



## *Interview of the Month* **NITA KORHONEN**

*FMN/CONU Liaison Director  
Founding Member & Director  
of the FIM's Women in Motorcycling Commission*

INTERVIEWED BY PHILIPPA LAVERTY

### 1) How did you become the Director of the Commission?

I had been in the FIM (Fédération Internationale de Motocyclisme) Women in Motorcycling Commission since the beginning (2006) and it seems that I had done something right when the FIM board of directors nominated me once our previous director Beulah Schoeman decided to retire in 2012. I never really planned on becoming the director or even a member of the Women's Commission. Hard work has always opened doors for me because I have been extremely lucky to be surrounded by people who appreciated my passion and work ethics. These people encouraged me to step into different exciting roles.

### 2) What do you love most about it?

My main motivation and pleasure in work and in life comes from helping people and seeking fairness. In this sense, there is a lot to do for women in a male dominated world. I come from one of the most gender equal countries in the world (Finland) so trifling with the outdated roles and traditions and breaking barriers has been a great pleasure.

### 3) Who was your role model when you grew up?

My mum. She was the strongest and most emphatic person I have ever known. Working in the 70s in the motorcycling world championship series as a woman wasn't easy at all, but she was able to win even the most cynical men over with her character and she was highly appreciated by everyone.



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*About Nita Korhonen*

*Finnish born Nita Korhonen is the International Motorcycling Federation, FIM's Liaison Director of National Federations and Continental Unions. She is also one of the founding members of the FIM's Women in Motorcycling Commission and the director of the commission since 2012. Nita was born into the motorsport family as her father is 1975 Circuit Racing Bronze medalist Pentti Korhonen and her mother Marja-Leena one of the most hard-working women at the Continental Circus in the 70s. Nita started to ride motorcycles when she was about 4 years old and has also competed in few races in Finland. Nita has a bachelor degree in business and communication and master's degree in sport management. She is also an award-winning author and has published four books including the biography of four times rally world champion Juha Kankkunen. She has worked almost two decades as a motorsport journalist, columnist, producer and TV host taking care also of the communication of some riders and teams competing in MotoGP series. In 2019 Finland's Ministry of Education and Culture acknowledged Nita's work for equality in sport by awarding her the "Piikkarit" trophy.*

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