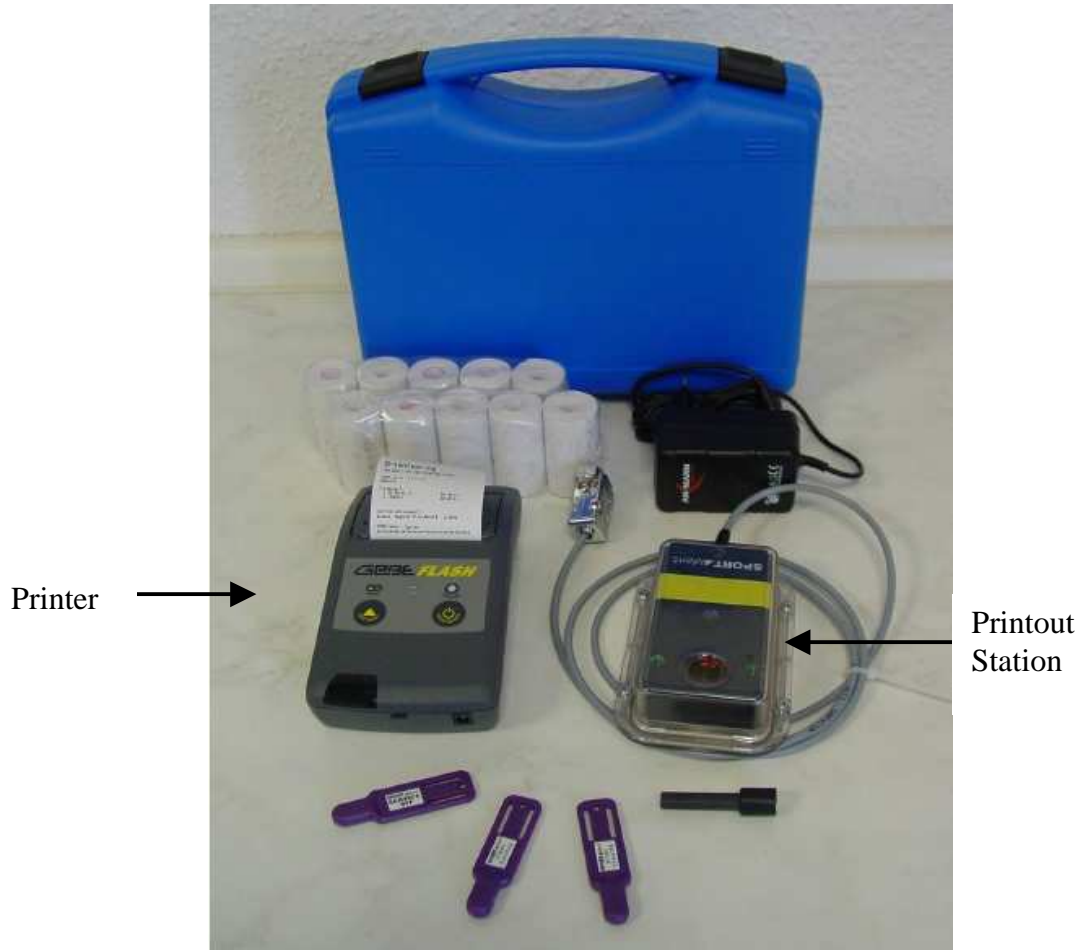# 4) Using the SportIdent System in the Field without a Computer

The photograph shows the GeBe printer on the left and the printout (download) station on the right. They are connected together using the cable shown, plugged end-to-end with another one. The printout station remembers all the data from the dibbers.

Both units are entirely automatic and switch themselves ON when a dibber is inserted. They switch themselves off automatically after a certain period.

After printing the test dibbers, use the "Clear Backup" purple dibber to clear out the old competitors stored in the printout station memory.

When a competitor downloads by dibbing into the printout station, the printer will produce a ticket of splits, accumulated and total run times on a customised DEVON form. This is the left-hand ticket below. If you want to customise the form for advertising purposes (e.g. future events) contact Alan Simpson before the event. (The software needed is "SI Print (ref.1)").

