

VOLUME 9 NO.3

MARCH/APRIL 1994



# MiNiZ

**THE NEWSLETTER OF PORT NICHOLSON MINIATURE BOTTLE CLUB**



*New Zealand's only Miniature Bottle Club*

## EDITORIAL

Greetings to all members.

Well, this year is certainly whizzing by and in the meantime the Club continues to prosper as our local and overseas membership continues to grow.

The number of shops stocking miniature bottles also seem to be increasing as news of their whereabouts trickle back to the Club. (Please refer to our NZ Dealer's list.)

The Club's anniversary ports will be bottled next month and should be available to go on the Club's stock list to sell to members. Please note the up-to-date stock list enclosed with this issue of MiNiZ. **I ENCOURAGE YOU ALL TO LOOK THRU IT CLOSELY ESPECIALLY THE OVERSEAS AND NEWER MEMBERS. THE PRICES ARE EXTREMELY REASONABLE ESPECIALLY IF YOU HAVE A FAVOURABLE EXCHANGE RATE AND THE BOTTLES CANNOT BE OBTAINED FROM ANYWHERE ELSE.**

I went back to Dunedin at Easter and dropped in at Meenan's Wine & Spirits and found they had imported several sets of miniature malt whiskies (tall flat flask) in presentation gift packs. I have listed theses in this MiNiZ issue with an order form. Please fill it out and return it to me A.S.A.P. if you wish to order. I will be sending in the order by 10th May so you NZ members have to reply fairly quickly if you want to be in.

Please note the Czech ceramics for sale. Members order directly from manufacturer.

Finally, the Club will be producing a miniature to give to potential new club members. Existing members will be asked to place these miniatures where they can distributed and members will get one free when they have placed 10.

Happy mini collecting.

K E N C H I N  
E D I T O R.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* COVER BOTTLES \*  
 \* \* \*  
 \* COVER BOTTLES \*  
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The ceramic bottles on cover were some of those Ian and June Butcher bought back from Hong Kong late last year. The turtle ceramic is also from Hong Kong.

The contents of these miniatures are either rice wine or Ling Chi Chiew.

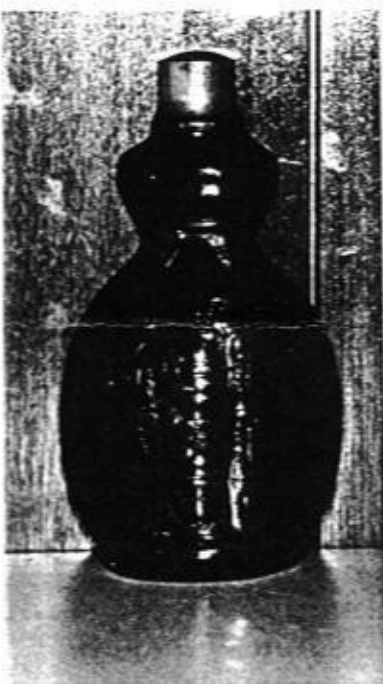
While stopping over in Singapore Ian also picked up this cute little plastic mini containing the famous "Singapore Sling".

Price of these minis approximately \$4-8 NZ.

The two ceramics with the Chinese fairies on them were given to me by a close friend. They contain Ling Chi Chiew. I asked him to buy me some more when he went back to H.K. in January this year but he came back empty-handed as the shop he brought them from stopped selling them.

The lesson here was to do one's homework regarding where minis are sold in H.K. before hand.

EDITOR.



# Have You Seen These?



Three of these bottles featured on the cover of miNiZ in May 1987 so they should be familiar to our longer standing members but I suspect that most of our newer members will never have seen them.

Glen Urquhart Wines were bottled by T.G. Ross of Palmerston. That's Palmerston in Otago, not Palmerston North. The two smaller sizes of bottles are round, clear glass and are sealed with a cork. The larger bottles are a small flask with a metal screw top. The labels are all basically the same, a white background and map of New Zealand, a blue circle and writing, and a tartan stripe.

All bottles contain wine. One of each size has red wine and one white. One of the larger bottles has Cherry wine and we know of one the same shape with Apricot wine. The small size shown here is the smallest mini known to have been produced in New Zealand.

