TopYacht: Entering Finish Times.

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Background:

TopYacht offers five different methods of finish time entry.

Keep in mind that while the R.O. can restart a race as many times as necessary to 'get it right'; there is only one opportunity to get the finish right. To that end, everything that can be done to prevent errors should be put in place.

Additionally, producing accurate results as soon as practical for public and press consumption is the ultimate aim. Utopia would suggest that producing results that are in the public domain prior to competitors returning to shore is the best possible outcome.

Inputting finish times to any software package is a critical operation for this to happen. TopYacht has five different methods, each explained here. The choice as to which one is used is dictated by the resources available.

These five methods are classified into two groups, being

- After-the-event data entry, where times are manually loaded as they become available from the finish line, and
- Real-Time data capture as the boats finish.

Part 1: After-the-Event Data Entry:

Option 1: Use Step 9

This option is the original system developed for early releases of TopYacht and is still functional today. It allows manual entry of finish times on a boat by boat basis for boats in a single series.

It is accessed via Step 9 following the completion of Step 6 (or 6a).

Select Series and Race then…..

1. Type in Sail Number
2. Press Enter.

   The cursor lands in the MN (minutes) box. To move the cursor left to the HR (hours) box either Shift Tab or minus key (on the numeric key pad.)
3. Enter the HR value. To move the cursor to the right, press the Tab, the Space-bar or the plus (+) key (on the numeric keypad).
4. Enter the minute value, then move to the Seconds box (SC) and add the seconds value.
5. Press Enter. This saves the times and returns you ready to enter the next Sail No.

Avoid using the mouse.

