



1) Running a Colour-Coded Event

Using SportIdent

Introduction

These notes are written for a local event, where typically you can expect 60 – 100 competitors. For a 200-entry Gallopen, a second networked computer is needed.

Normally two “experts” from the SI team will run the computer set-up, in two shifts. In the first shift, it may be helpful to have an extra person reading out the registration forms.

With the introduction of SI, the jobs that need to be done have changed a bit. The Organiser’s Pack gives some general advice to the Event Organiser.

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The DEVON OC “SI Team”

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The DEVON OC SportIdent kit comprises

- 60 normal controls numbered 31 to 90
- 1 SI-Master unit (purple - Labelled SI-Master and START)
not normally used on the day.
- 2 Clear controls
- 2 Check controls
- 2 Start controls
- 2 Finish controls
- 2 USB BSF7 Master Stations - red
- 1 Epson TM88iii Splits Printer, + spare paper rolls 80mm wide
- 1 Special dibber Service /Off
- 1 Special dibber Clear Backup
- 1 Special dibber Print Results
- 82 Hire Dibbers
- 1 Programming (inductive coupling) Stick
- 1 Printout station (Yellow Stripe BS7-P)
- 1 GeBe Thermal Printer, plus spare paper rolls 57mm wide
- 1 Mains Charger for the GeBe printer
- 1 Printer cable
- 1 Computer link cable (not normally used)
- 65 Aluminium stakes
- 65 Green plastic stakes
- 60 Kites, to hang from aluminium stakes with treasury tags

- 1 NEC Laptop computer



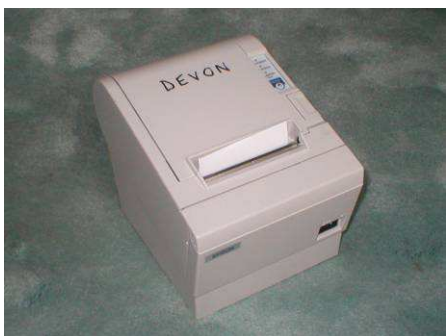
Controls and Printers

The controls are of a new design and are always ON. The only action needed is to synchronise their internal clocks using the SI-Master unit. This will normally be done by Alan Simpson a few days before the event.

This plan shows the layout of the centre aluminium tool-case on page 1.

	Clear	31	36	41	46	51	56	61	66	71	76	81	86	Start	
	Clear	32	37	42									87	Start	
	**	33	38	43									88	Maste	
	Check	34	39	44									89	Finish	
	Check	35	40	45									90	Finish	

** 3 Purple dibbers + ferrite stick. Use "Clear Backup" to clear the check and start boxes initially (This is not essential).



Epson TM88iii High-speed splits printer



GeBe stand-alone printer

The GeBe printer is only used as a back-up. It is independent of mains power, and may be useful

- at the start of the day before the computer system is up and running,
- if the computer system fails completely in the field,
- for training events when a computer is not used.

Stakes

The SI stakes are aluminium and fairly lightweight.

The plastic clip on the top holds the control.

A kite can be suspended from the outer hole on the horizontal arm.



I

This insertion tool for hard ground is robustly made from mild steel.

Hammer the tool, not an aluminium stake.

Use the handles to pull it out of the ground.

Tent

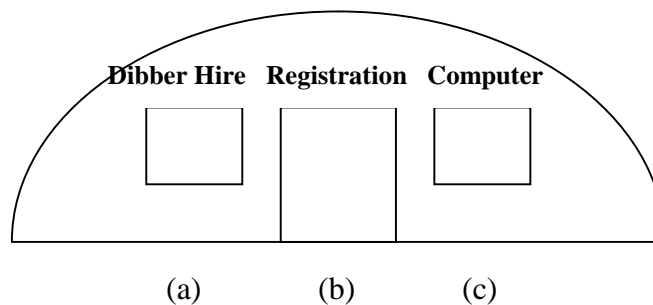
The Coleman tent has three windows, which conveniently provided access to:-

- a) dibber hire
- b) registration
- c) computer registration and download

a) and b) use a combined cash float.

One of the doors at the back is used for staff access.

The Coleman tent is of robust design and provides good protection in adverse weather. But it is heavy. On a mild summer day, a more open-air arrangement can be used, but bear in mind that the computer screen is not visible in direct sunlight.



It is assumed that registration forms will be given out by a car parking attendant, and will complete them (by and large) before approaching the tent. You don't want competitors blocking the area in front of the tent.

The registration system expects competitors to visit windows

- (a) only if they require a hired dibber
- (b) AND (c).

So, competitors visit the computer twice, once before and once after running.

