigel Mansell, Michael Schumacher and Jackie Stewart. Each piece carries a brief career profile of the driver on either side, plus a short history of F1 racing on the reverse.

The last one, photo 22, carries an image of Jock Stein, Celtic's greatest ever manager. This one differs greatly from an earlier issue of the Celtic manager. This one carries his image to the centre surrounded by a montage of 11 of Celtic's greatest ever players. The name of each image appears on either side of the decanter and a brief history of Celtic is displayed on the reverse.

Each of the Pointer's pieces is filled with 10cl of their own blend bottled at 40%vol.

I've also been able to add another interesting piece to my collection since last time. Photo 23 is of King Robert the Bruce of Scotland. It's 20cm tall and contains 12cl of Strathisla 12yo single malt Scotch whisky bottled at 43%vol. My own educated guess is that it was produced by Gordon & McPhail.





Next time I'll share with you what promises to be some really special issues from Rutherford in celebration of the diamond jubilee of queen Elizabeth. I've been assured that they should be well worth waiting for!

So till then.....

*Dave Allen*

oo

## **SPAIDS**



I came across this bourbon bottle for sale on Ebay and wondered whether this was made for member David Spaid, so I emailed him. He replied "The label was used on two different bottles. These were done in 1976."

There have been dozens of personal bottles done over the years, the nicest of which is undoubtedly the Aberlour jug done for Dave Allen (see miNiZ95) but this is one of the better 'straights' being both professionally made and clever with the play on words.

# **THOMSON WHISKY**

The Club Publicity Officer, Peter Bonkovich, recently interviewed Rachel and Mathew Thomson, makers of Thomson, a new New Zealand Whisky:

## ***What made you or inspired you to make whisky?***

I've always loved whisky and all that surrounds it – the heritage, tradition, the power and strength of it, and how it often marks really important points in life. Milestones like a birth, a death, or an occasion. It can be very premium, or a working man's drink, and is totally comfortable around a camp fire, on a boardroom table or even sitting on a guitar amp. It crosses all boundaries.

The thing about whisky that continues to be true is that the more you learn the more you love it, and there are just perennial layers to explore. Whisky's brilliant because it's so basic and so complex at the same time. There is a whisky to suit everyone's taste in my view – most people just haven't ventured very far into the whisky world to understand the hundreds of different flavours and products there are. Something we hope to rectify.

## ***How did you decide to get into Whisky and setting up your own company and label?***

Thomson Whisky started from a passion for whisky, and whisky collecting. We'd dabbled in home distilling and it was a definite obsession. I was going to loads of whisky tastings, and buying lots of good whisky. I started to learn about maturation, and tried a few different experiments under our house.

We started Thomson Whisky, as you know it today, when we seriously began to source a whisky fit to bottle. Basically, our collecting gave way to sourcing and sharing old stocks of whisky back out to the whisky community. We kind of switched the incoming whisky to outgoing whisky and we've never looked back (which isn't to say we don't still buy an awful lot of other people's whiskies for the love of it).

## ***Is this a full time occupation?***

Well you could say it is as we spend so much time on it, but my wife and I both still work in different industries, which makes for a busy household. It's great to have a business that's also a passion though as when the going is good it doesn't feel like work at all. It's a juggling act at times but we both love to see the fruits of all the labour.

## ***When did you start your company?***

We started it as a project in 2009, gathering the bits and pieces together required to kick off in earnest. 2010 was the year things really got moving for us though. Very satisfying after quite a number of months in preparation, and starting out with just 2 barrels of whisky, a pallet of empty bottles, an invoice template and sheer determination.

## ***How many people do you employ?***

None – we do everything ourselves, but we do partner with some fantastic people and suppliers who really help keep things moving in the right direction. It's actually a fantastic freedom to work as a small team because we have complete control over the product, the marketing and brand and the direction of the business. We're both quite busy people by nature, always on the go and up to our elbows in something. We're very accustomed to working long hours and being 'self-starters'. The time will definitely come where we invite the right people in to work for us though.

## ***Where does your whisky come from?***

The origin of the new release Thomson whiskies is once again Willowbank Distillery, Dunedin, a now dismantled distillery and home of the beloved Wilson's brand. As legend goes Wilson's spent time perfecting a

large batch of single malt in later years, which never made it to market under its own name. Maturing in American oak in the South Island ever since, this stock displays the distinct Willowbank flavour notes; vanilla, cinnamon spice, citrus and hints of sea salt owing to the locality of maturation. The 8 and 10 year old Thomson whiskies have also been bottled fresh out of first fill Kentucky bourbon barrels, an additional character-building step in aging.