I picked these up in a Junk/Antique shop in Dunsandal, south of Christchurch. I know that Robin Mellish got his direct from Mr. Ross in Palmerston but don't bother trying the same as Robin got the last ones.

*David Smith*

# VARIATIONS

LOVE 'EM OR HATE 'EM



In the last issue of miNiZ I showed you most of the known New Zealand variations of Seagers Dry Gin and Cossack Vodka. If you really want to get into variations of the same bottle you have to choose something made in a multitude of countries or made for a multitude of countries, each with it's own label. The most variations I have ever heard of would be the personalised Jim Beam bottles which run into thousands. If you think personalised bottles is cheating I have heard of a number of bottles with over 100 known variations. The only one I can remember when writing this is Dewars White Label Scotch.

Above you will see all 6 known variations of Wilsons Whisky. There is a seventh but this is a personalised bottle. It was bottled for General MacMotors.

Below are all 6 known variations of Totara Cafe. Getting all 6 is not easy. Officially two have not been sold in New Zealand. One was made especially for the US market and I managed to persuade a US collector friend of mine to part with it. Another was made for the Japanese market. A very few "overrun" export only bottles were sold from the winery in Thames. I have to thank Shirley Kirby for getting the Japanese bottle for me.

*David Smith*





# FOUR GINS

For no better reason than that I had an extra shot to use up in the camera I have for you four gins.

Over 20 years old now is Westminster Celebrated London Dry. This is in the same tapered clear glass bottle that a number of New Zealand drinks have come in including Larsen Cognac, 007 Cocktails, Royal Viking and Golden Bell Brandies, Long John Scotch, Samovar Vodka and Riccardo Rums. There is a twin Brother to this bottle, Westminster Celebrated Vodka. It is actually the same label with a sticker saying Vodka over the words London Dry Gin. The Extra Dry label is omitted.

Calvert is a well known American brand of gin. I suspect that the bottles were imported from the US as this shape has not appeared with other New Zealand minis. It was bottled in New Zealand under licence by Seagram NZ Ltd., Auckland. The label is a striking blue fading from light in the centre to dark, almost black, on the outside.

The final two gins were produced and bottled by Southern Grain Spirits New Zealand Ltd., Kaiapoi (which is just north of Christchurch). The Coachman was sold commercially and so were 750ml and 1125ml sizes of Gracey's. However, although the labels were prepared the mini was never issued. I found the label in their label store and persuaded them to bottle 120 for the club. The club still has stocks of both Coachman and Gracey's. They are available at \$3.00 each plus postage from Supplies Officer, Dianne Opie, Garsed Road, RD2, Patea, Taranaki.



*David Smith*



# NEW ZEALAND COMMEMORATIVES





is what most of the bottles I have for you in this issue of miNiZ say or imply. In the last miNiZ I showed you some of my Jim Beam Commemoratives produced for New Zealand, this time we have a real cross section of "Special" New Zealand Bottles.

The first bottle to show you is Western Moonshine. The label is gold with black writing. This was bottled by Western Hill Lions for 202H Convention 1983.

The Western Hills of the Hutt Valley are home to this Lions club. Leading off the valley is Moonshine Road which connects

with the Moonshine Valley, hence the name. What worries me about this bottle is the wording at the top of the label, "Not recommended for consumption yet."

Also from 1983 is 45th Convention Blend Whisky. This bottle contains 45 South Whisky and was especially bottled for the New Zealand Professional Photographers Association Convention. This convention was in Dunedin, home of Wilsons Whisky who make 45 South. The label has a cream background with a sort of sepia camera and Tripod and brown writing.

One of my favourite NZ bottles, and certainly one of the most original, is Dr. Hearall's Invisible Business Tonic Radio. This bottle was given away in 1981 as an advertising promotion by Radio New Zealand's ZB Network. On the top of the label it states "Proved effective all over the world" and lower down "Apply in liberal doses to improve the well-being of your business." The bottle is the familiar 6 sided one from Seagers Gin, which is what it contains.

Not a commemorative but a straight advertising gimmick is the International Marine Insurance Agency Limited bottle. This plastic bottle was put out about three years ago. It was made by the Coruba Rum Company (Jamaica) Ltd and came in a box that looked like a shipping container (only smaller!). It counts as a New Zealand bottle because it has the Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch addresses and telephone numbers for the company on the label.