It is possible to do the computer entry just from the form, but dibber numbers can be wrongly written or transcribed, whereas dibber entry into the computer system is foolproof. Also any details missing from the form can be obtained directly from the competitor.

Providing Power in the Field

1) Using an Inverter. The unit in the photograph costs £35 from Halfords

My laptop computer has a 19V battery and draws 4.2A from it.

I want to run it off an in-car inverter.

The inverter will convert the 12V battery supply to an approximate 240V ac.

The computer's own switch-mode power supply will then reduce this to 19V dc.



Qu. The inverter is rated at 150W. Is the inverter powerful enough for the job?

Ans. Power required by laptop = $19V \times 4.2A = 80W$.
So the inverter is man enough

Qu. If so, how long is my car battery likely to last, assuming that it starts fully charged? Its capacity is 48 ampere-hours.

Ans. Current drawn from battery = $80W/12V = 6.67A$
The system should run for $48 A.hr/6.67A = 7.2$ hours

In fact, in a direct measurement, the system took 5A from the car battery. This was with the laptop "idle", ie with no hard-drive active but with the screen lit.

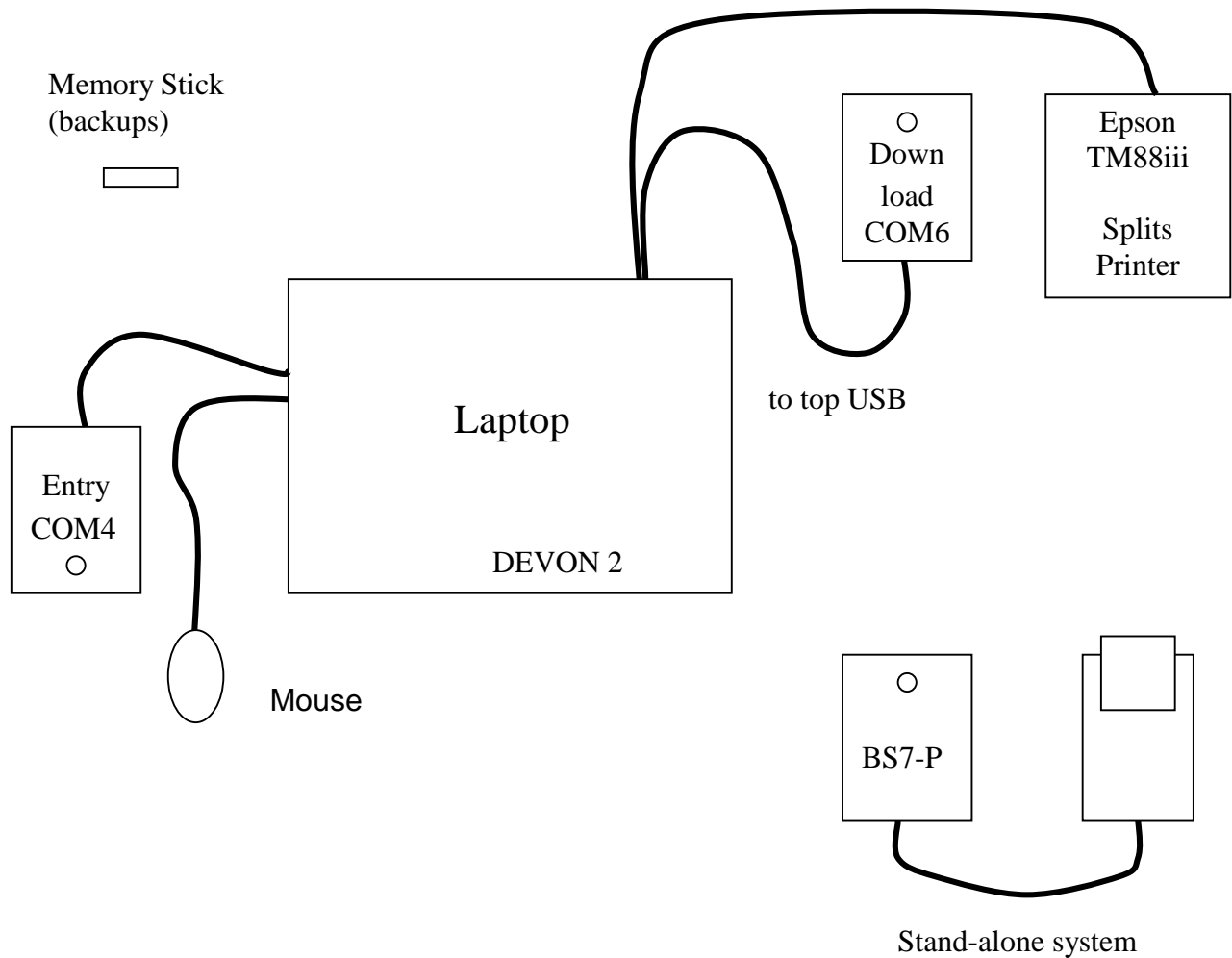
This is my preferred method for a local event.