### ***What was your process in selecting the whisky you wanted?***

Typically our selection process goes like this. We find a barrel we like then open other barrels in the number sequence, which of course are not always easily accessible in a warehouse situation. Once we've taken at least twenty-five samples we stop and take them away for assessment. This feels a lot like treasure hunting, looking for liquid gold in these dusty old aging casks.

### ***What ages of whisky have you produced and are looking to produce?***

Our single cask bottling of 17 year old single malt New Zealand whisky was released onto shelves in November 2009, along with an 11 year old Blend. We added to that a 10 year old single malt, and these original bottlings were from The Willowbank Distillery. We've recently released an 8 year old blend, a further 10 year old single malt and an 18 year old single cask single malt under the Thomson masthead, again from this iconic New Zealand stock.

### ***What markets are you in or targeting?***

We've focused on the New Zealand market naturally, but we get a lot of interest from whisky enthusiasts around the world who are at first really surprised to hear New Zealand has it's own whisky, and then are really curious to try it. We sell to overseas markets via our online stockists, but will start to branch out and stock overseas outlets directly this year.

The last couple of years for Thomson have been about drip feeding out into the market the best whisky we could afford to bottle – sharing the whisky, our story and our aesthetic. We're very particular about what we bottle, how it looks, and what we do with Thomson Whisky, but in saying that we try hard to keep it priced well and accessible.

### ***Any thoughts of producing your own whisky?***

Oh definitely, but this part of the business will take a bit longer. The model is a tough one to crack, due to the length of time that whisky needs to age for. There's a real lag between distilling and bottling, and it's a long while before you know if you've got a good product. Distilling is an art form in itself, but it's a discipline we want to master at some stage down the track.

### ***Do you only produce large bottles? Are any miniatures planned?***

Currently we do produce miniatures on request, but we're getting asked for them more and more. It's a good way for people to sample the whisky and have a piece of the brand without buying the large bottles. The miniatures that are out there right now are very small in number, which makes them a little bit special I guess.

### ***Did you think that your whisky company and label would become so popular and talked about as it has already?***

I don't think we ever set out thinking that it would be easy, so every time something has gone right with the business it's felt like a very rewarding surprise. We love getting feedback about the whisky – especially when people really take the time to critique the flavours. We love talking about it with enthusiasts and novices alike because a wonderful thing about whisky is that it's very basic and very complex at the same time as I mentioned earlier. All opinions on flavour are valid – it's completely down to what style suits you.

The business is doing well and we have some exciting plans in the pipeline. Around every corner is a new challenge and a new reward.

## ***Your thoughts on New Zealand whisky and the industry in general?***

Well it could potentially have a real renaissance at some stage, as the industry here in New Zealand goes back to the 1800's, with 2 large scale distilleries in operation at that time. These distilleries were the Crown Distilleries (Auckland) and the New Zealand Distilling Co (Dunedin). It's in our history.

We're clearly yet to see a large distillery operation make any sort of comeback, but the interest in whisky is picking up all the time. People are much more interested in the origin of their food and drink these days, the processes undertaken, the traditions and care that is applied, and whisky fits this bill perfectly. Whether we'll see an explosion of brands however I'm not so sure. Whisky by definition needs to be aged so it's not as simple as making up a concoction that is produced today and sold tomorrow. This is a barrier for some people, which will weed out lots of potential whisky brands.

## ***Anything else that you can tell me about your company, the whisky, how you got to where you are now and any future goals and vision for your company and label?***

We decided to start a whisky brand that was totally committed to quality over volume. We bottle the best whisky we can afford to put on the shelf and in small quantities. We also spend way too much on packaging because we insist on doing things properly. Because of these things we have to sacrifice in other areas. Committing to the things that are important, and cutting out all the other stuff that's not necessary, challenges a few norms. But it keeps us lean and agile, and means we're free of things we find cumbersome.

Thomson Whisky, the dram itself, differs from other New Zealand whiskies because it's been hand selected to our high standards and personal preferences. We're independent and are free to select just a single cask, or more if we feel too, and we're not beholden to a warehouse full of stock where each barrel owes you a return whether it tastes great or not. I often think of our process as quite creative because we really do have the freedom to be selective – and let's be honest, sampling and selecting whisky is the best bit!

