Beginner's Guide to AutoDownload

Preparing for an Event

(Read through all the notes and play with a previous event first)

Before the Day

Add event	Name	In case of doubt, copy the choices from
	Date	Modify Event page 5
	Type	
Courses	Add course	I normally start at the top with Brown
	Repeat for all	Blue to Yellow or White
Brown	Add/Insert Control	Number 1
		Published code 36 say
		Electronic Code 1 just hit return
		Save

For a bigger event, eg the Caddihoe Chase, course details can be imported electronically.

On the Day

Get out the Gebe printer so that it is available for the planner and controller to download test dibbers if they have used any.

Wire up the system as per the photograph on page 2.

No – you cannot now take a breather. Test the system. HOW?

Probably the only dibber to hand, which is in the archive, is your own.

> Enter yourself, using Entries – Add Entry by punch on DEVON 3
> Download your dibber on DEVON 2

Obviously the punches will be wrong. Choose the save option, and the splits printer should then work.

So you have the two computers up and running, one ready for entry and the other for download.

Now you can take a breather.

If you have the SI kit beforehand, do this whole check in the comfort of your study. It is very re-assuring. Then make sure you pick up everything and put it in the car!

Computer Hardware

Two netbooks are networked by a CAT3 Ethernet cable. The netbooks were chosen for their

>   Long battery life – 8 to 10 hours
>   Anti-glare screens

The only mains power required, for the splits printer, comes from an inverter running on a car battery.
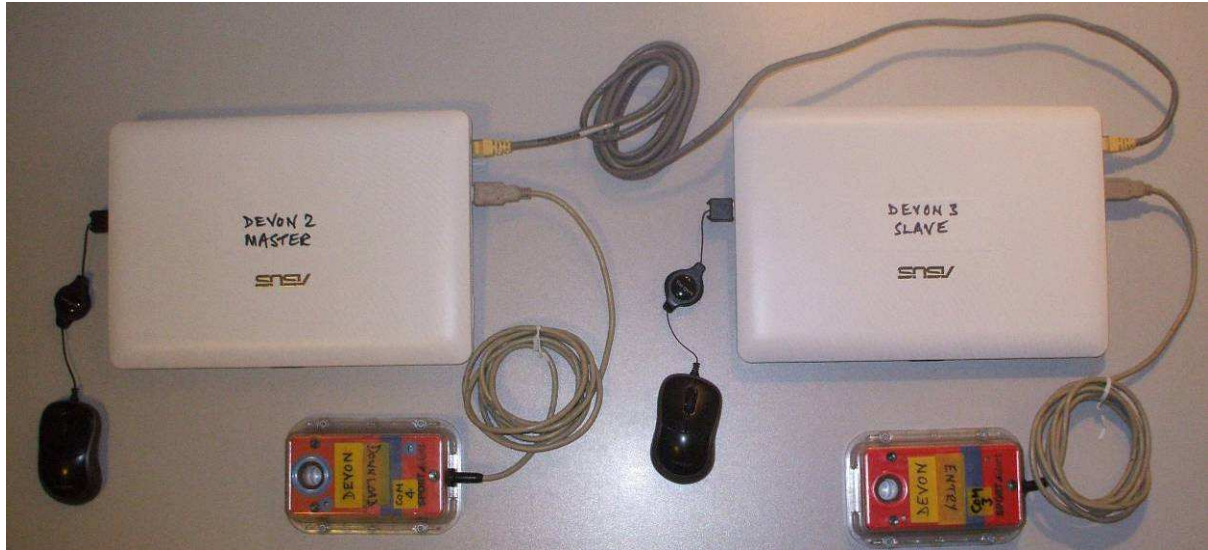
I use my left hand for the mouse and right middle finger for the keys. This is uncommon, and people complain about my idiosyncrasy. Please arrange things to suit your preferences.

This is the 'classic' set up using

>   DEVON3 for entries, 'Add Entry by Punch'
>   DEVON2 for download
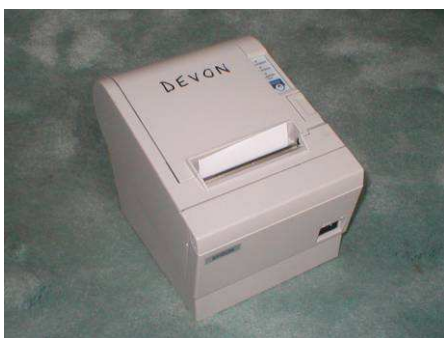
Epson TM88iii High-speed splits printer
The splits printer is connected to DEVON2.
This requires mains power from an inverter.

GeBe stand-alone printer, for:-
1) Test-dibs by the planner and controller,
2) Download if all else fails.

When the DEVON SI Team has got used to the new software, we will perhaps make more adventurous use of the power of the AutoDownload concept.

