

A memorable visit to Andrew Cowan

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At the 50th Anniversary event at Linwood I took the opportunity to ask one of the guests, Andrew Cowan, if the Glasgow Area Centre of the Imp Club could visit his home to see the collection of rally cars he had amassed throughout his career. After a quick survey of his diary a date in September was reserved. Andrew's collection promised Mitsubishi rally cars, one of the most original works Imps and the famous London-to-Sydney Marathon-winning Hillman Hunter both of which would have been enough on their own to attract Imp Club members.

As the day approached

At the shed.
Right: Ian Sinclair (left) presenting Honorary Membership of the Imp Club to Andrew Cowan
Photos: Linda Cowan



the visit had expanded to include members from the Edinburgh, Grampian and Northumberland Area Centres and some 17 members descended on Andrew and Linda Cowan. Linda was the perfect hostess providing a snack for the members at lunch time. Andrew gave us a summary of his exploits as Imp driver, winner of the London-to-Sydney Marathon and his switch to management of the Mitsubishi Rally Team. His Imp rally car had been parked outside the 'Shed' but where were the others? When his summary was finished he pushed a button and a roller door opened to show why we were there.

In brilliant lighting and décor, a showroom appeared with *thirteen* Mitsubishi rally cars, one of every model used while Andrew had been in charge, including a magnificent 4x4 Paris-Dakar monster. Each one accompanied by crash helmet and race overalls of the famous drivers that had driven them. Pride of place was given over to two of the smallest cars of the display – an original rally Imp complete with documentation and works mods and the famous Hillman Hunter that had beaten the might of Ford and BMC all the way from London to Sydney. More pictures and even more stories of the two Rootes cars followed. Groups formed and all the cars were



Unfortunately Cowan's London-to-Sydney Marathon winning Hunter could not be photographed. If you're not familiar with the car it's like this but a bit bigger!

Photo: Google Images



scrutinised to the 'n'th degree. All too soon Linda called us to order and introduced us to her 'snack'. Tables were groaning with all manner of goodies served, along with tea, coffee, etc.

As the meal drew to a close I gave a vote of thanks to Andrew and Linda but I had one more important duty to perform. The Imp Club wanted Andrew to become an Honorary Member and it gave me immense pleasure to make the presentation. I think Andrew was chuffed!

We had been asked not to take pictures of the display cars but as soon as the meal was over we all spilled outside and took pictures of our cars and the group. Maps were then consulted and Andrew suggested some roads home that had been used in the Jim Clark Road Rally. Off we went- all in different directions: some to see the Jim Clark memorial clock in Chirnside and others to sample the route through a nearby ford. This area of the borders has so much to offer the keen driver with roads to die for and historic sites that it is well worth a visit when on your way to Scotland or England

All in all a great day out for all and our thanks definitely go out to our great hosts Andrew and Linda.



*En route to Chez Cowan, the group stopped for a photo.
Left to right: Owen Sinclair, Hugh Liddle,
Tom Blackwood and Scott Fanning
Photo: Paul Coulter*