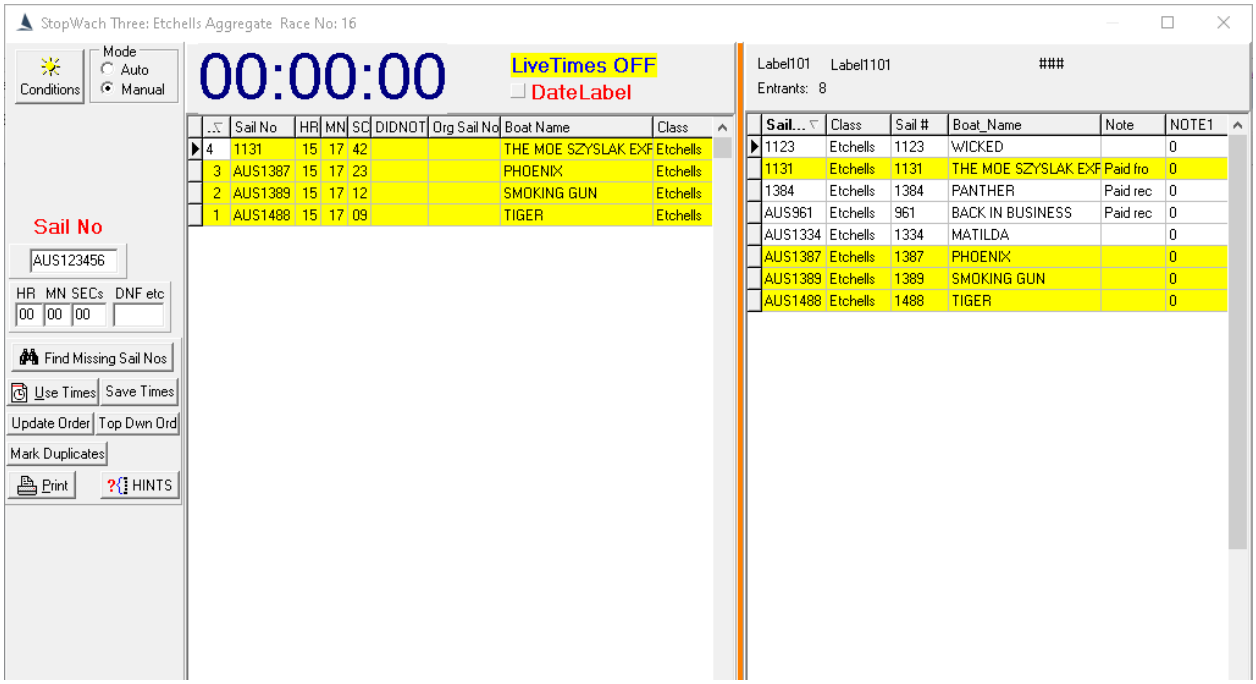
For Penalties (OCS, DNF etc.) then

1. Type in Sail Number
2. Press Enter.

   The cursor lands in the MN (minutes) box.
3. Use the go right keys e.g. spacebar to move into the ***DNF etc*** box.
4. Enter the penalty (e.g. OCS).
5. Press Enter.

Option 2: Use Step 9a, The Computer Stop-watch in Manual Mode

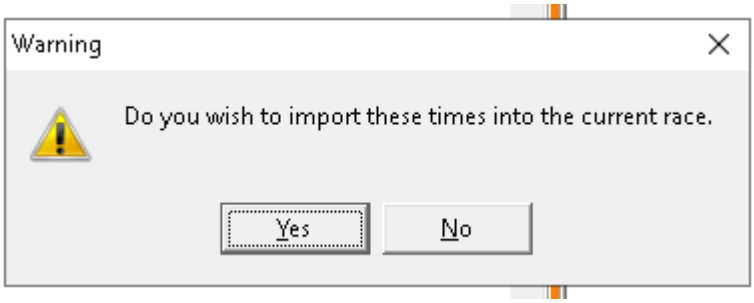
The Keystrokes are essentially the same as Step 9, but the screen is more informative.

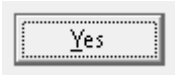


Sail Nos that are match are highlighted in Yellow. See Appendix 4: Stopwatch: No Matching of Sail Numbers

When satisfied, click

This prompt appears..



- Click 

TopYacht will then process the race then display the results page.

TopYacht Stopwatch will produce a .csv file by clicking the

button, and following the prompts. This .csv file can be directly imported back into TopYacht. See Appendix 2: Importing Finish Times from a .csv File

Option 3: Import from CSV

This option loads finish times from a comma-separated-variable file (csv). The csv is an output option of spread-sheet software or other stop-watch package. It has the advantage of permitting the production of one file which contains finish times of boats from one or more series. The same file is loaded into the appropriate race for each series, and TopYacht will ignore time-stamps for boats not entered into that particular race.

A TopYacht Enhanced Licence is required to permit this functionality

Whether this method is chosen instead of option 1 is left to the user.

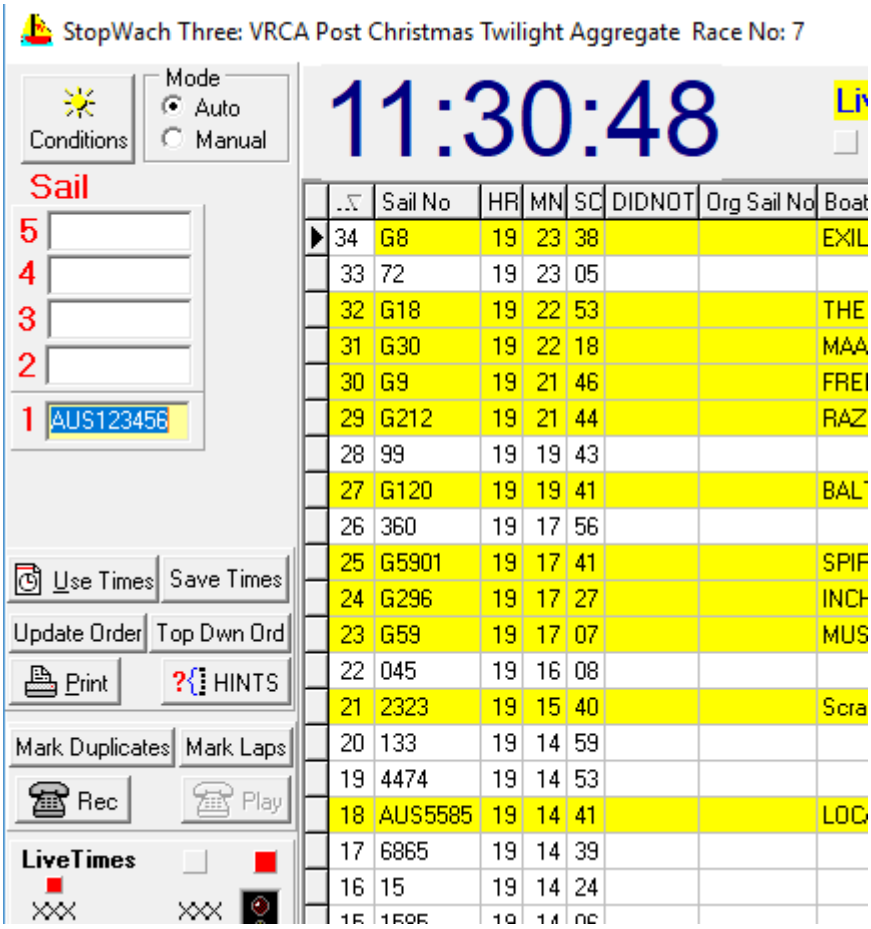
See Create a csv File to Import Finish Times and Appendix 2: Importing Finish Times from a .csv File