AutoDownload
Beginner's Guide to AutoDownload.doc

Alan Simpson
29-01-2013

Switching on AutoDownload

Click the red SI-Card icon. If the database is correctly configured the first screen invites you to Select an Event, by clicking on a yellow arrow.
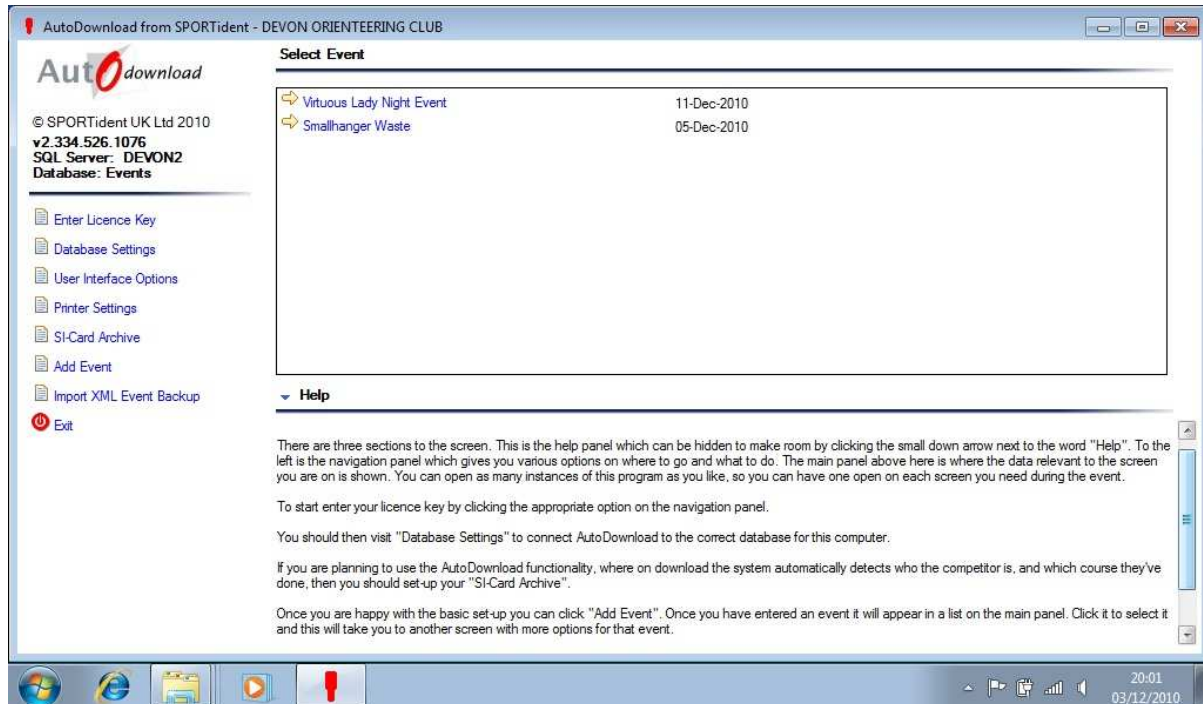

Multiple Windows

As with OE2003, it is possible to have more than one window displayed at a time. Obviously, with the small screen of a netbook, options are a bit limited. With the above arrangement with two networked computers, we have two screens, though they can be split to give more – see below.

Start a second instance of AutoDownload on DEVON3, and select the same event.
Click on the SmallHanger Waste event of 05-Dec-2010.

The Help notes can be displayed, as here, or minimised to the bottom of the screen by clicking the arrow next to 'Help'.

In the following notes, either computer can be used to access any part of the software. The network firewalls have been set up so that DEVON 3 can access the event database and the Si-Card Archive on DEVON 2, but not vice-versa.