Miniature Bottle Festival Imperial Vodka was a very small bottling for a gathering held in Cambridge on 15th November 1987. This was largely organised by members Judy and Gordon Homewood. It is a plain white label with reddy-brown writing.

The next three bottles are all from one company, Pacifica Shipping. The Spirit of Free Enterprise was bottled for the start of a new coastal shipping service linking Lyttelton with Wellington. The ship they used was named the Spirit of Free Enterprise because it was the first such service in many years to compete with the (then) nationalised New Zealand Rail ferries. The label is pale green, the ship and most of the writing in black and the remainder of the writing in a darker green.



We assume that the "Now we are one" bottle, which was made for the venture's first birthday, also contains gin, although nowhere does it say so. This bottle has two labels and it is arguable as to which is meant to be the front and which the back. The label shown is pale blue with a darker blue used for the writing. The other label is the shape of a flower. It is blue in the middle with black writing and red on the outside with black writing.

"Three and still counting... on you" "Pacifica Shipping" is their third anniversary bottle (there was no second anniversary bottle). It is a white label with both the illustration and writing in dark blue. By the colour of the spirit and the shape of the bottle we assume that it contains Wilsons or 45 South whisky. There were no more bottles issued after this one for a very good reason, the Spirit of Free Enterprise went bust! The ship does however still retain the name and now travels among the Pacific Islands. It was docked in Suva on my last visit.

Guardians of Taste Lucky 13 1986 was issued by an Auckland Wine tasting club of the same name. Former member of ours, Frank Wynn, was a member of Guardians also and persuaded them to issue this bottle for their 13th Anniversary. It contains Babich Medium Sherry - not a good choice in my opinion as they claim to be guardians of taste.

Until a few years ago it was a tradition of the (British) Royal Navy to issue a daily rum tot to all members of the crew. The strength of the rum varied with your rank! When the Royal New Zealand Navy became independent of the Royal Navy in 1941 this tradition was kept up. In fact, as it states on a label on the rear of this bottle, the practice did not cease with the RNZN until 1st March 1990 - long after the Royal Navy had stopped the issue. The rum in this miniature, which commemorates the RNZN 50th Anniversary, is rum left over from the "Tot." The rum is full (Officer) strength at 54.5% Alcohol or 95° Proof. The label is blue on gold and the bottle brown.

The last two bottles are club birthday commemoratives. Both are still available if you would like one, as is the RNZN 50th Anniversary bottle as described above (Contact supplies officer Dianne Opie). Unfortunately none of the others are at all common. If you do come across any of them - grab it and don't let go.

The last two bottles are unusual in that both have photos for labels. The photos came from a firm called New Zealand Photo Labels who specialise in producing very thin sticky back photographs. These make a very superior label at an economic price for a short run. The 7 years Itch Ching Liqueur was made in 1988, the liquor is not to be recommended. The PNMB 10 bottle is from 1991. It contains our own brand, Port Nicholson Scotch.

There are more Commemoratives that I do not have in my collection. I will try to get photos of them from other collectors and share them with you another time.

*David Smith*

# CZECH CERAMICS



Above are pictured 8 of 32 new ceramics from the Czech Republic. As this country was only formed last year it is safe to assume that all of you out there will not have any minis from this country.

They are made by a firm called Hills which has been in business in Czechoslovakia for over 70 years. Following the overthrow of communist rule the descendants of the original founders of the company re-took ownership of the company in 1990.

There are two series. The three at the back of the photo, starting from the left, and the two at the front are called "Drunkard Heads". They contain Hills Whisky, Rum Sandokan, Gin Extra Fine, Bross Whisky and Apricot Whisky. The three on the right are called "Harem". The tall one is known as "Favourite" and contains Hills Whisky and the other two are known as "Eunuchs" and contain Rum Sandokan and Bross Whisky. All of these are available in four colours, Rusty Brown, Dark Brown, Green and Blue. "Favourite" is 15cm tall and the others 9-11cm tall. All contain 50ml.

These minis are available from Jaroslav Kuba and a complete price list and order form follows on the next two pages.