SI Tutorials   1   Alan Simpson
4. Using the SportIdent System in the Field without a Computer.doc   DEVON OC
25-09-2007

After the event (or during it if desired) use the "Print Results" purple dibber to print out a list of everything in the printout station memory. This just lists dibber numbers and total run times – the right hand ticket below.

```
DEVON OC

2005-11-03  21:59:01
SI-Card:   261703
Start      11:39:18,6
  1   227  11:44:10     4:52     4:52
  2   232  11:47:29     3:19     8:11
  3   233  11:53:14     5:45    13:56
  4   242  11:58:56     5:42    19:38
  5   243  12:04:52     5:56    25:34
  6   244  12:06:15     1:23    26:57
  7   245  12:10:24     4:09    31:06
  8   236  12:13:19     2:55    34:01
  9   238  12:20:04     6:45    40:46
 10   200  12:23:54     3:50    44:36
 11   199  12:26:39     2:45    47:21
 12   198  12:36:22     9:43    57:04
 13   239  12:41:56     5:34    62:38
 14   240  12:46:16     4:28    66:58
 15   241  12:56:38    10:22    77:20
Finish       12:57:16,4   0:38  77:57,8
```

```
DEVON OC

2005-11-03  21:59:43
Results

Course  1
  1   261703              01:17:57,8

Course  2
  1   222200              00:00:41,0
  2   222201              00:00:51,9


SPORTident - System
*************************************
```

After the event, the organiser must

        a)   check that the correct controls have been visited
        b)   produce results lists for the event.

Producing Results Lists

1) Downloading Twice into the Printout Station

This will give a printout for the competitor **AND** the organiser. As a safety measure, get the competitor to write his name and course on the printout for the organiser. The organiser can then check punches and process the results manually, probably by typing the data into a spreadsheet. Each competitor will have completed an entry form giving details of name, club, age category, course, and dibber number.

As an alternative, the next method described below is not difficult and saves some labour.

SI Tutorials   2   Alan Simpson
4. Using the SportIdent System in the Field without a Computer.doc   DEVON OC
25-09-2007

Transferring Data to a PC

2) Setting up a Serial Link to a PC

Disconnect the Printout Station from the printer,
and connect it to the serial port on the PC, using
the extra lead provided with a female 9-way
D-connector on each end,

If you are using a new laptop, it probably won't
have this traditional serial port, and you will have
to use a USB converter lead, costing about £15.

This type of serial communication requires both the transmitter and receiver to be set to the
same parameters. Otherwise it won't work.

The SI system uses two baud rates

> 4800 bits per second   (slow, about 480 characters per second) and
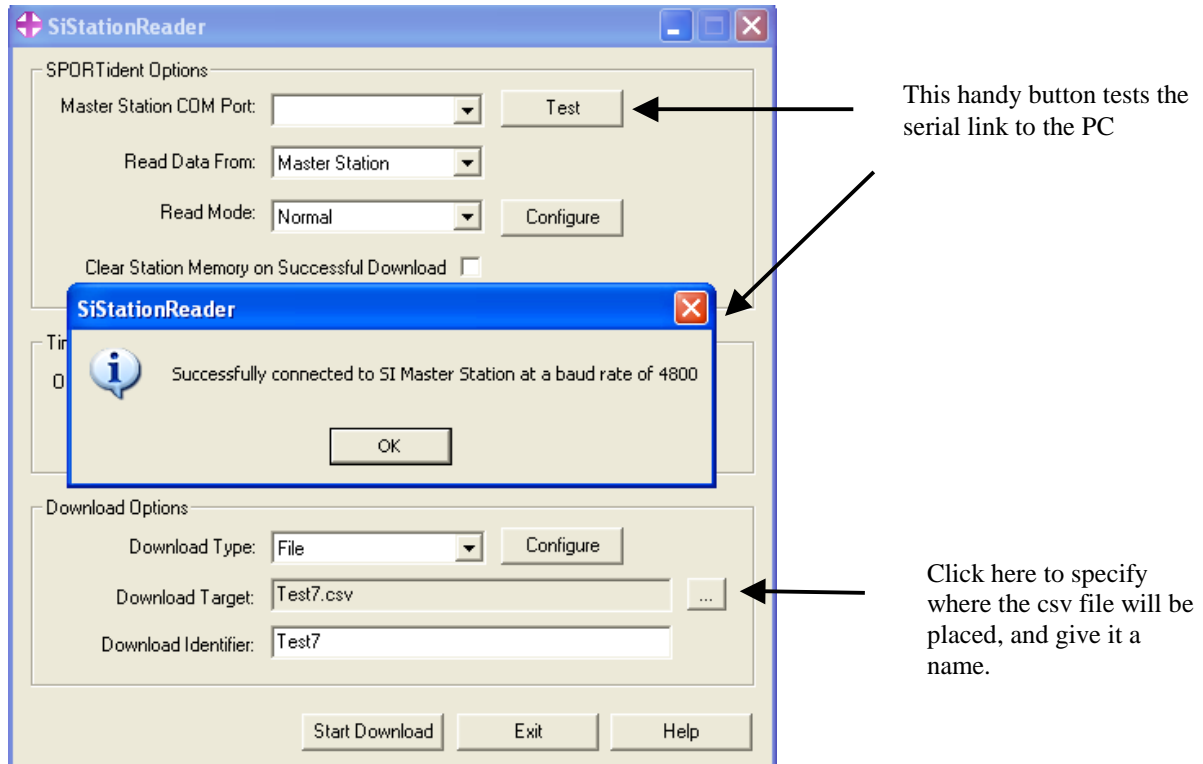> 38400 bits per second (fast, about 3840 characters per second).