Event Overview
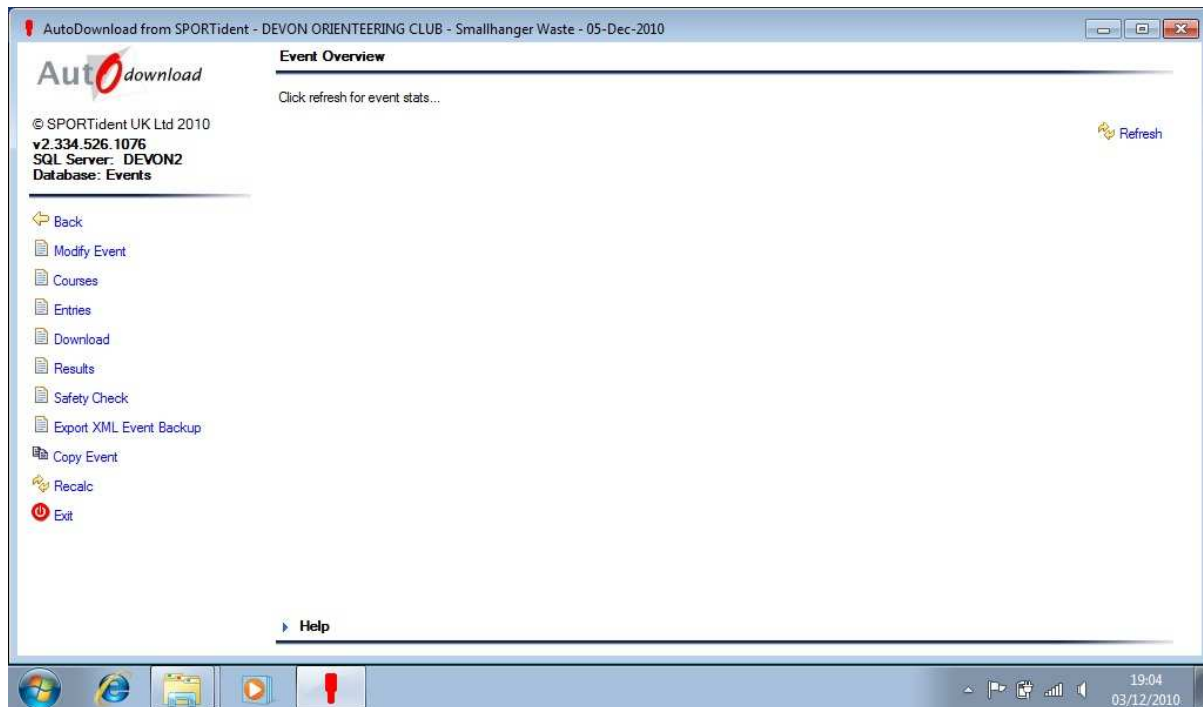
Alan Hartley's screens are surprisingly empty! Click 'Refresh' for Event Stats
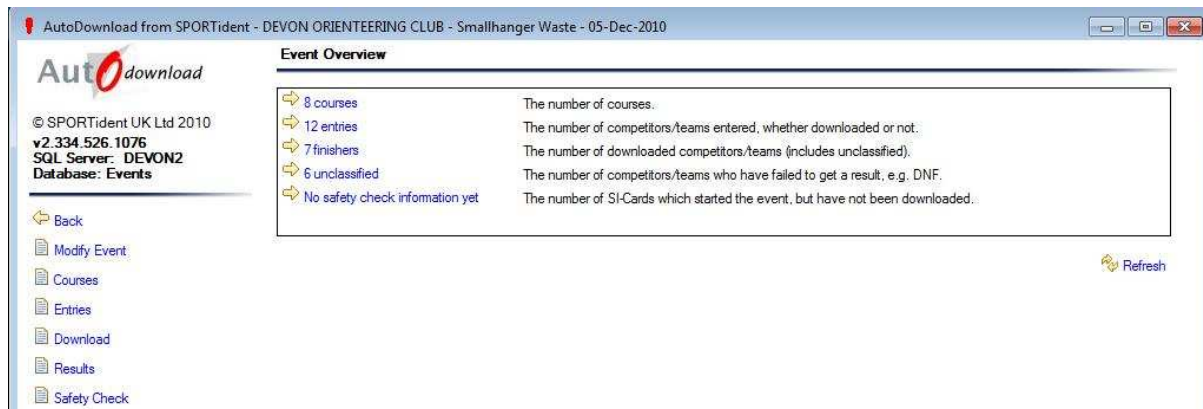
This is the main screen from which you control the event before and on the day.

Navigation within the Program

1) Select options from the list, eg Modify Event, Courses, etc,

2) Use the yellow arrows, either

    Back, or
    Links to courses, entries, finishers, etc

Modify Event

This screen can be used to modify an existing event, eg add detail such as information about forthcoming events – Splits Advertising.

Courses

This lists the existing courses.

