

Imp 2016 Report

Hatton Country World, Warwick, CV35 8XA, 4th-8th August 2016

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Hatton Country World

feet after practising on the

Well the dust has almost settled on another National and it's time to reflect on what some members are saying was the one of the best Nationals in recent years.

With 3½ days of setting up completed in good time Rally Control was able to open a little earlier than published and the steady stream of early arrivals were processed promptly once the team found their

booking in with the volunteers.

With all going well and the campsite filling up steadily it wasn't too long before the now seemingly traditional Thursday afternoon downpour dampened the atmosphere. Fortunately it blew over quite quickly and we were treated to some fine weather throughout most of the week-



Welcome packs being prepared by the unsung heroes of Rally Control
Photo: Graham Anderson

end before almost reaching boiling point during the award presentations on Sunday afternoon.

Friday saw over 75 cars depart on a 50-mile run to the British Motor Museum after taking in the extensive views from Avon Dassett Country Park. The return journey took in options to



Hatton Country World team were brilliant: Charnel, Michelle and Janie
Photo: Graham Anderson

walk over to Chesterton Windmill and Warwick town centre with its numerous historic buildings. Back on site it was Bake Off time in the marquee, a new event being held for the first time in memory of Gill Dunkley. Unsurprisingly, and to the delight of many, there was a massive selection of cakes for all to sample before voting their favourite. Mine appropriately was a fruit cake – very similar to those that Gill used to bring to our Committee meetings but the overall winner and runner up was Jason Mead with two very popular offerings.

Terence Tracey flew in from South Africa specially to entertain us in the evening by describing his epic journey with co-driver Geoff Biermann driving the JoLon Imp from Cape Town for Imp 50 in 2013. With the aid of numerous photos Terence recalled some of the challenges encountered as they travelled north through Africa and beyond. While it clearly was not plain sailing we learnt of many humorous incidents including one where Terence renamed the capital of Kenya *Nairobi*, due to some unsavoury incidents as they passed through the city! This tale and many other details of the entire journey are detailed in Terence's book, *No Way Back*, which sold out on the night but is now available from Regalia, no doubt next month's Regalia page will contain full details.

Saturday dawned dry and bright and after an excellent hearty breakfast in the Spinning Jenny restaurant almost 50 Imps left for a tour of Shakespeare Country with the route passing through a ford on its way south, deep into the Cotswolds, for a visit to Broadway Tower and Bourton-

on-the-Water before heading back via the Bard's home town of Stratford-upon-Avon.

Fancy Dress proved very popular at the evening's fancy dress with many excellent Shakespearean costumes while others went for the alternative sartorial option and donned a hat for 'Hats on for Hatton'.



Seven barrels of this popular ale were consumed over the weekend
Photo: Graham Anderson



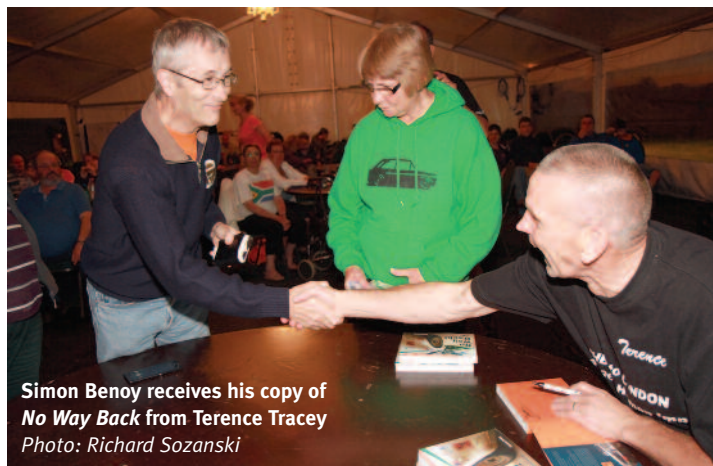
Vince & Dot Frost were kind enough to bring some Welsh rain with them
Photo: Graham Anderson



Sunset after Thursday's rain.
Weather stayed dry for the rest of the event
Photo: Graham Anderson

The disco kept the children amused early on but it took a while for the 'Dad dancing' to get going, maybe it wasn't to everyone's taste...

With marshalling assistance from the Sheffield and North Notts Area Centres, owners presented their steeds for Show & Shine display early



Simon Benoy receives his copy of
No Way Back from Terence Tracey
Photo: Richard Sozanski



Ben Morgan sings *Happy Birthday*
for Dave Dickinson. Chairman James holds
the mic and mother Vicki encourages
Photo: Graham Anderson

on Sunday morning and as usual a fine selection of Imps were on view. Voting, as ever, was by members and the worthy winner was the newly restored and beautifully signwritten Commer Imp Van of Mark Barlow. Mention must also be made of the new award for the Young Driver's car

which went to Dom Smith's BMW-powered Stiletto while both the Young Contributor to the Club award and Peter Harper Motorsport trophy were awarded to Gemma Weeks following her amazing number of successes in her dad Nigel's trials Imp in her first season. All this before she's even passed her driving test! Rob Cumberbatch carried off the Masterclass trophy with his excellent restoration skills on display once again. A full list of all award winners can be found on page 16.