The printout station works at 4800, So the PC program must be set to this.

The COM Port at the PC end is confusing if you are using a USB converter. A typical laptop
has two USB sockets. But the COM Port numbers attached to these in software are not
constant. Different programs can be given different numbers by Windows for the same
socket.

My laptop currently thinks that the printout station is connected to COM 4.
In general, it is a matter of trial and error to find the port number.

3) Using "SI Station Reader" (ref.2)

"SIStationReader" is a small program which puts the data into a csv file – (character separated variables). There are only a few decisions to be made. If you click on the buttons, they are fairly obvious.

This handy button tests the serial link to the PC

Click here to specify where the csv file will be placed, and give it a name.

The csv file is loaded into EXCEL, to form a spreadsheet.

The times in the table below are from a very short test course around the living room!
Note that there are some duplicates as a result of downloading twice.

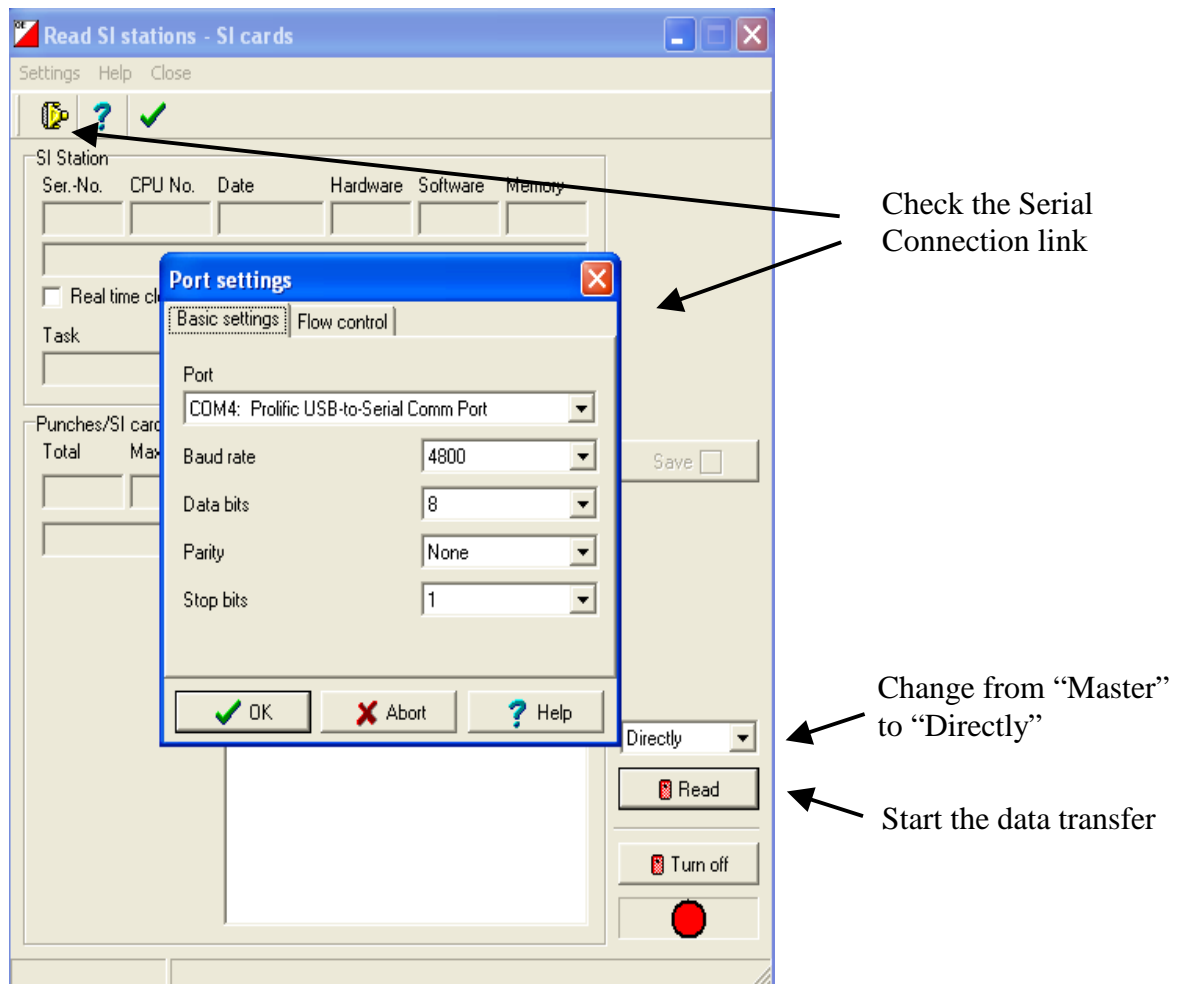| Card Number	Start Time	Finish Time	Count Punches	Control 1	Punch 1 Time	Control 2	Punch 2 Time	Control 3	Punch 3 Time
222200	09:07:37	09:08:18	3	31	09:07:47	32	09:07:57	33	09:08:08
222201	08:32:25	08:33:17	3	31	08:32:46	32	08:32:53	33	08:33:01
222195	08:32:35	08:35:44	3	32	08:35:30	33	08:35:35	34	08:35:38
222191	11:54:09	11:54:43	3	31	11:54:19	33	11:54:26	34	11:54:34
222192	09:36:33	09:37:31	5	31	09:36:38	32	09:36:45	33	09:37:02
