

The Imp Club – Part Four, 1993-1994

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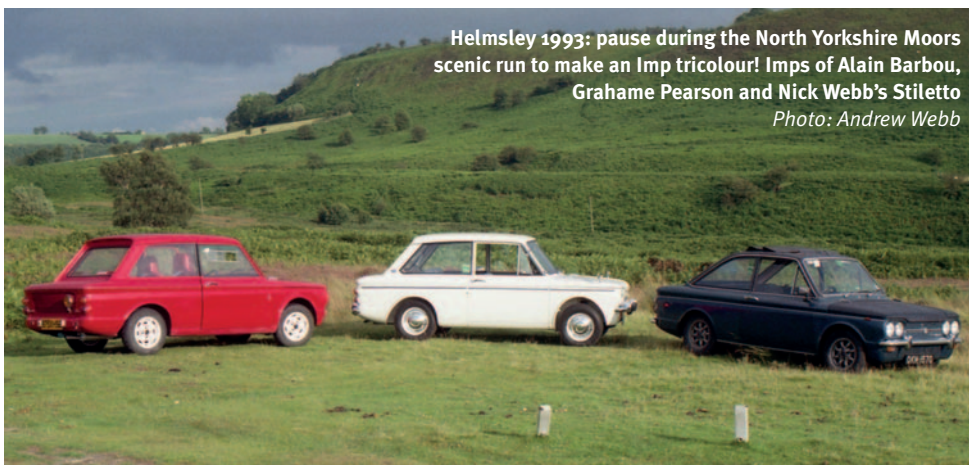
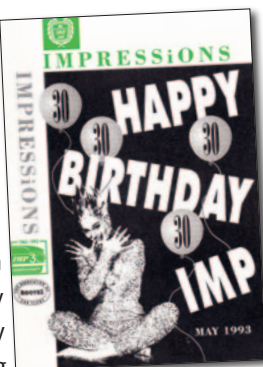


Welcome to the fourth chapter of the History of the Imp Club. On a personal note, I found this instalment interesting to put together as I went to my first National in 1993 aged 7 when our Prairie Wind Imp, *Harriet*, was used for the wheel-changing competition!

The 1993 AGM was held on 27th February at the Peugeot Talbot Sports and Social Club, Ryton and committee changes included

Graham Townsend becoming Chairman, Ian Reeves became Secretary, Miriam Townsend took over as Treasurer, Ian and Gilly Philpot took over Membership, Bob Allan continued as Spares Co-ordinator, Huw and Karen Crowther took over Regalia and Bob Jones became Area Centre Organiser.

The 1993 National Weekend took place from 12 noon, Friday 6th August-12 noon, Monday 9th August at Duncombe Park, Helmsley, Yorkshire and was organised by the Yorkshire AC. With 340 Imps and other classics in attendance it was the best attendance yet. The Autotest was organised by Colin Valentine with 15 Imps or related vehicles taking part, being won by Nigel Bennett. Tony Mason of *Top Gear* took part and got some footage along with the ill-fated interviews that would stay long in the memory and pages of *Impressions* (it's on YouTube if you haven't seen it). The Driving Skills Test Male category was won by Nick Lunn and the Female class by Pepi Burn. The Wheel-Changing Competition and Inter Area Centre tug o' war provided excellent entertainment with Reading coming out on top with Warrington as runners up. A treasure hunt was another optional activity, being won by Heather and Colin Gunn. The Best Rootes Hillman award went to Nigel Stringer and the Best Chrysler Hillman award went to Frank Atkinson. The award for Best Sunbeam went to Andrew Davies and Gwen Sparks picked up the award for Best Singer. The Best Husky/Van award went to Ian Wilson with the Best Imp Based award going to M Burton. The Best Modified award went to Peter Perkins with his converted electric



Helmsley 1993: pause during the North Yorkshire Moors scenic run to make an Imp tricolour! Imps of Alain Barbou, Grahame Pearson and Nick Webb's Stiletto
Photo: Andrew Webb

Imp. The new award for Best Customised Imp went to Michael Onions and the new trophy for Best Competition vehicle went to Ken Dunkley. The awards for the furthest distance travelled by an Imp in the world and the furthest distance travelled by an Imp Club member went to Jeys Petter

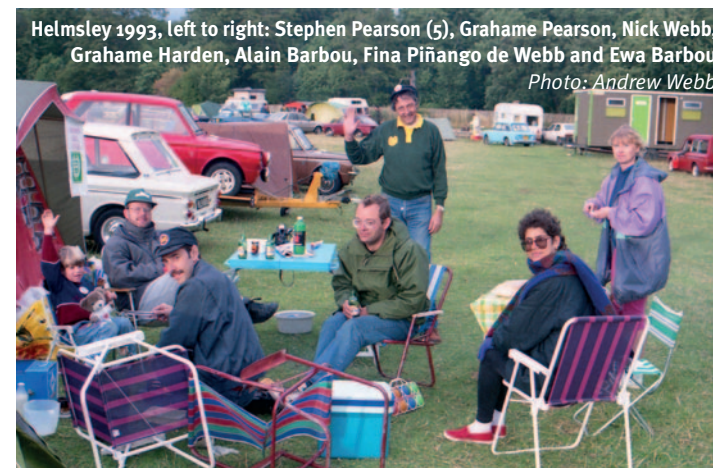
Odberg for travelling 1,681 km. The award for furthest distance travelled by Imp in the UK went to Eric Walker (374 miles). The winner of the Rosemary Smith Perpetual Award was Frank Atkinson.