Entries

This displays existing entries. The table is initially empty. To populate it, specify the sort order. Here I have sorted by name. Don't forget to click 'Search'
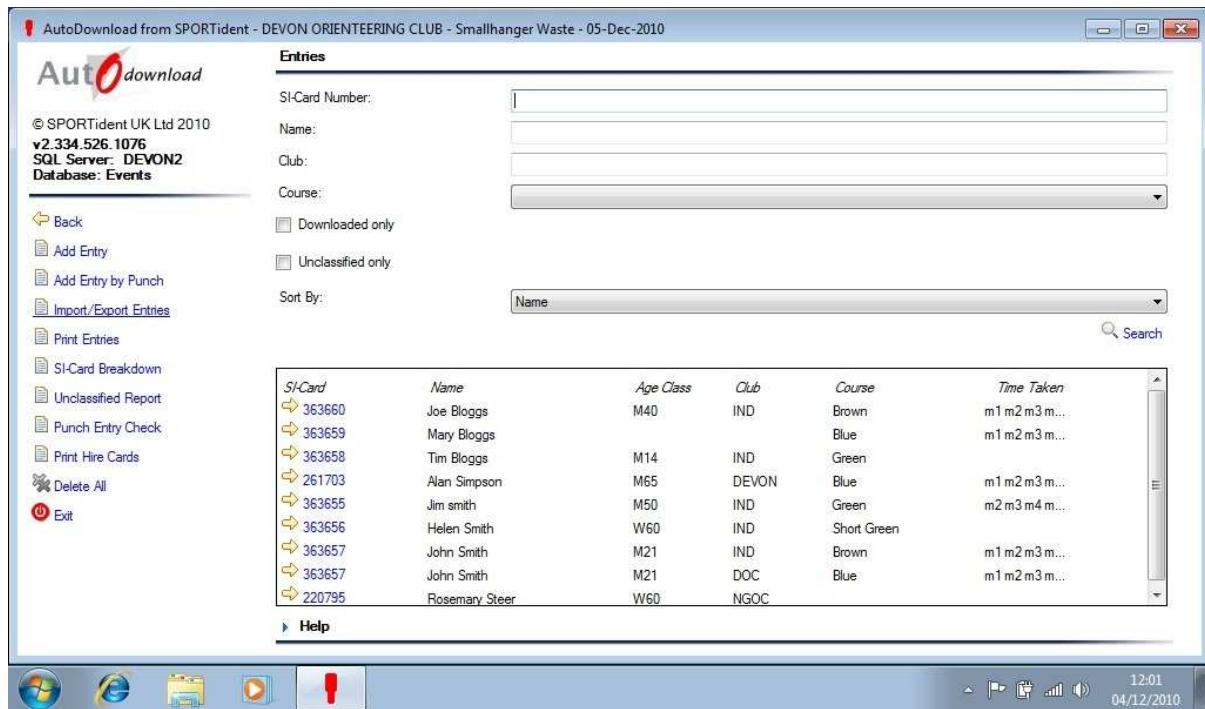
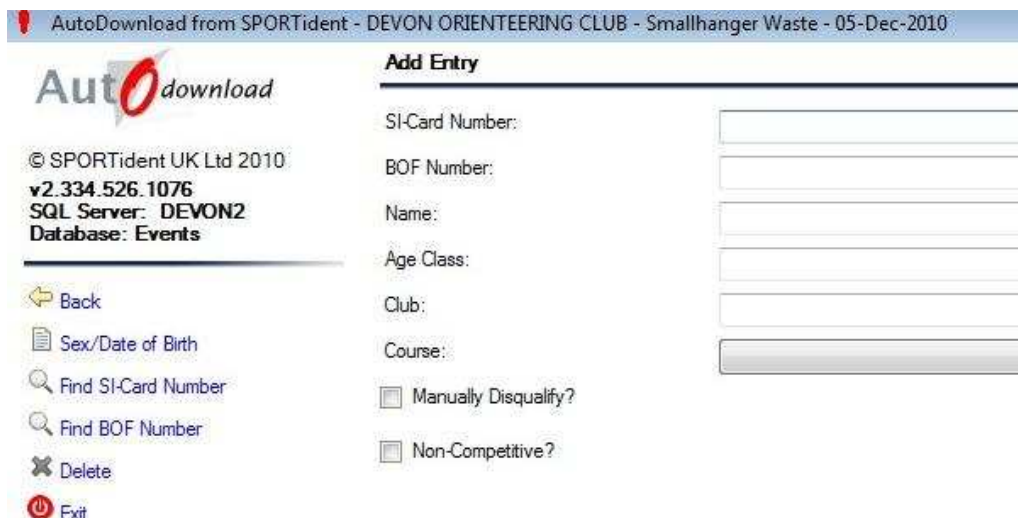There are also new menu options,

>   Add Entry
>   Add Entry by Punch, etc

Add Entry

Type in the SI-Card number.
To make use of the competitor archive, which stores details of the 25,000 SI-Cards owned, click on 'Find SI-Card Number'

Add Entry by Punch

Mistakes writing or copying the six-digit number are quite common if registration gets a bit hectic. So I prefer entering the SI-Card number electronically.

Connect the COM3 master station to DEVON3.
Click 'Refresh COM Port List'
Then click on the arrow selector for the COM port.
Hopefully you will see the SPORTident USB whatnot.

Select the Baud Rate and Hardware Type.

Click on Connect. The table greys out, and the system is ready for use.

The competitor dibs in the master station.
If available, data will be extracted from the SI-Card Archive.

In this case, you are going to have to type in the details long-hand. Either it is a hired dibber, or the competitor has not registered it with SPORTident UK.

Download

Select the second option in the table below.

With the COM4 Master station connected to DEVON2, the process for choosing the COM port is similar to that for dibber entry.

Don't forget to click 'Connect'. The table should grey out.

Results

Again, to populate the table, select a course.
Spin the mouse wheel for other courses.

Obviously these are not typical data from a real event

Print Results

This should work on the splits printer.

Please don't forget to do this. We have the option to display EOD results. People like to see them.

Multiple Windows on one screen

As with OE2003, it is possible to have more than one window displayed at a time on the same computer. Obviously, with the small screen of a netbook, options are a bit limited. But it is well worth giving it a try.

To open a second window, you have to start a second instance of AutoDownload, ie click on the red SI-Card icon on the desktop again. Select the same event.