The vision is to keep hold of the roots of the brand, so that it's always grounded in it's heritage and make something timeless that people can relate to. The ultimate compliment and benchmark of success would be that when people want to toast something or someone that they reach up to their top shelf and choose the bottle of Thomson. After all, it's all about the amber liquid.



The 8 & 10 are at 40% and the 18 at 46% and, unusually these days, these 5cl bottles are glass. As intimated above, it is highly unlikely that you will find any of these as they were a very limited bottling. I am trying to persuade Thomson's to make some minis in commercial quantities but can get some of these bottles made to order. Please contact me no later than the 13th April if you want one or more sets. Email: [peter\\_bonkovich@ap.irco.com](mailto:peter_bonkovich@ap.irco.com)

*Peter Bonkovich*

# AS SEEN ON EBAY #23

We will start with some Scotches found by Peter.

The very rare laphroaig bottle was sold for US\$219.20 - proof that, despite the recession, some people still do have money to spend on bottles.

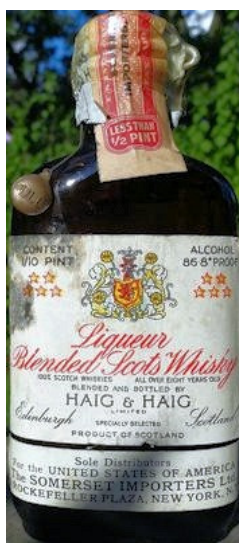


The 1930's King William IV V.O.P. Scotch flask sold for £8.50 - a poor result for such an old bottle in immaculate condition. The second King William IV V.O.P. Scotch is a cork sealed bottle from 1908. This sold for the sort of money we would have expected, £116.00



On the right we have two Scotch ceramics. The first has no label and a search on Miniature Bottle Library failed to find the maker.

We are guessing that it is a haggis as it immediately reminded us of the Beneagles haggis. £9.50 bought it. The next ceramic sold for £15.00 – this one is from Peter Thomson (Beneagles) and is Beswick pottery. The Kilted Scotsman is 20cm (8") tall so the quantity it holds may be over miniature size - good bottle though!



The two flasks on the left are both Scotch imports into the USA and both from Haig & Haig, best known for Dimple. The first is 1.6 fl. oz., 43.4% and dates from 1934, the second is 1/10 pint, 86.8° proof and is a similar age. They each sold for a disappointing minimum bid of US\$15.

The Pedigree "Bourbon," to the right, is also a 1934 bottling (distilled in 1927). This is 100 proof, 1/10





pint but is not a Bourbon by today's definition as it was distilled and bottled in Canada. Unfortunately it failed to sell. The Mount Vernon Straight Rye Whiskey was bottled at 100 proof in 1939 from a distillation in 1934. There were seven bids leading to a sale price of US\$39.52. Not so lucky was the seller of the Geo. Roe 10 year old straight Irish Whiskey. The seller made the mistake of listing this at a minimum bid of US\$1.99, and this is what it sold for. This was, by coincidence, also a 1934 bottle.



Now for something completely different. The Story of The Three Swallows from Windsor,



Canada is a fake book by Al Cohol. It contains four micro minis that used to contain Scotch, Irish, Brandy & Port. I (David) have seen this once before, in the collection of David & Val Fretwell, now sadly destroyed by the Christchurch earthquakes. I was going to bid but the US seller was selling strictly to US buyers - stupid twit! It sold for US\$16.49

I would also have liked to buy the jug on the right, which sold for a low minimum bid of €9.50 but the European seller wanted far too much for postage. It was made for the Brussels Expo in 1958.



The three Avion Tequilas are new. These sold for a 'Buy it Now' of US\$20

Having shown you the set of three tequilas we might as well carry on with sets.



Above are 13 out of a total of 21 bottles of this set of 50ml vodkas from Mongolia. We wish we had the space to show all of these full size as it really is a lovely set. They sold for a 'Buy it Now' of US\$99.99 with a postage cost of US\$71 - which works out about NZ\$10 per bottle - well worth the money.



The above two vodka sets each sold for minimum bids. The Veil set is from the USA and sold for US\$7.99. Rokk is from Sweden. This set sold for US\$9.99



Skyy, in the distinctive cobalt blue bottle (these ones unfortunately are plastic) is well known to collectors. These three flavoured vodkas sold for the US\$21.99 minimum bid.