2) Using a Small Petrol Generator

Halfords had a special offer recently. 1200W generator for £200.

This is plenty big enough to run a network of four computers plus a laser printer. At the recent two-day Caddihoe event, we used about £8 of petrol in the generator.

The Computer Set-up



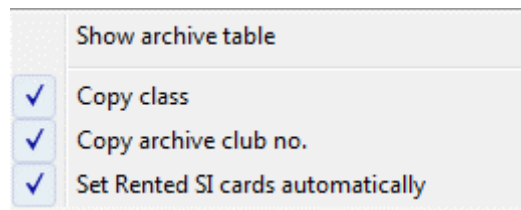
Notes

- I have used all four USB ports available on the laptop. Six would be ideal.
- I much prefer to have a mouse on-board even though it uses a precious USB port.
- Back-ups should be done during the event on to the laptop hard drive, and to a memory stick. The latter requires the temporary removal of something.
- Printed results lists can be made during the event. An ordinary printer with USB can be swapped in to one of the USB ports.

Mains power is required by the laptop, the Epson splits printer, and possibly the GeBe printer.

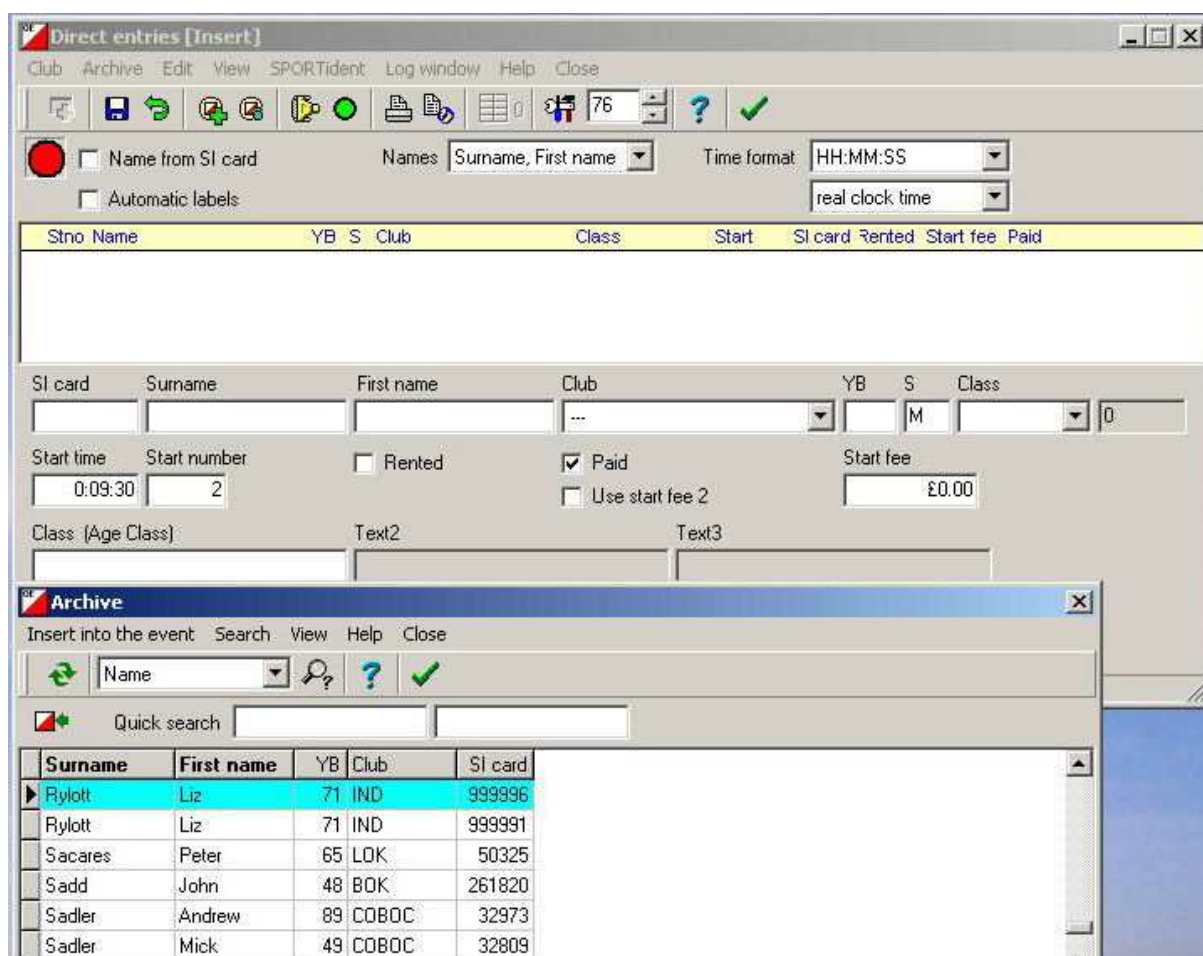
Dibbing Registration

Select Entries – Direct Entries
 Select Archive Tick the three options



Select Show Archive Table.