David Smith

ORDER OF CERAMIC MINIBOTTLES

Please send the order to the address: Jaroslav K U B A  
 Lužická 14/83  
 772 00 OLOMOUČ  
 CZECH REPUBLIC

EXACT DENOMINATION OF GOODS	COLOUR REALIZAT.	ORDER NUMBER	UNIT PRICE in USD	NUMBER OF PIECES	TOTAL PRICE in USD
DRUNKARD'S HEAD-HILL'S WHISKY 40 %	RUSTY	001	7,95		
- " - RUM SANDOKAN 60 %	- " -	002	7,95		
- " - GIN EXTRA FINE 40%	- " -	003	7,95		
- " - APRICOT WHISKY 24%	- " -	004	7,95		
- " - BROSS WHISKY 24 %	- " -	005	7,95		
SERIES OF DRUNKARD'S HEADS 5 pcs	- " -	006	34,95		
FAVOURITE - HILL'S WHISKY 40 %	- " -	007	8,95		
EUNUCH - RUM SANDOKAN 60 %	- " -	008	7,95		
EUNUCH - BROSS WHISKY 24 %	- " -	009	7,95		
SERIES HAREM 3 pcs	- " -	010	21,95		
SERIES DRUNKARD'S HEADS+HAREM 8 pcs	- " -	011	54,95		
DRUNKARD'S HEAD-HILL'S WHISKY 40 %	BLUE	012	7,95		
- " - RUM SANDOKAN 60 %	- " -	013	7,95		
- " - GIN EXTRA FINE 40%	- " -	014	7,95		
- " - APRICOT WHISKY 24%	- " -	015	7,95		
- " - BROSS WHISKY 24 %	- " -	016	7,95		
SERIES OF DRUNKARD'S HEADS 5 pcs	- " -	017	34,95		
FAVOURITE - HILL'S WHISKY 40 %	- " -	018	8,95		
EUNUCH - RUM SANDOKAN 60 %	- " -	019	7,95		
EUNUCH - BROSS WHISKY 24 %	- " -	020	7,95		
SERIES HAREM 3 pcs	- " -	021	21,95		
SERIES DRUNKARD'S HEADS+HAREM 8 pcs	- " -	022	54,95		

EXACT DENOMINATION OF GOODS	COLOUR REALIZAT.	ORDER NUMBER	UNIT PRICE in USD	NUMBER OF PIECES	TOTAL PRICE in USD
DRUNKARD'S HEAD - HILL'S WHISKY 40 %	GREEN	023	7,95		
- " - RUM SANDOKAN 60 %	- " -	024	7,95		
- " - GIN EXTRA FINE 40 %	- " -	025	7,95		
- " - APRICOT WHISKY 24 %	- " -	026	7,95		
- " - BROSS WHISKY 24 %	- " -	027	7,95		
SERIES OF DRUNKARD'S HEADS 5 pcs	- " -	028	34,95		
FAVOURITE - HILL'S WHISKY 40 %	- " -	029	8,95		
EUNUCH - RUM SANDOKAN 60 %	- " -	030	7,95		
EUNUCH - BROSS WHISKY 24 %	- " -	031	7,95		
SERIES HAREM 3 pcs	- " -	032	21,95		
SERIES DRUNKARD'S HEADS+HAREM 8 pcs	- " -	033	54,95		
DRUNKARD'S HEAD - HILL'S WHISKY 40 %	DEEP BROWN	034	7,95		
- " - RUM SANDOKAN 60 %	- " -	035	7,95		
- " - GIN EXTRA FINE 40 %	- " -	036	7,95		
- " - APRICOT WHISKY 24 %	- " -	037	7,95		
- " - BROSS WHISKY 24 %	- " -	038	7,95		
SERIES OF DRUNKARD'S HEADS 5 pcs	- " -	039	34,95		
FAVOURITE - HILL'S WHISKY 40 %	- " -	040	8,95		
EUNUCH - RUM SANDOKAN 60 %	- " -	041	7,95		
EUNUCH - BROSS WHISKY 24 %	- " -	042	7,95		
SERIES HAREM 3 pcs	- " -	043	21,95		
SERIES DRUNKARD'S HEAD+HAREM 8 pcs	- " -	044	54,95		
COMPLETE SERIES IN ALL REALIZATIONS 32 pcs		045	215,95		
POSTAGE: FIRST BOTTLE - 3 USD, EVERY FURTHER - 1 USD					
PRICE OF ORDERED GOODS INCL. POSTAGE :			USD		
NAME:					
COMPANY:					
ADDRESS:					
PHONE:			FAX:		
PLEASE REMIT THE AMOUNT OF CHOSEN MINIBOTTLES TO THE ACCOUNT:					
ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ OBCHODNÍ BANKA A.S., POBOČKA OLMOUC, KATEŘINSKÁ 11, CZECH REPUBLIK, Nr. 50140030 SWIFT CEKO CZ PP OLO FOR JAROSLAV KUBA					
OR THE AMOUNT MUST BE SENT BY INTERNATIONAL POSTAL MONEY ORDER TO: JAROSLAV KUBA, LUŽICKÁ 14/83, 772 00 OLMOUC, CZECH REPUBLIC AND ATTACH THE RELEVANT PHOTOCOPY TO THE ORDER FORM, PLEASE, HAVING RECEIVED ANY EVIDENCE OF PAYMENT, I DISPATCH YOU THE MINI- BOTTLES REQUESTED TOGETHER WITH OUR INVOICE					