A two-part picture quiz was a welcome introduction to Sunday evening's quiz. The



Karen Claydon presents
Bake Off prizes (Winner AND
Runner up!) to Jason Mead
Photo: Graham Anderson



"Come on in, the
water's lovely!" Bob
Hawes and Graham
Traxson making a
splash, Andy Smith in
his Husky gets ready
to follow
Photo: Richard Sozanski



Pair of white Supers of Andrew Webb and Grahame Pearson spotted at dawn by Peter Nunney: "I quite fancy one of those Sport engine lids..." (See page 32)
Photo: Peter Nunney

event was organised by our friends in the Bristol & Bath Area Centre and it once again featured their rather tricky 'identify the parts' quiz all in aid of their adopted charity, the Children's Hospice South West. One team consisted of none other than Bob Allan of Club Spares, Vince Frost and a few

other long standing Imp specialists so it was no real surprise that they romped home with a clear margin over the also-rans.

This brought the weekend to an end and, as Monday morning dawned, it was time to say our good-byes and begin the site break down. With the help of many we



John Simister's Stiletto now looking superb following some painstaking (and expensive!) bodywork
Photo: Grahame Pearson



Just a fraction of Sunday's Show & Shine display
Photo: Graham Anderson

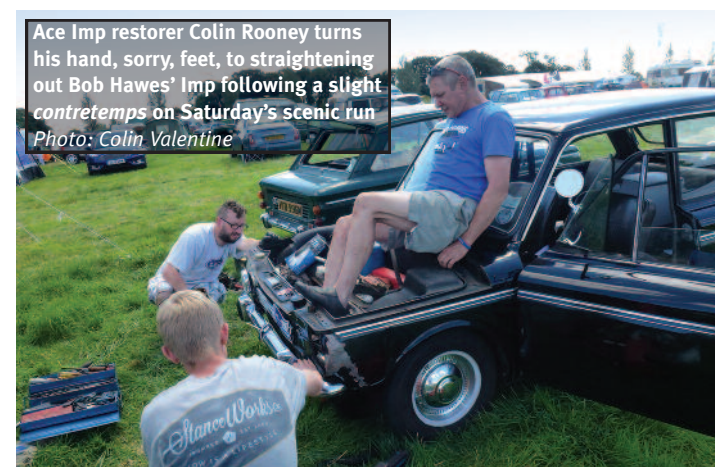


Owner's name not known but this shortened Imp is seriously cute!
Photo: Grahame Pearson

were able to leave the site, bar a couple of stragglers, by about 2pm and head for home having enjoyed a great weekend.

As ever it goes without saying that the event simply could not happen without the wide and various levels of support from some very dedicated club members. The

Rally Control team comprising of the Sears family, Chris Clark ably assisted by Dave Robson, Graham Cashmore, Paul Parsons, Derek & Marion Farrow and Nigel Weeks did a fantastic job of getting everyone booked in, promptly directed into the campsite, and out again for the runs.



Ace Imp restorer Colin Rooney turns his hand, sorry, feet, to straightening out Bob Hawes' Imp following a slight contretemps on Saturday's scenic run
Photo: Colin Valentine



Pete Gardiner brought along Chamois Coupé 'EPP' to the delight of the Editor who owned it back in the '80s and regrets selling it ever since!
Photo: Grahame Pearson

& Dave Dickinson who dealt with the event website and all advance bookings, Richard Sozanski who accompanied me on all site meetings and arranged Saturday's run, Pete Fitzgerald and Karen Bell for the arranging the advertising organising the awards and their sponsorship, and not



Graham Anderson's granddaughter Leah admiring fluffy headlining in Bernice Benton's seriously pink Husky
Photo: Graham Anderson



Gill Hill (Siva Llama) and Jeremy Walton (Davrian): contenders for Best Yellow Car award!
Photo: Graham Anderson

Scott Clements was a superb helping hand over the entire weekend, not only taping out the entire site early on Thursday morning but also acting as recovery truck for one unfortunate member who broke down with a seized engine just five miles from the venue. Other significant contributors were Lynda

least for managing the Raffle. Also worthy of mention is Kev Eldred who stayed on holiday with his family on the adjacent campsite so he could help for a couple of days and over the weekend. Without this dedication the event could not achieve the standards members expect so thank you

to all I have mentioned and to all others who contributed in a some way or another. Your help is much appreciated.

As with all our Nationals there is always a post-event debrief meeting with the host venue and this year's was very favourable. To help with future events



A new award this year is Christa Pelton's Tim Fry Spirit of the Imp Award, the first recipient being Jake Korving
Photo: Grahame Pearson



Gemma Weeks won two trophies: Young Imp Driver award and Peter Harper Memorial Trophy
Photo: Grahame Pearson

events in future. They also said what a great bunch of people our members are, in fact it was so positive that they really would love us to go back again. I did check they had got the right event and yes it was us! So well done everyone for representing the club in such a positive and friendly way.



Bernice Benton receives her 2nd place award for Best Husky from Rosemary Smith
Photo: Grahame Pearson

we have the most comprehensive set of stats for meals and drinks provided which will help future organising teams. The management team commented on the professional standard of the organisation and have asked for my assistance in promoting their venue to other clubs for similar