The two windows, Direct Entries and Archive, need to be open on the screen, though Archive can be underneath.



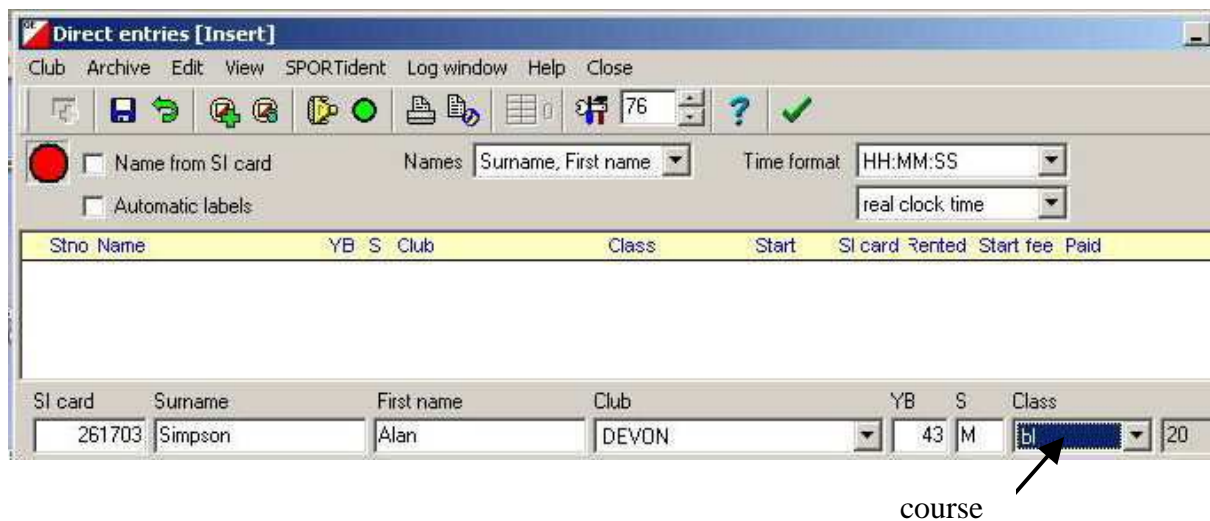
PTO

Click here to activate the SI reader station.

This light should turn green.



Each competitor dibs into the master station.



If this works, the competitor details will be picked up from the archive via the SI card (dibber) number, and entered into the appropriate fields.

The only detail to alter is the course.

For competitors renting SI cards, only the SI card number will be shown. Type in their details from the Event Registration form.

For these competitors, don't forget to click the "Rented" box. At download, a screen prompt will pop up, giving a reminder that the rented dibber should be returned. (Provide a clearly labelled bucket for the purpose).

A Trial Run

It is good to enter yourself before the rush. You can then test dibbing registration, and download. Inevitably you will have got them all wrong, assuming there is something in your dibber from your previous outing!

Backups

It is good to make regular backups during the event, say every half hour.