360 is a new name to us. This set comprises four flavoured vodkas from the US and, again, is plastic. This set was another that sold by "But it Now," this time for US\$12.99. The last vodka set we have for you is Little Black Dress - gimmicky name! Yet another "Buy it Now" and this set sold for US\$15.99



The last set we have for you is truly something special. We don't know when they were bottled but the year they were distilled is on each label. All are, of course, top flight Cognacs. They come in a nice wooden box but this would not make up for the US\$450 price tag. That's about NZ\$110 per bottle! Needless to say they did not sell.



Another Cognac that did not sell, perhaps surprisingly in this case, is the The Barrows 5cl XO sample bottle. The seller wanted US\$24.95. Finally we have a Cognac that did sell. The Courvoisier Millennium is 50ml, 40%. This sold by "Buy it Now" for US\$25.



On the far right we have a bottle from a country most of our readers will not have a



single bottle from, Albania. Raki Rrushi is a 50ml flask containing Rakiraki. Firewater! The minimum bid was US\$12.99, not cheap but maybe OK to add another country to your collection, but the US\$21 postage ensured there were no bids.



Moving a short distance across the Adriatic but a world away, we come to Italy, home of our next bottle. Aviatore Amaro Liqueur from Sassano & Pagani sold for a disappointing minimum bid of US\$2.99. Note that the planes' contrails are in the colours of the Italian flag.



There are an increasing number of bottles coming out of China, most of them nice, some spectacular but mainly expensive when sold on Ebay. We have 6 bottles to show you and will do so rising in price.

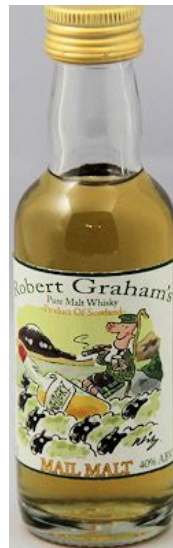
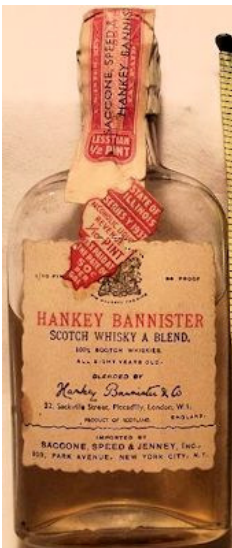
The first bottle contains 50ml of Gong Li Shen spirit. A minimum bid of US\$15.99 bought it.

The ceramic is, we think, 125ml and again has some sort of Chinese spirit in it. A minimum bid of US\$29.99 bought this one.

Finally on the right we have a the red glass vase. This contains 100ml of spirit and, again, a minimum bid of US\$34.99 secured it.



The above four minis are all 50ml. The first contains Luzhou Laojiao Chinese spirit at 52%. US\$39.99 bought it. We have no idea what the middle bottle contains but it is 30% alcohol. Four bids got this to a sale price of US\$64.40. The final Chinese bottle also got 4 bids and also has unknown contents at 30%. US\$72 bought this one.



Elsewhere in this edition, in the David's Bottles article, you will find a new bottle of Hankey Bannister. The two on the left are old (1930's?) and oldish (1970's or 80's?). The flask

sold for US\$16.51 after 3 bids. Note that this has the US importer's name on the label. US\$0.99, yes only 99 cents bought the other. Old Angus is another old Scotch with the US importer's name on the label. Blends are not selling nearly so well now as malts so US\$11.99 was probably OK. The seller of the two humorous bottles, Robert Graham's Mail Malt and Mountain Malt probably thought that he would far exceed the US\$9 opening bid he wanted for each bottle but there were no takers.