Then arrange the screen to best effect. This is just an example
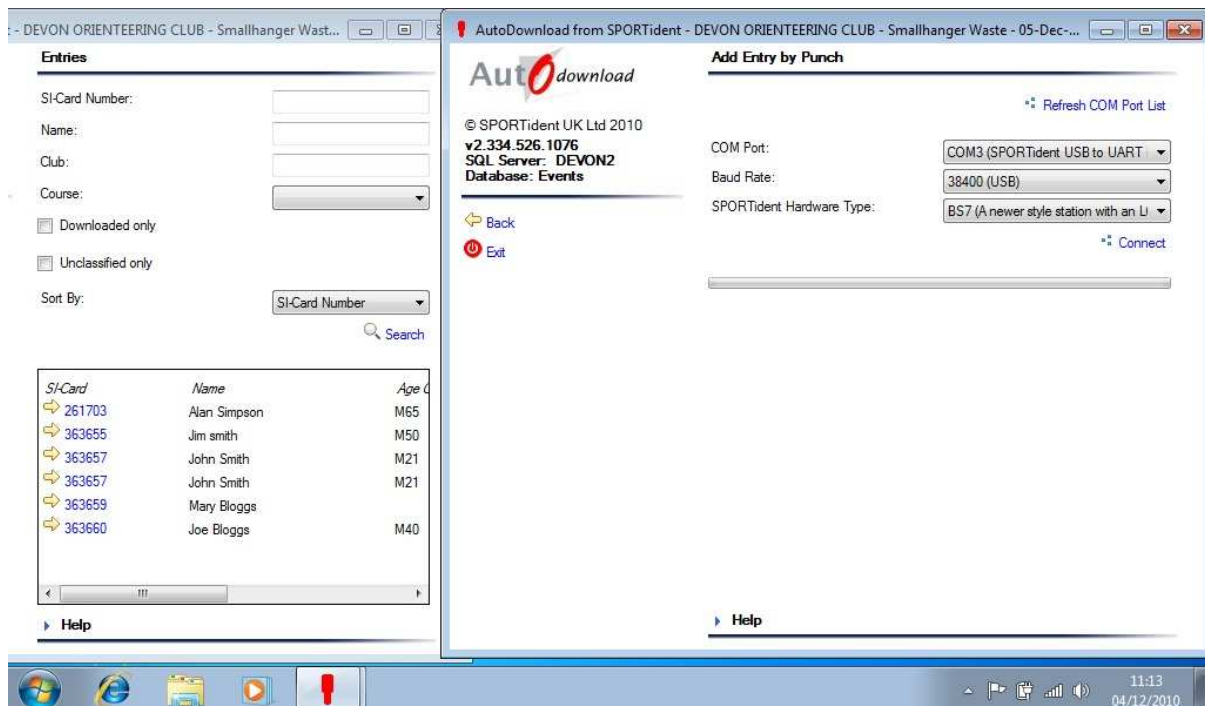
Click the The SI-Card icon at bottom

The windows can be selected by clicking one of these tabs.

Safety Check

Using Stephan Kramer's OE for an entry-on-the-day event, we assume that everybody who entered will have started. So towards the end of the event, we switch to "Missing Runners", which hopefully count down to zero.

With Alan Hartley's AutoDownload, you can run the event without entering people. They just compete and then download. The check box and start box provide the list of which dibbers have gone out.

So it is necessary to download the check box or start box.
Then a report of outstanding competitors is available (missing runners in OE terminology).

At the moment, if you go back to Event Overview, you get:-

DEVON ORIENTEERING CLUB - Fire Beacon - 08-May-2011

Event Overview

⇨ 6 courses	The number of courses.
⇨ 84 entries	The number of competitors/teams entered, whether downloaded or not.
⇨ 83 finishers	The number of downloaded competitors/teams (includes unclassified).
⇨ 12 unclassified	The number of competitors/teams who have failed to get a result, e.g. DNF.
⇨ No safety check information yet	The number of SI-Cards which started the event, but have not been downloaded.

If you select Safety Check, you get:-

DEVON ORIENTEERING CLUB - Fire Beacon - 08-May-2011

Safety Check

0 Safety Punches

0 Outstanding Competitors

0 Safety Punches means we have not downloaded a Check or Start box.

Use the Entries master station. Lie the start box on top. The ferrite coupling rod should be in a little bag in the splits printer box.

PTO

Select Safety Check – Read Hardware(Slave)
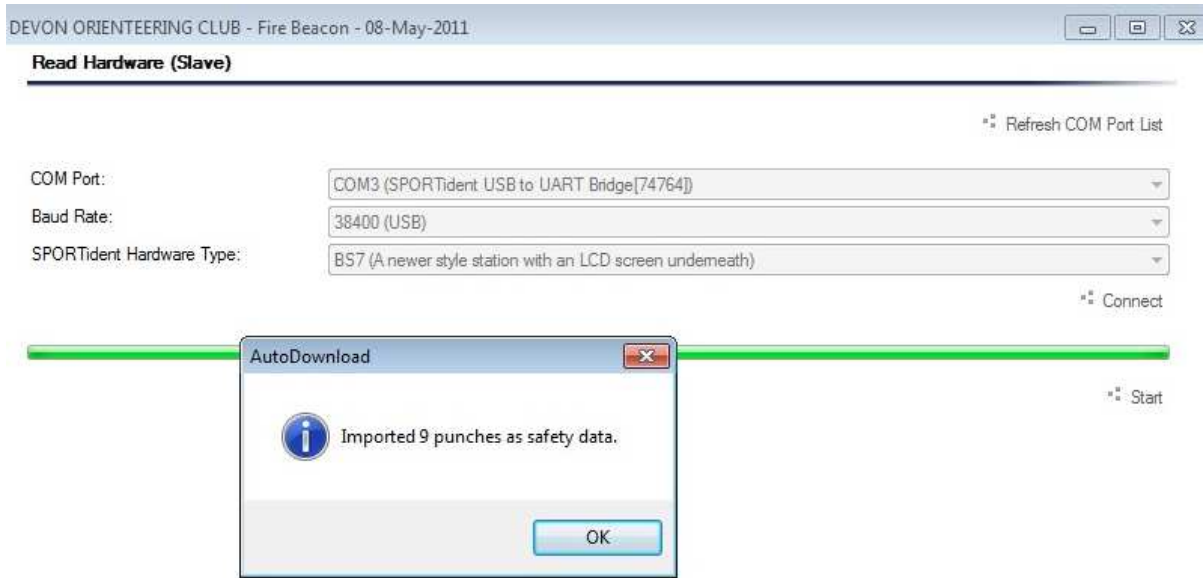
Using SIConfig to check the contents of the Start Box