These can be made

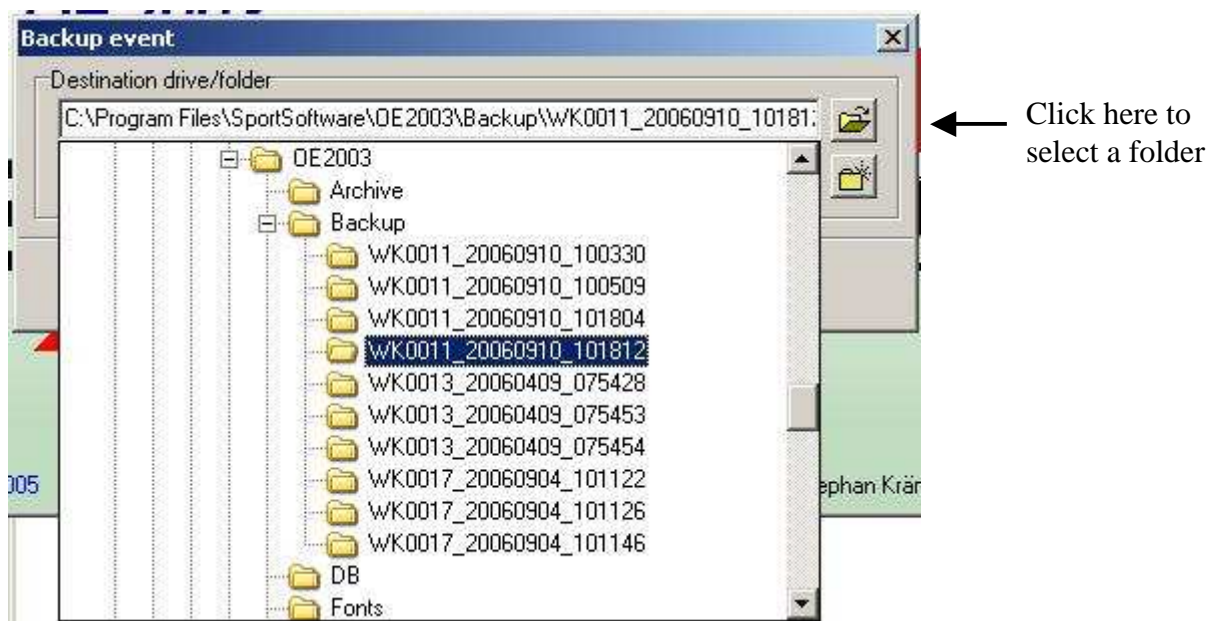
- a) to the hard drive
- b) to a memory stick

Close all windows and select **Event - Backup**



You have three options

- i) Click OK, and the data will over-write the previous file saved
C:\Program Files\SportSoftware\OE2003\Backup\WK0011_20060910_100330
- ii) Click on “Create a new folder automatically” - OK
and a new file will be created in the Backup folder



iii) Save to a memory stick, selecting a file from the above window.

If all the USB ports on the laptop are committed, you will have to temporarily remove something, eg the printer, to connect the memory stick.

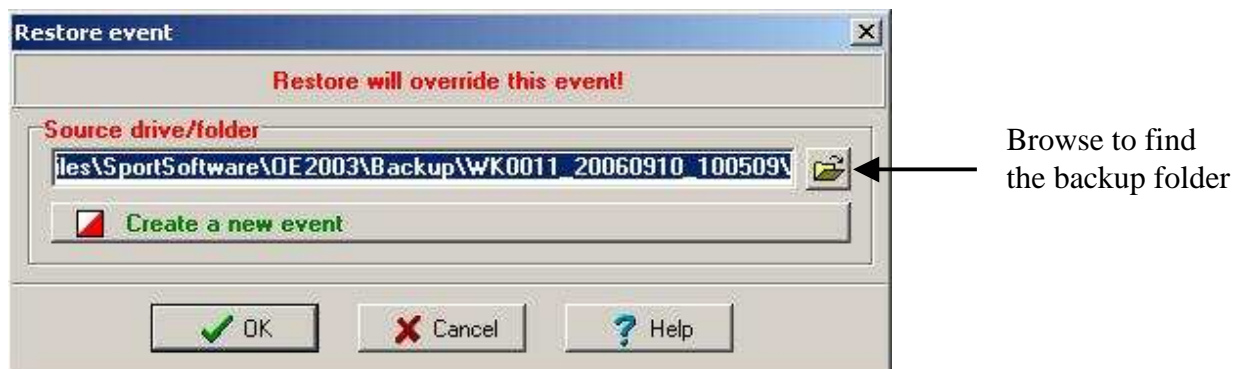
Note that, by default,

- a) all backup folders go into C:\Program Files\SportSoftware\OE2003\Backup, ie not into the sub-folder WK0011,
- b) the folder name contains the creation date 20060910, i.e. 10th September 2006, and exact time.

Restore Event

Hopefully this will not be necessary. But the idea of saving a sequence of regular half-hour back-ups means that, in emergency, you can restore the event to a previous known state.

Select Event – Restore



Select the backup folder and click OK.