# ORDER FORM: MEENAN WINE & SPIRITS.

All miniatures in the gift packs are all tall flasks/clear glass in type.  
All miniatures contain Scotch Malt Whisky.

	Price	Number
Gift Pack 1: Old Elgin 8 yr, Linkwood 15yr Longmorn Glenlivet 12yr, MacPhail's 10yr	25.50	-----
Gift Pack 2: Old Pulteney 8yr, Glen Mhor 8yr Balblair 10yr, Clynelish 12yr	25.50	-----
Gift Pack 3: Pride of Strathspey, Pride of Islay, Pride of the Lowlands, Pride of Orkney.	25.50	-----
MacPhail's 10yr Ceramic Jug.	25.50	-----
(Members outside Wellington)	postage & packing 5.00	-----

Return to: Ken Chin  
9 Kapuranga Grove  
Stokes Valley  
Lower Hutt or ph.04-5639187

TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose cheque with orders by 12 May 1994.

## FOUR QUALITY MALT WHISKIES



**GORDON & MACPHAIL**



(PS: There is limited stock and  
late orders will not, I repeat  
NOT be accepted.)





## D. T. P. NEXT MEETINGS

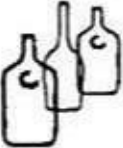
21 May 1994  
Saturday

DAVID & JACKIE SMITH 86 RAWHITI RD PUKERUA BAY  
4.30pm: Working bee to bottle new/existing minis  
6.30pm: Pot Luck Dinner & Swap meet.

19 June 1994  
Sunday

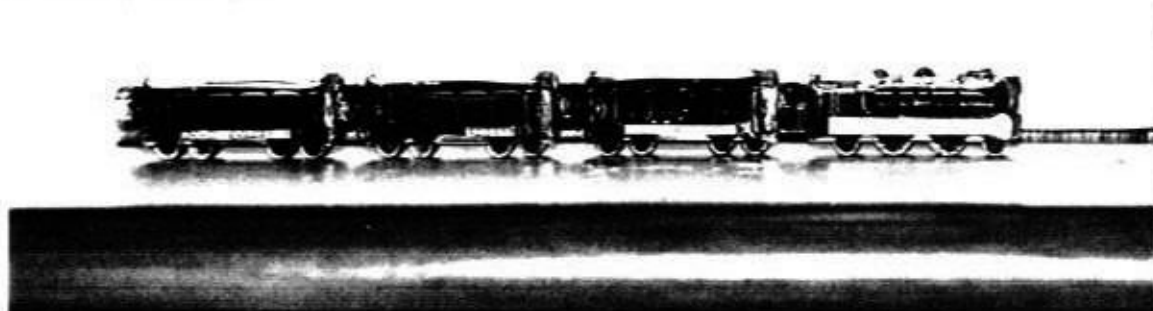
MARJORIE LYNCH 51 MAXWELL AVENUE WANGANUI 2pm.