If you want to see what is in the Start (or Check) box, use SIConfig. Select 'Remote', not 'Direct' Direct reads out the contents of the master station. Remote reads the box sitting on top, coupled by the ferrite rod.

Click on this icon – Read out backup memory
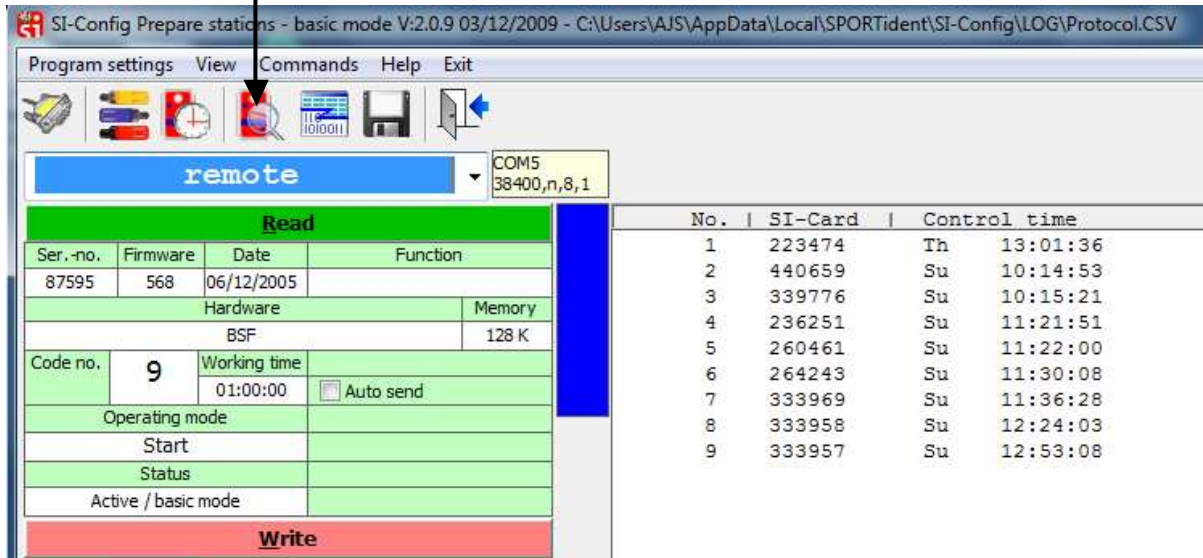
On this occasion, 8th May 2011 at FireBeacon, two Start boxes were used. I had cleared the box, but unfortunately then did one test dib on the Thursday three days earlier. So there were 8 dibs from the event at the times shown, plus the spurious 223474.

The other start box had 76 dibs, but again with an earlier 223474, making 84 genuine starters in total.

This is in agreement with the number of competitors entered.

The safety Check is now showing:-

DEVON ORIENTEERING CLUB - Fire Beacon - 08-May-2011

Safety Check

86 Safety Punches

2 Outstanding Competitors

Outstanding Competitors shows this:-

Outstanding Competitors

Sort By: Punch Time

Refresh

SI-Card	Time	SI-Station	Name	Age Class	Club	Course/Class	A..	Notes
363632	12:09:13	Start	Stephen Eastley	M55	BAOC	Brown	E	
223474	13:01:36	Start						

223474 is the spurious punch in the start box.

It is clearly essential to clear the start box immediately before the race, using a purple "clear backup" dibber.

Stephen Eastley is the genuine outstanding competitor. He lost his dibber on the course, and reported at download.

Tidying Up after the Event

From DEVON2, the master, select Results – Print Results – Select All courses – Print

Hopefully you have the registration forms to hand. It may be worth sorting them by course before you start. You may want to count the number of competitors on each course, ie the number of forms.

Probably a few entries will require editing, eg incorrect names, missing clubs etc.
Select Entries – Courses - All Courses – Sort by Course – Search
Click on the dibber number. Then select Modify Entry. Data Fields can then be edited. Refer to the person's registration form if necessary.

For each course, go through the mps at the bottom. For each competitor, click on the dibber number to bring up the split times, and check that there are genuine incorrect or missing controls. If there are a crop of wrong controls, suspect that the wrong course is entered. Try changing the course.

Youngsters may have run two courses, in which case their second run should be non-competitive. Hopefully they will have marked their second registration form as NC. Normally yellow will be followed by orange, and not vice-versa. If necessary, look at the actual punch times.