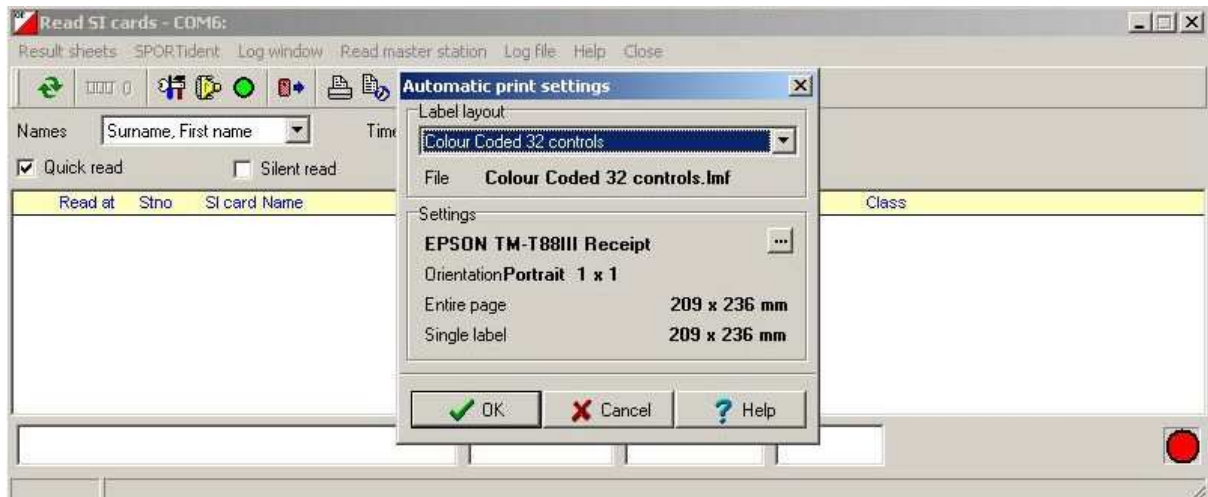
Also, Restore Event can be used to transfer an event to another PC via a memory stick.

Here you click on “Create a new event” - OK

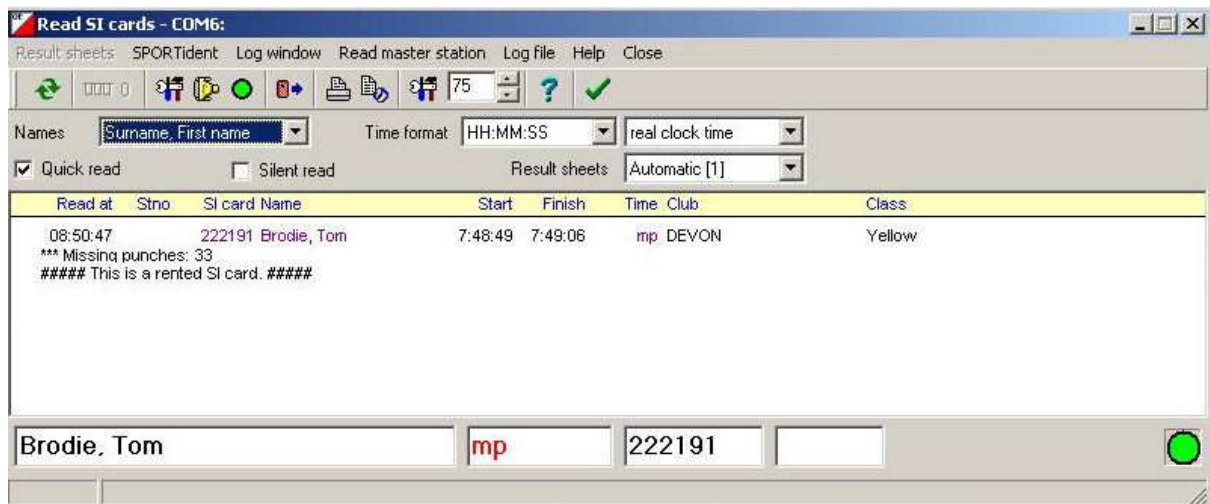
Download

1) Select Competition Day - Read SI cards.

Automatic print settings gives details for the splits printer. Click OK



2) The competitor dibs:-



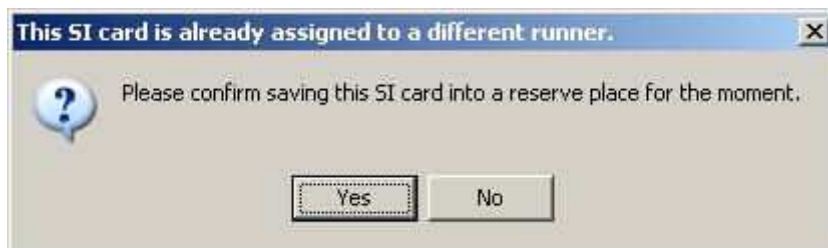
Here, unfortunately, Tom has missed a control. In the results, he will appear as “mp”, mis-punched.

The screen also gives you a prompt to remind you to collect the rented dibber at this stage.

3) Sometimes you get this:-



The request is not very enlightening. Press cancel. You get:-



The problem is that the SI card number has not been entered correctly. (Dibbing registration is supposed to stop this, but you can still mess up).