222191	11:54:09	11:54:43	3	31	11:54:19	33	11:54:26	34	11:54:34
222200	09:07:37	09:08:18	3	31	09:07:47	32	09:07:57	33	09:08:08
222195	08:32:35	08:35:44	3	32	08:35:30	33	08:35:35	34	08:35:38
222192	09:36:33	09:37:31	5	31	09:36:38	32	09:36:45	33	09:37:02
222201	08:32:25	08:33:17	3	31	08:32:46	32	08:32:53	33	08:33:01

This could then be processed manually to produce results lists.

4) Using "OE2003" (ref.3)

This is the option recommended by the experts.
Assuming you have already set up a file in OE for the current event:-

Select Competition Day - Read SI Cards - Read Master Station

Check the Serial Connection link

Change from "Master" to "Directly"

Start the data transfer

Conclusion

Using the standalone system seems an attractive option at first.

But Martin Stone's advice was to go straight to a computerised system, and in DEVON OC, we quickly did that.

The two benefits are:

punch checking in the field
instant results when you get home.

For advice on OE2003, see:-

http://www.wessex-oc.org/Downloads   OE2002 User Guide Bill Brown

http://www.dandmrosen.btinternet.co.uk/   Organising an event with SportIdent
David Rosen

Software References

1 www.sportident.com   Downloads - SIPrint

2 www.sportident.co.uk   SIStationReader Martin Stone

3 www.sportsoftware.de/download/oe102setup.exe Stephan Kramer
   But get the license for OE2003 from Martin Stone

SI Tutorials   6   Alan Simpson
4. Using the SportIdent System in the Field without a Computer.doc DEVON OC
25-09-2007