Go through the registration forms, and pick out non-members who might be worth contacting. Send these forms to Graham Dugdale, the Membership Secretary.

The event organiser has the task of sorting out the event budget. He/she can tot up the expected revenue from the number of seniors and juniors entering.

You need to provide the number of hired dibbers to the event organiser.

Select Entries – Sort By – SI-Card Number

My sequence has been slightly messed up by inadvertent sales. The hire dibbers currently remaining in the box are:-

     222191 - 222194
     333941 – 333979
     363633 – 363660

The Devon OC dibbers are now recorded in the SI-Card archive on DEVON2. So a quicker method is to select SI-Card Breakdown. This tells you immediately the number of Devon hired SI cards.

Extracting the Files Needed

Select Results – HTML Results

On DEVON2, the only user is DEVON SI Team.

I have a standard file structure for storing event details and results:-

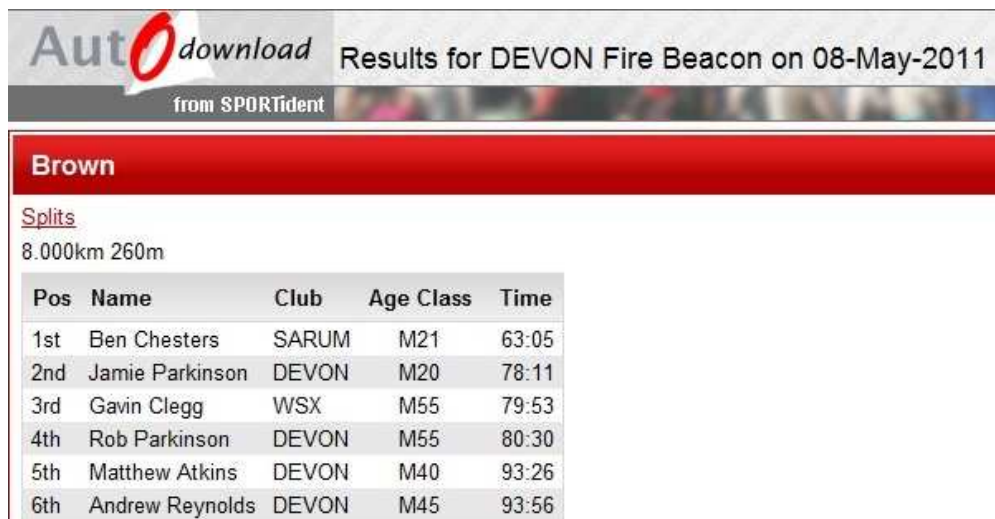My Documents\Orienteering\Events\2010 – 2011\Fire Beacon 08-05-2011\Results

Navigate to this folder(directory).

The Export Type is "One page for all results with separate pages for splits"
Click the box "Create style sheet", and Export

Navigate to the Results folder. It should contain two files:-

index.html and autodownload.css

The latter is the style sheet which pretties up the display.
There should also be the individual splits files for each course. Click on index.html :-

We also need:-

Export OE File (for SplitsBrowser & DEVON League)	FireBeacon OE.csv	Lew Bean
		Bryan Smith
Export for Routegadget	FireBeacon RG.xml	Wilf Taylor

Put these in the same Results folder, and send all to the three people above, plus the event organiser.

Well Done - Job Done

Appendix 1 Installation of AutoDownload on a New Computer

Go to www.sportident.co.uk, Select the AutoDownload tab.

The screen shots are from version 2,334.526.1076 issued in December 2010.

Installing AutoDownload itself is quick, but the rest of it is not a five-minute job. Study the installation instructions for the Microsoft SQL Server.
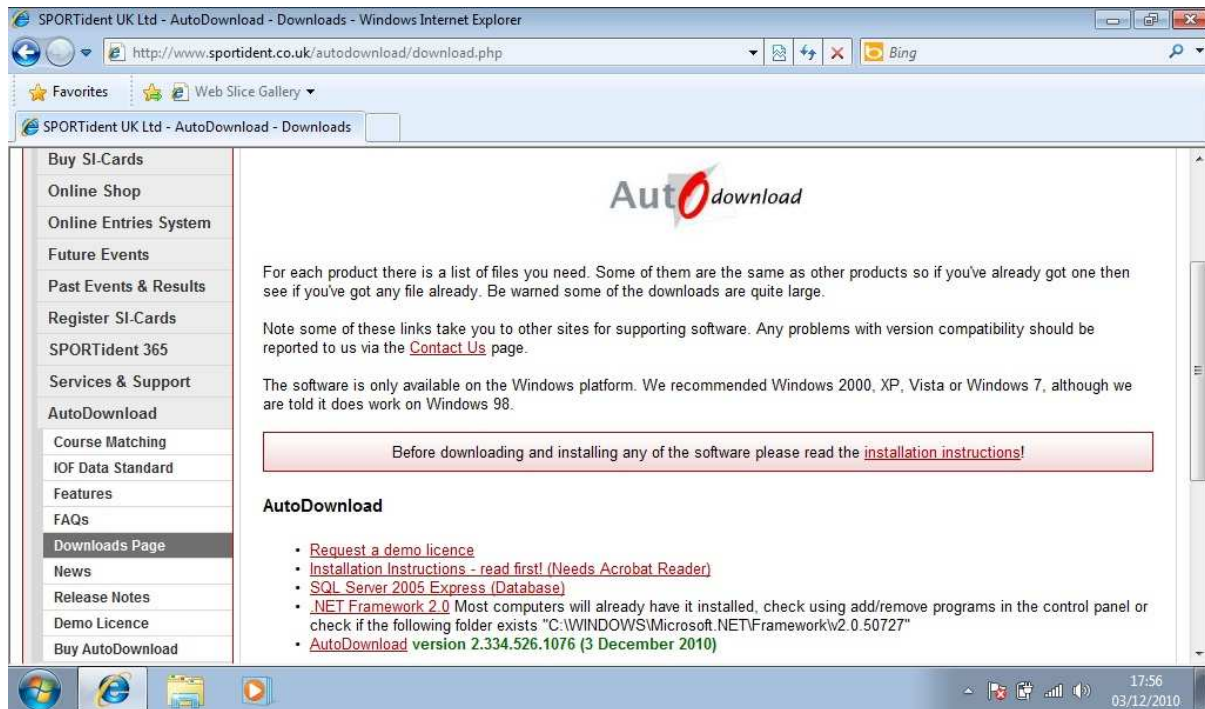
These notes are for on-the-day use, assuming that the system is set up and ready to go.
I describe only the essential menu items for a first encounter.