(I would like to draw to the attention of all the local members that the last 3 meetings at Marj's have all been cancelled; the last 2 due to poor attendance by members. Marj has been a regular participant at everyone else's meetings and it is only fair we all reciprocate. So I respectfully request; no! respectfully demand that everyone makes a serious attempt to be at Marj's meeting: EDITOR)

<b>\$1.00 OFF</b> with this coupon	<b>13th ANNUAL</b>	<b>CROWN STERLING</b> <b>SUITES HOTEL</b> 1440 East Imperial Ave. El Segundo, CA 90245 (310) 640-3600 Shuttle Service available to and from Los Angeles International Airport
<b>Regular Admission</b> <b>\$4.00</b> <b>FREE PARKING</b>	<b>West Coast</b> <b>Miniature Bottle</b> <b>Show</b>	
<b>1,000's of Minis!</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Figurals</li><li>• Straight Glass</li><li>• Beers</li><li>• Blown Glass</li><li>• Perfumes</li><li>• And Other Collectibles</li></ul> <b>plus HOURLY RAFFLES!!</b>	<b>SPONSORED BY</b> <b>THE LILLIPUTIAN BOTTLE CLUB</b>  <b>October 8-9, 1994</b> Saturday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	<b>FOR SPECIAL ROOM RATES AND</b> <b>MORE INFORMATION WRITE:</b> <b>LILLIPUTIAN BOTTLE CLUB</b> P.O. BOX 2161 PALOS VERDES PEN., CA 90274 (310) 370-8993

## BUY SELL & SWAP

**FOR SALE:** One Rocher Train Liqueur Set. Very hard to get hold of now. Great investment. Consists of Creme de Menthe, Curacao, Apricot liqueur, and Cherry Brandy.



Note: The label on the engine may not be the original label and the label on one side of the curacao carriage is torn. Otherwise in excellent condition.

### **OFFERS:**

Contact Ken Chin, 9 Kapuranga Grove, Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt 6008, New Zealand. ph 04-5639187.

# DEALER DIRECTORY (N.Z.) (continued)

214 Hardy Street, Nelson. 051-4770047  
214 Hardy Street, Nelson. 051-4770047

**SINGLE MALT**  
*Scotch Whisky*



**MEENAN WINES & SPIRITS LTD**  
IMPORTERS, MANUFACTURERS & WHOLESALE MERCHANTS

*Five Host*  
**Affordable  
Neighbourhood  
Liquor**

Liz Riddoch  
P H 5 4 8 0 0 8 8  
STD-103

214 Hardy Street,  
Nelson.



WINE GLORIOUS WINE.	8 Bond St, Wellington.	ph.(04)-473-0228
WINE WELL.	McLean St, Paraparaumu.	ph.(04)-298-5105
GREEN BOTTLE STORE.	High St, Hawera.	

THE GUMDIGGER'S BOTTLE SHOP      John St Wangerei

HAYWOOD'S INTERNATIONAL      Kapiti Rd Paraparaumu. (next to Placemakers)



## NEW MEMBERS

FRANK WYNN	25 Reid Road, New Lynn, Auckland.
HENRY LOUGHRAN	42 Thames St, St Albans, Christchurch.
CLIVE LESLIE	8 Terrace Ave, Morrinsville.



# Membership Application Form

NAME.....

TELEPHONE Nos. (Home)..... (Work).....

ADDRESS.....

.....

Do you specialise in any particular area of miniature bottle collecting?

.....

.....

.....

## CURRENT MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE:

New Zealand NZ\$12 or NZ\$18 for a family membership

Overseas:	USA & Canada	US\$12 or equivalent	Foreign currency accepted but no overseas cheques due to the cost of cashing
	Australia	A\$15 or equivalent	
	Europe/Asia/Africa	£10 or equivalent	

ALL MEMBERSHIPS RUN FOR A FULL YEAR FROM YOUR DATE OF JOINING.

## Port Nicholson Miniature Bottle Club

P.O. Box 384 Wellington New Zealand





"NAME THAT SCOTCH"  
.... COMPETITION

This is the first competition the Club has had for a long time.

On the next two pages are 30 Scotch minis for you to identify. Fill in the missing letters and return to:

MiniZ  
P.O. Box 384  
Wellington,  
New Zealand.

Entries must be in by 31 January 1995.

You must be a current Club member in order to enter.

The winner will be the one who is able to correctly identify the most whiskies. In the situation of a tie, there will be a draw for the outright winner.

Judge's decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.

The prize will be a set of miniature bottles (Some very old) as shown below.





"NAME THAT SCOTCH" COMPETITION



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BELLS



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MILL



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"NAME THAT SCOTCH" COMPETITION



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A LL  
B E



C D



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N L T



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C P