All except the last bottle above have cork and lead seals. Harvey's would be one of the best known Sherry companies in the UK, probably the best known, but is less well known for Scotch. The flask has a US import label and contains 1/10 pint of 86.8° proof Scotch from the Dundashill Distillery. We are sure that the seller would have been disappointed with this selling for the US\$9.99 minimum bid. Harvey's Westward Ho! Scotch is again 1/10 pint, this time only 86 proof. This is a bit newer than the other and obviously named after the North Devon fishing village (and tourist attraction) of the same name. There were 6 bids, the final one being US\$39.90. Vat69 is common but Vat99 much less so. This was blended by Ellis & Co Ltd of Glasgow in the 1930's and is said to contain 'Rare Blended Scotch Whisky,' This also got 6 bids but that still only drove the price to US\$10.50. Angus Ross is from Hepburn & Ross, also of Glasgow. It is another 1/10 pint, 86° proof blended Scotch but in this case it did rather well at US\$27.50. Hedges & Butler is one of the oldest wine and spirit merchants in the UK and, fittingly, the US importer is the grandly named The House of McAteer, who were based on prime real estate on Madison Avenue, New

York. Vat250 calls itself a Liqueur Blended Scotch Whisky but that did not help it get past the US\$9.99 minimum bid. Gilbey's Spey Royal is a very well known name and this flask, with the US importer's name on the label, is in excellent condition, although empty. Bottled in 1939 at 1/10 pint, 86.8° proof and sold in 2012 for only US\$7.99.



Whilst on the subject of Gilbey's the two gins on the left sold for just US\$2.99. A pity as these are interesting bottles in good condition. Both were

made in Ohio, the flask in 1940 and the square in 1939. The flask states it was made for England, Australia and Canada; to make up for the loss of local production due to WWII presumably.

The last gin we have for you is Paul Jones Four Star from Frankfort Distillers of Baltimore. There were 2 bids only for a sale price of US\$3.24. Hamptons vodka is also US made from a four column distillation. That's not as impressive as it might sound as most continuous stills are multi column. At US\$19.99 for a 'Buy it Now' is was expensive but, hey, it's the Hamptons. Marin Rum is from Puerto Rico and dates from the 1930's. A great bottle in good condition but it didn't sell.



Above we had an Albanian Raki Rrushi bottle that did not sell, so the guy tried again, this time with Skenderbeu Albanian brandy. Same price, same postage, same story.

Gallo is a private company and the largest wine maker in the USA. Wines never sell - but this one did. The seller asked for and got a US\$9.99 minimum bid.

The sale of liqueurs is very patchy with most not selling. The Kuemmel is a 1930's bottle from Kent Distributing Co of Chicago. It is a

lovely old bottle, in good condition, but there were no bids. Same company, same bottle, different story. Ten Grand Bourbon didn't go for \$10,000 but 6 bids saw it fetch US\$33.90

We have more Bourbons for you in miNiZ97



*David Smith & Peter Bonkovich*

# DATE, TIME & PLACE

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2012, 12.30pm** Pot Luck Lunch, Ian Butcher's, 5 Sunburst Court, Paraparaumu.

Telephone: 04 904 3157 E-Mail: poppa.chopper@clear.net.nz

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012, 12.30pm** Pot Luck Lunch, David & Rosie's, 11 Trevor Terrace, Paremata.

Telephone: 04 233 2997 E-Mail: minizv@gmail.com

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2012, 12.30pm** Pot Luck Lunch, Colin & Diane Ryder's, 20 Prospect Terrace, Johnsonville. Telephone: 04 478 4391 E-Mail: rydercj@xtra.co.nz

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2012, 6.00pm** Pot Luck Dinner, Ken & Malee Chin's, 29 Norton Park Avenue, Fairfield, Lower Hutt. Telephone: 04 938 1488 E-Mail: Kenchin@ihug.co.nz

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2013, 6.00pm** Barbecue, David & Rosie's, 11 Trevor Terrace, Paremata.

Telephone: 04 233 2997 E-Mail: minizv@gmail.com

**AGM Weekend to be advised but probably April 2013 in Brisbane, Australia**

Programme to be confirmed by mid 2012 so we can all get cheap flights!

**If you want to hold a meeting please let one of the committee know.**

---

## 2012 AGM

What can I say, another very successful, if not particularly well attended, AGM weekend. The photos are of lunch on Saturday so not everyone who attended is shown.



### A few changes you need to know about.

NZ Membership is now \$25 if you want miNiZ posted to you. Membership with miNiZ emailed to you remains at \$15.

Overseas membership is US\$30 or equivalent if you want miNiZ posted to you. Membership with miNiZ emailed to you remains at US\$10.

It costs us NZ\$28 to print miNiZ and post it to local members and NZ\$40 (plus NZ\$5 if you pay by cheque) for a US based member, so the members taking miNiZ by email are effectively subsidising those that want a paper copy. For this reason **we encourage members to take the cheaper, emailed miNiZ, membership options.**