



For immediate release

## Leeds Bartender Mixes up a Storm in Old Pulteney Cocktail Challenge

Old Pulteney Single Malt Scotch Whisky has crowned Rohan Sookloll (24), a bartender from the Smokestack bar in Leeds, the winner of an innovative new cocktail challenge – the Old Pulteney Northern Navigator Competition. The grand final took place at Pulteney Distillery in Wick and pitted four of the North of England’s best bartenders against each other as they battled it out to win the coveted title.

Rohan wowed the judges with his outstanding mixology skills and triumphed over stiff competition from Manchester, Liverpool and Newcastle’s top bartenders with his imaginative cocktail – Lady Pulteney.

The competition was launched last year to inspire a new generation of malt whisky drinkers and pays homage to the Boomerang cocktail, a bar tradition which began in New York’s East Village. Traditionally, Boomerang cocktails are prepared, poured into any vessel to hand and transported from bar to bar via a trusted courier along with instructions of how they should be served at the receiving end.

To enter the competition, bartenders were invited to submit a written cocktail creation that included 35ml of Old Pulteney Navigator amongst other ingredients of their choice. The best creations were then selected and collected by the Old Pulteney team who transported the cocktails to participating bars in other cities for judging. Four finalists were then invited to Wick to compete head-to-head in front of a panel consisting of Old Pulteney Global Brand Manager, Margaret Mary Clarke, Drink Cabinet Director, Andy Gemmel and internationally renowned Manchester based chef, Aiden Byrne.

After deliberating over which cocktail stood out, the judges crowned Rohan the overall winner thanks to his fantastic presentation, knowledge of Old Pulteney and of course, taste.

**Old Pulteney Senior Brand Manager Margaret Mary Clarke commented:** *‘The innovative ideas behind the finalist’s cocktails was outstanding and perfectly tied-in with Old Pulteney’s rich maritime heritage. Rohan’s winning cocktail was not only delicious, but also inventive and an excellent use of our much loved Navigator expression.*

*Urban food and drink communities are thriving, and yet fine malt whisky is still a relatively unknown quantity. Our goal is to present a fresh new side to Old Pulteney, introducing drinkers to the wonders of our whisky, it’s set to be a really exciting year.’*

### **Rohan’s winning cocktail – Lady Pulteney**

40ml Old Pulteney Navigator Single Malt Scotch Whisky

10ml apple Briottet



15ml elderflower cordial

20ml Dolin dry

1 egg white

Method - dry shake / wet shake / dry shake / double strain

Glassware - coupette

Garnish - 3 drops of Peychaud's aromatic bitters

**For further information please contact Vicki Byers, Burt Greener Communications, 0131 220 0003 / Vicki@burtgreener.co.uk**

### **Old Pulteney Single Malt Scotch Whisky**

Old Pulteney is one of the world's finest and most distinctive single malt Scotch whiskies. Known as the 'Maritime Malt', it is crafted in the windswept coastal town of Wick, home to the Pulteney Distillery which is one of the most northerly on the Scottish mainland. The distillery was established in 1826 in the heart of 'Pulteneytown', the town created to house fishermen during Wick's famous herring boom which drew a fleet of over 1000 boats and 7000 workers to this remote and rugged harbour.

Old Pulteney is the embodiment of this place, its people and its remarkable history. The skilled Pulteney Distillery team continues to craft whisky using the most traditional and time-honoured techniques that most others have long abandoned. This includes the uniquely shaped Pulteney stills, which are reflected in the design of the Old Pulteney bottle on shelves today.

Matured in hand-selected oak casks, the resulting whisky has been acclaimed for its excellence, its smooth drinking style and faint hint of the sea. Old Pulteney holds the coveted title of 'World Whisky of the Year' for 2012 in Jim Murray's Whisky Bible – one of the industry's highest accolades. The whisky also achieved top ten status in the UK single malt market in 2012 and is flourishing in many other countries around the world.

Old Pulteney continues to celebrate all things related to its maritime heritage and is renowned for its long standing support of sailing adventure across the globe. In 2015 the whisky announced a partnership to raise vital funds for the global maritime charity The Mission to Seafarers, the organisation that cares for the world's 1.5 million men and women who face danger each day while working at sea. Old Pulteney will donate £1 from every bottle of Old Pulteney 12 Year Old sold in 2015 to the charity, aiming to raise £30,000 to support their work providing counsel and friendship for merchant seafarers in need – whether they are stranded, isolated or far from home.