

Imp Ecosse

Boat of Garten Holiday Park, Inverness-shire, 17th-19th April 2015

Ian Smith (Joint Highlands & Islands Area Centre Organiser), Nairn, Scotland



A total of 26 Imps, Ginettas and Clans assembled at the Boat of Garten Holiday Park on Friday 17th April for this year's Imp Ecosse.

Saturday morning dawned warm and sunny for the start of the weekend. Saturday's run took the Impers through the wooded roads of the Rothiemurcus forest up to the Cairngorm Ski Centre for a photoshoot. They were greeted by stunning scenery and a visit from a

herd of reindeer crossing the car-park within touching distance. (No sign of Santa though!)

Some took the opportunity to go up the funicular railway to the Ptarmigan restaurant for an even better view of the Cairngorm National Park. From there, the crews made their way down the mountain road to Coylumbridge where they turned onto the B970 and made their way to Feshiebridge enjoying even more of the Highland scenery along the way. A run around the picturesque Loch Inch, passing the ruins of Ruthven barracks took them to Loch Inch Watersports Centre for a leisurely lunch stop.

After lunch and an oil and water check, the route then took the cars around Loch Garten where

Cars parked up at the Ski Centre, Cairngorm

Photo: Mike Scott



Right: From dense forest to snow-capped mountains, Imp Ecosse always delivers stunning scenery

Photos: Alex Binnie

a visit to the Osprey Centre was rewarded for some by the Ospreys laying their first egg since returning to the nest for the summer.

Saturday evening was quiz night followed by a raffle held in the Boat of Garten Community Hall. My wife Hilary and daughter Tracy provided an excellent meal of venison sausages or macaroni followed by apple pie or cheesecake. This was thoroughly enjoyed by all and I would thank them again for their hard work in preparing and serving the food.

Sunday morning was cold and frosty for the judging of cars but still drew a lot of attention from the locals. Furthest travelled award went to Gill Hill and partner John Fenton who travelled 630 miles from Sussex in Gill's "bog standard Imp" to be at Imp Ecosse.

After the judging of cars the crews set off for the Sunday run. By now the Highland weather was back with a warm and sunny afternoon. The route took the Imps to Nethybridge then over some great single-track roads. We then drove round Lochindorb to the Speyside Heather Centre for tea and before heading back to Boat of Garten. For those staying on Sunday night a meal had been arranged at the Boat of Garten Hotel which was enjoyed by all who partook.

Soon it was Monday morning and time to say goodbye to friends old and new, sparing a thought for Sue and Andy Ellis whose VW camper unfortunately broke down and had to be transported back to Wales on the back of a breakdown truck. It was a great weekend and going by the comments on the Forum everyone enjoyed themselves.

Linwood Day

Linwood, Scotland, 2nd May 2015

Ian Sinclair (Glasgow ACO), Kilmarnock, Scotland

The sun shines on the righteous and so it was on the 2nd May. After an April of almost constant rain and frost, Saturday of 'Linwood Day' dawned bright and frost-free although still a little windy to greet the throng of Imps and the other cars produced at the Linwood factory.

I did not know what to expect from this inaugural event but I was not disappointed as one after another cars arrived all polished and gleaming ready to celebrate the factory's production range. As expected, Imps were in the majority with over 13 examples on show. The other Linwood cars on display included Avengers, a modified Sunbeam Talbot and a now very rare Hunter GLS. Imps had come from the local area centres – Edinburgh and Aberdeen – but the

furthest travelled was the Super of Richard Le Marquand and his wife Viv all the way from Northampton.

All were invited into the St James Business Centre for refreshments hosted by site owner and club member John Workman.

Quality Manager Jim Pollard (92 years young) was brought along by his family and had some great conversations with metallurgist Norrie Bradshaw and other members of the Quality team at the factory.

One of the most visited attractions was the "work in progress" Sunbeam Sport of member Bob Cairns who brought his project car along on the back of a trailer. Stripped to a rolling shell, it gave people a chance to see the bare bones of the Imp and also Bob's prowess at welding, a recently acquired skill learned at the Motherwell Technical College.

Before long it was time to start the Tour of North Ayrshire and the cars were led off by Alex



Cars lined up at the Cardwell Garden Centre, first stop of the Tour of North Ayrshire

Photo: Ian Sinclair

As expected, Imps vastly outnumbered other models present
Photo: Paisley On Line



Ian Sinclair's Super
Photo: Ian Sinclair

Less is more: Bob Cairn's Sunbeam Sport created huge interest among visitors
Photo: Ian Sinclair





Paul Coulter's Imp Super (ex-Tom Blackwood) and Guthrie Anderson's Avenger Tiger, respelendent in 70s graphics from the Raleigh Chopper School of Design, voted the 'Car you would like to go home with'
 Photo: Ian Sinclair

Knox in his rare Singer Chamois Sport. The route took the cars through Lochwinnoch, Kilbirine and Largs before the lunch stop at the Cardwell Garden Centre. The Centre had kindly promoted Linwood Day on their website and as a result as soon as the cars were parked in their

reserved places they were surrounded by interested public with the usual comments, "You don't see many of these now," (*Ironic when they are surrounded by over a dozen of them! GP*) and "I worked in the factory," etc.

The tour had taken in spectacular views of the Firth of Clyde and its many islands as well as the Cross of Lorraine, a memorial to the French sailors lost at sea during the Second World War before returning to Linwood via the Bridge of Weir. Teas were again waiting for the returning crews and the tables were still well stocked even after the hungry hoards had had their fill. Glasgow members' wives did the Centre proud with an outstanding supply of home baking, which proved popular with all, including members of the general public who had arrived in numbers.

The event was a great success and could well be held as an annual event, ideally as near the 2nd May as possible to commemorate the opening of the Linwood factory.

The 'Car you would like to go home with' was won by Guthrie Anderson with his immaculate Avenger Tiger so come on Imp owners let's get polishing for next year.



Richard le Marquand's Super (in Orange Blossom?, one of the rarest Imp colours) with Firth of Clyde behind
 Photo: Ian Sinclair