As 1993 marked the Imp 30th anniversary various birthday themed events were organised and attended around the country including the unusual presence of 26 Imps at the Chelsea Cruise at Battersea Park on a Saturday evening in April. 28 cars took part in the Imp Club Centre of England Run on 9th May. 1st prize went to Kim Beddoe and Chris Wiltshire in a Nymph, 2nd prize went to Pepi Burn and 3rd prize went to Lynda and Dave Dickinson, both in Chamois Coupés.

An Imp Club Linwood-to-Ryton Run was arranged for 11th September, to arrive at the Rootes Weekend at the Ryton Plant in Coventry. Over 20 cars gathered at Linwood for a tour of the remaining factory site. The next morning the group lined up in front of the former Rootes Scotland Showroom for press photos then set off, heading south. A few Scottish cars peeled off as arranged, leaving 16 to continue the journey to Ryton, all arriving successfully at 5.30 p.m. to a great welcome. The run raised over £2,000 for special care baby units at Glasgow and Coventry hospitals.

Warrington AC (with some help from Essex) won 2nd prize at the Northern Classic Car Show for their 'Thirty Years of the Devilish Little Imp' stand resembling a haunted house with members in vampire fancy dress. The Imp Club Events Best Effort Award for 1993 went to Bob Allan and his team in recognition of their work.

The 'anniversaries' themed club stand at the National Classic



Helmsley 1993, left to right: Stephen Pearson (5), Grahame Pearson, Nick Webb, Grahame Harden, Alain Barbou, Fina Piñango de Webb and Ewa Barbou
Photo: Andrew Webb



Helmsley 1993: Rosemary Smith presents 3rd place Best Modified award to Graham Cashmore for his Stiletto
Photo supplied by Graham Cashmore



Helmsley 1993: Andrew Webb's Imp Sport.
Amazing how tents have changed in the last 27 years
Photo: Andrew Webb

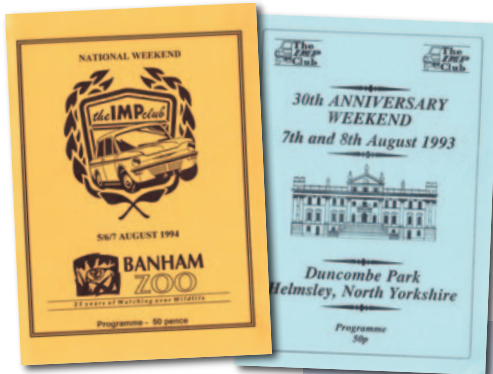
Motor Show at the NEC in November 1993 won 1st prize with Frank Atkinson's white Imp in a giant carrycot to represent the birth of Rootes new baby, Dave Allman's 1974 Sport and Lynda Dickinson's Claret Chamois Coupé were two teenagers coming of age showing the 18th anniversary of the

Imp, and Dave Andrews' blue Husky with Ed Rhys' Caledonian representing parents celebrating their 30th anniversary.

1993 saw a number of new area centres form including Leicestershire, Somerset, Aberdeen and North Wales, with West Sussex and Hastings amalgamating.

The 1994 AGM was held on 6th March at Eathorpe Park Hotel, near Coventry with the only committee change being John Lockwood standing down as Competition Secretary, a position filled later in the year by Henry Mitchell.

The Earls Court Classic Car Show in February 1994 featured nine Imps on a Stage Rally theme and won 1st prize overall for the Best Club Stand. In May the Centre of England Run – Cotswold Tour treasure hunt-style event was completed by 18 cars with Pepi Burn coming first.



The 1994 National Weekend was held at Banham Zoo in Norfolk on 5th-8th August with excellent weather and great facilities including full catering and showers, all organised by Lynne and Gordon Wellbelove and the East Anglia Area Centre. Visits



Banham Zoo 1994: Dunbartonshire Police Imp replica owned by the late Mike Scott
Photo: Andrew Webb

were planned to Norwich, Wroxham on the Norfolk Broads, Bressingham Steam Museum and Gardens on the Saturday followed by a barbecue and a quiz (won by Warrington) while options were available throughout the weekend to have a go at the treasure hunt or the zoo quiz for children. Sunday featured the usual line-up in the display field with the

opportunity to have a go at an autotest or driving skills test and this year Rosemary Smith got to have a go and was fastest overall at the autotest! The winner of the Autotest Male category was Mike Ockwell, with Pepi Burn picking up the awards for Best Lady in both Autotest and Driving Skills. The Driving Test award for the Male category went to John Poxon. The Inter Area Centre tug o' war took place at 2 p.m. with Stevenage taking the victory over Warrington. The Treasure Hunt was won by Roger Swift and Simon Benoy and the prizes for the Children's Zoo Quiz went to Langan Turner and Kimberley Benoy (I still have the mug!). The award for Best Rootes Hillman went to Vanessa Sears with the prize for Best Chrysler Hillman going to Ed Rhys. Rob Immers won the Best Sunbeam award and D Ridgeway got the award for Best Singer. The Best Husky/Van trophy was awarded to Ronald Coles and Best Imp Based went to Robin Human. Mike Scott took home the award for Best Modified for his replica Police Imp and Best Competition Imp went to Simon James. Furthest Distance Travelled by an Imp went to Ian Creagh and Furthest Distance Travelled by an Imp in the UK went to Timo Rumary. The Rosemary Smith Perpetual Trophy was awarded to D Ridgeway for his Singer.



Banham Zoo 1994: 'Impact' short wheelbase Imp!
Photo: Andrew Webb

By the end of 1994 there were 32 active area centres in the club, new additions this year being Penine and Grampian.

The 1994 Events Best Effort award went to Richard and Anthony Sozanski for their support with the Birmingham NEC shows.



Banham Zoo 1994: Croydon Area Centre tug o' war team
Photo: Andrew Webb