

# letters from abroad

## Greetings from Finland!

Matti Toivanen, Kuopio, Finland

Hillman and Sunbeam Imps are highly valued and much loved by their owners here in Finland. There are often articles about Imp history and test drives in various Finnish magazines.

The Imp Club Finland has approximately 120 members, many of them owning several Imps. In summer, we gather at race tracks to enjoy driving our Imps. Often we take part in shows for classic cars and motor-

bikes. In winter we drive on ice when possible, and that is wild!

Almost every year, Imp Club Finland takes part in the Finnish Classic Motor Show in Lahti and 2016 was no exception. It always amazes how interested people are in our cars; in 2013 our Imp 50



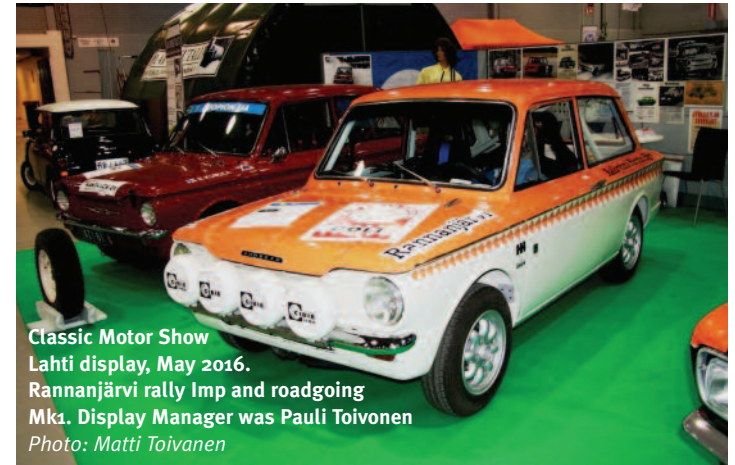
Kaanaa Track Day, August 2016: thumbs up says it all!  
Photo: Matti Toivanen



Kaanaa Track Day, August 2016: four lovely Stilettoes  
Photo: Matti Toivanen

anniversary display was voted the second best exhibition.

About seven of us are also members of the Imp Club. In 1990, I visited the National at Capesthorpe in rural Cheshire with Jorma Hartikka, driving a Sunbeam Imp. It was an incredible and memorable trip. We visited some



Classic Motor Show Lahti display, May 2016. Rannanjärvi rally Imp and roadgoing Mk1. Display Manager was Pauli Toivonen  
Photo: Matti Toivanen



Machine Day, Oulainen, summer 2016 display  
Photo: Matti Toivanen

Imp Club member Tom Conway came to see us in Finland twice: in summer 1999 and winter 2000. Together we visited many places and events, one of them was the Finnish Championship ice track race. What a great time we had! Tom wrote an article about his trip in



Gorgeous interior of the Sunbeam Imp in photo above  
Photo: Matti Toivanen

famous Imp tuners and spare parts retailers. Ray Payne of Hartwell's showed us around their tuning workshop and we also visited Malcom Anderson, Reg Patten, Andy Chessman, Swiss Auto's John Lockwood and Brian Wright who was the Imp Club spare parts retailer at that time.



*Impressions.*

This summer, 2016, we held three Imp gatherings including a superb one held at Oulaisten kansalliset konepäivät (Oulainen National Machine Fair), and the second in Kaanaa rallycross track. In Kaanaa we had 25 Imps and 4 Stiletto's! And at the third Classic Motor

Show Lahti our display had a rally theme.

After Great Britain, I suspect Finland has the largest number of Imp enthusiasts in the world. All members reading this are warmly welcome to take part in our future Imp activities! If You are interested in visiting us, please contact



Veijo Perämäki, the Imp Club's Overseas Contact for Finland (his contact details are at the back of the mag).



**Machine Day, Oulainen, summer 2016. Juho Korpela's 1,600cc Toyota engined Special Saloon Racing Stiletto in total contrast to white Imp on previous page! Superb workmanship evident**  
*Photo: Matti Toivanen*