If you say “Yes”, the punch details will be recorded into a spare runner called “Reserve”. You will then have to sort out who is who later, which can be tricky.

It is better to say “No”.

Then open the Entries – Entries screen. Usually the runner is there with an incorrect SI card number. Overtyping the number, and go back to “Read SI cards”.

4) Sometimes a competitor asks for a second printout of his/her splits.

This is a little hazardous as you could over-write something you did not want to, but, if you agree and he dibs again, you will get this message. PTO for screen shot.

Click “Yes”.



Results

Select Competition Day - Results - Preliminary

A window invites you to select the courses you want. The default is all courses.

Here are the results for yellow. Yes, Tom did mis-punch, and all 12 runners are in.

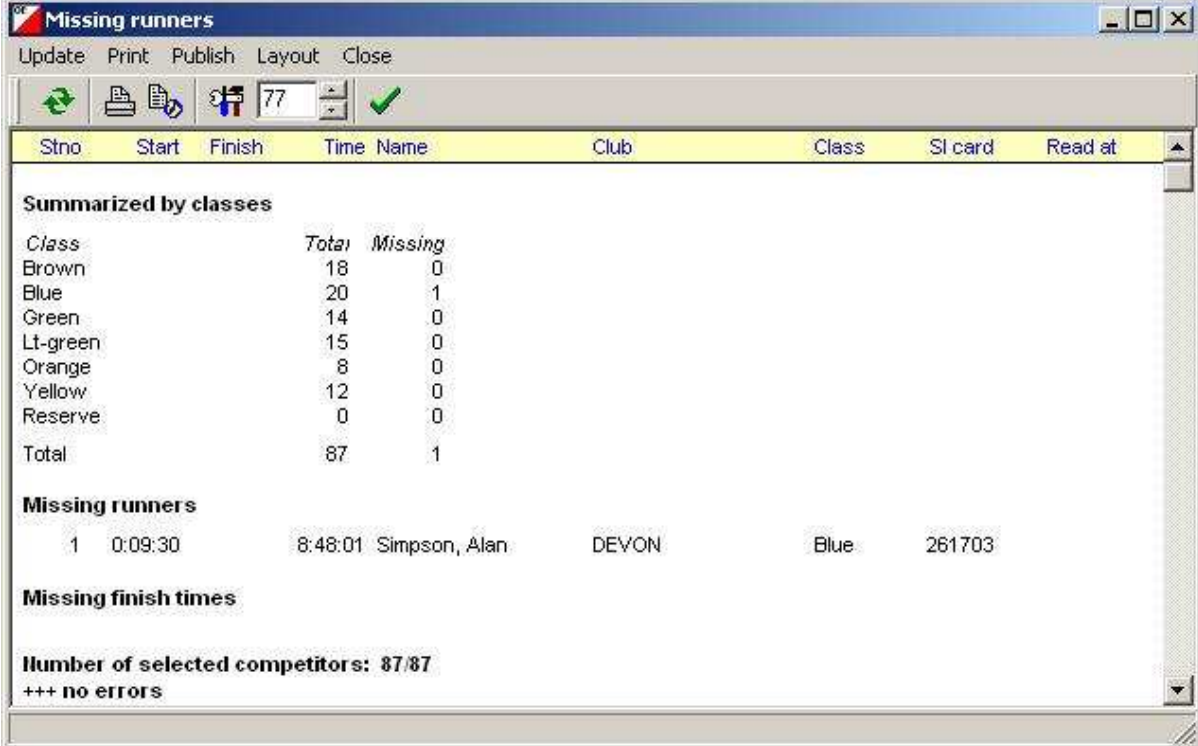
Pl	Name	Class	Club	Time
Yellow (12/12) Preliminary results 08:54				
1	Taylor, Duncan	M12	DEVON	13:54
2	Boucher, Lea	W10	DEVON	22:16
3	Boucher, Eulalie	W8	DEVON	22:29
4	Smith, Carole	W50	DEVON	25:21
5	Kohler, Jessie	W9	DEVON	28:26
6	Chesters, Ruth	W55	DEVON	29:26
7	Way, Jack	M10	DEVON	35:40
8	Robertson, Heather	W4	DEVON	41:45
9	Robertson, Fraser	M7	DEVON	47:27
10	Robertson, Cameron	M9	DEVON	55:04
	Brodie, Tom	M9	DEVON	mp
	Robertson, Angus	M7	DEVON	mp

Missing Runners

This facility is very useful near the end of an event, to find out how many runners are still competing, ie have not downloaded.