Updating the Archive

It is worth doing this fairly frequently, and it is a quick job. The archive in use is on DEVON2, the master computer.

The archive is downloaded from www.sportident.co.uk.

Select "Competitor Archives"

       Choose a Club   DEVON
   Password   N2OC39NL

Select the top line, the file for AutoDownload, not SportSoftware (OE/MT).

Save the file "sicardArchive_20110309.csv   (year-month-day)

In AutoDownload select "SI-Card Archive (see screen image on next page)
> Import AutoDownload File".

Browse to the file, select a membership type of "BOF" and "Import". Don't panic. It takes several minutes.

Appendix 2 DataBase Settings
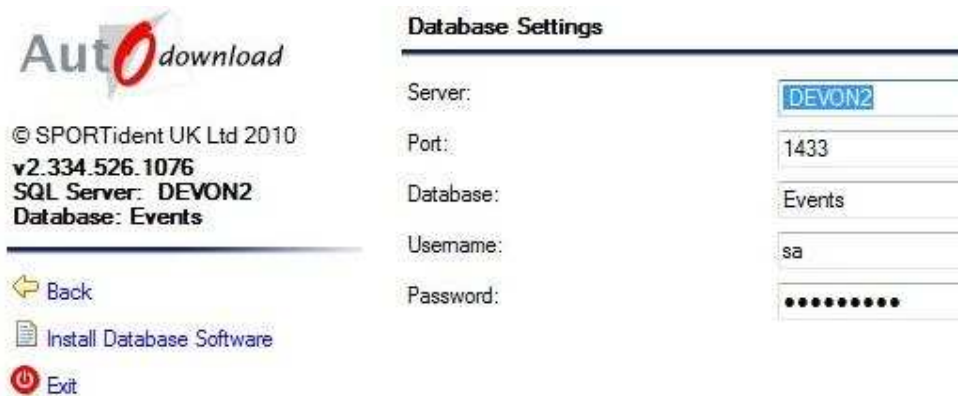
These are the standard entries for this screen.

With a single computer, the Server would be referred to either as 'localhost', ie itself, or its computer name, DEVON2.

With the two-computer system, the slave is DEVON3. Its server is also DEVON2. So the two Database Setting screens are identical.

The DEVON OC password for the server is *********, a local Dartmoor feature in lower case.

The Master needs the SQL Server software to be installed, and the competitor archive.
DEVON3 accesses the archive on DEVON2 when used for 'Add Entry by Punch' (dibber entry).

Printer Settings

The Epson splits printer is specified on this screen. For a small event, this also be used for printing interim results on the day.

Note the command 'Save'. This is easily missed, so that you can inadvertently close the screen without saving.

An HP printer has been specified for printing results. This is an A4 machine attached to my home computer, AJS.

Appendix 3 Help from Sportident UK

Visit www.sportident.co.uk, as above.

From the left-hand column, select AutoDownload, and then FAQs – Frequently Asked Questions.

This is the current list of answers available. For example, see question 3, which answers the problem of what to do if you have not cleared the Start or Check box before doing the Safety Check.

This page is currently under development, we will be adding FAQs over the coming months.

- What file format should I use for the new BOF Results and Ranking system?
- Splits Print Width Problems. The right hand side of the print is cut off when printing splits or when printing results on a splits printer having selected "Narrow print".
- I did not clear the backup memory of my check/start station before the event, how do I do a safety check?
- What are the system/hardware requirements for AutoDownload?
- What is the Start Time Allocator and how does it work?
- Can AutoDownload manage loop courses?
- Is it possible to backup the whole SQL Server database of events?
- I've lost my database password or want to change it, what do I need to do?

Alternatively telephone Sportident UK – 01931 714106, Sleagill Head Farm, Cumbria

Andrew Leaney has all the answers.