Select Competition Day - More Reports - Missing Runners

Select all - OK



The screenshot shows a software window titled "Missing runners" with a menu bar (Update, Print, Publish, Layout, Close) and a toolbar. The main content area is divided into sections:

- Summarized by classes:** A table with columns for Class, Total, and Missing.
- Missing runners:** A table with columns for Stno, Start, Finish, Time, Name, Club, Class, and SI card.
- Missing finish times:** A section with no data.
- Number of selected competitors:** 87/87
- +++ no errors**

Class	Total	Missing
Brown	18	0
Blue	20	1
Green	14	0
Lt-green	15	0
Orange	8	0
Yellow	12	0
Reserve	0	0
Total	87	1

Stno	Start	Finish	Time	Name	Club	Class	SI card
1	0:09:30		8:48:01	Simpson, Alan	DEVON	Blue	261703

Evaluate SI Cards

After download, it is useful to check all the details which have been downloaded from a competitor's dibber. For example, a well-known orienteer is concerned that he does not appear in the printed results list, although he has a full set of split times.

The option "Evaluate SI cards" is found under Competition Day.

Sort the list by name, surname first.

Stno	Name	Club	SI card
	Robertson Fraser	DEVON	331999
	Robertson Heather	DEVON	331998
	Robertson Lynda	DEVON	408438
	Robertson Stuart	DEVON	408439
	Simpson Alan	DEVON	261871
	Skuckova Hana	IND	222192
	Smith Carole	DEVON	222205
	Smith Jo	DEVON	222206

No start time.

Split	Time	Cumulative
1	39	0:15:42
2	51	0:18:21
3	50	0:28:31
4	48	0:33:12
5	45	0:39:13
6	59	0:42:40
7	60	0:44:41
8	44	0:52:34
9	40	0:57:53
10	42	1:02:53
11	54	1:05:44
12	55	1:09:34
13	56	1:11:56
14	57	1:15:49

It appears that Alan had a senior moment, and forgot to punch the start control.

We have a check time. The best guess is that he started at 12:09:00. Enter this time in the right hand start box.

Evaluate SI Cards – Checking for Errors

It is useful to scroll right down the list, pausing on competitors where there is a red Error banner.

The screenshot shows the 'Evaluate SI cards' application. The main window displays a list of competitors. An 'Edit punch' dialog box is open, showing the code number '43' and time '13:21:24' for a selected competitor. Below the list, a detailed view for a selected SI card shows a red 'Error' banner. To the right of this view is a table of control numbers and times. An arrow points from the text 'Right Click' to the table, with a sub-list: 'Modify', 'Insert', 'Delete'.

Control	Number	Time
1	39	12:09:14
2	35	12:41:58
3	40	
4	41	
5	42	
6	43	13:21:24

In this case, it is clear that Kelly abandoned the course after 3 controls. The three numbers in pink, 40 – 42, were on the course but not visited.

In other cases, you may wish to edit the records. Right click on the blue line and you have the choice of Modify, Insert, or Delete. The Window “Edit Punch” is shown.

If a control has failed or been vandalised, it is best to go to Courses – Courses, and remove that control from the course. Then you should go to

Competition Day – Evaluate SI Cards – Actions - Code Checking

This will re-evaluate all the cards which have been downloaded.

(Stephan Kramer really buried this one!)

DEVON OC EVENT REGISTRATION FORM

Entry Fee £7 £5 £1

DIBBER NUMBER

OWN						
-----	--	--	--	--	--	--

or

RENTED						
--------	--	--	--	--	--	--

Please take your dibber to computer registration as it speeds the entry process

Surname	
First Name	
Club or IND	
Class eg M40	

WHITE		if available Please tick required course
YELLOW		
ORANGE		
LT. GREEN		
GREEN		
BLUE		
BROWN		

Car Registration Number

Please complete the information below if you are renting a dibber:-
Tel. Number
Address.....
.....
e-mail:

New to Orienteering?

Please ask for help from Enquiries – Peter Flick in the Red Range Rover.

DEVON OC EVENT REGISTRATION FORM

Entry Fee £7 £5 £1

DIBBER NUMBER

OWN						
-----	--	--	--	--	--	--

or

RENTED						
--------	--	--	--	--	--	--

Please take your dibber to computer registration as it speeds the entry process

Surname	
First Name	
Club or IND	
Class eg M40	

WHITE		if available Please tick required course
YELLOW		
ORANGE		
LT. GREEN		
GREEN		
BLUE		
BROWN		

Car Registration Number

Please complete the information below if you are renting a dibber:-
Tel. Number
Address.....
.....
e-mail:

New to Orienteering?

Please ask for help from Enquiries – Peter Flick in the Red Range Rover.