Part 2: Real-Time Data Entry:

The Computer Stop Watch

The beauty of this function is that it:

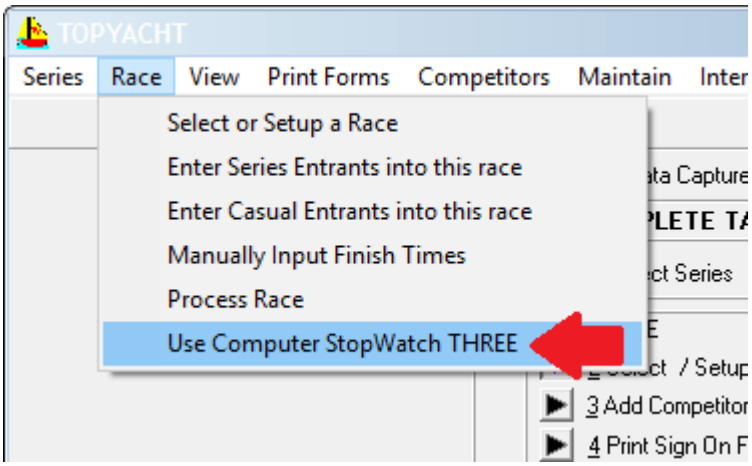
- Saves a lot of typing
- Reduces the chances of typing / translation errors
- Data entry is complete when the last boat passes through the finishing line
- Gives instant feedback of the validity of an entrant; See: Appendix 4: Stopwatch: No Matching of Sail Numbers
- To delete a row, highlight the row, hold down the Ctrl key and press D
- To Handle Duplicate Sail Numbers and identical time stamps see the document: Stop Watch Handling Duplicates



Option 1: Single Series

For a race that only has one series with one (or more) results groups,

- Execute step 2, then
- Execute step 6, then


TOPYACHT
Series
Race
View
Print Forms
Competitors
Maintain
Inter
Select or Setup a Race
Enter Series Entrants into this race
Enter Casual Entrants into this race
Manually Input Finish Times
Process Race
Use Computer StopWatch THREE
3 Add Competitor
4 Print Sign On F

Option 2: Multiple Series:

An extension to TopYacht includes Sessions. The Sessions process allows the capture of finish times for more than one series at a common finish line.

Its implementation is a little different.

The recommended steps are included in this document. Further details are in TopYacht's HELP

Warning

The Sessions mechanism does not handle casual entrants. Therefore, it is recommended to follow this procedure whether casual entrants are racing or otherwise.

For each series racing:

- Execute step 2 (Create a new Race)
- Execute Step 6 (or 6a… add entrants)

Then (and ONLY after the race for each series is added and populated with entrants)

- Create a new finish times session in Data Capture Mode.

- Select the series names in order from the drop-down list,

- Then click

- When all series have been added, click

- The familiar Computer Stop Watch screen will then appear. The Right Hand screen will be populated with all the entrants, including visitors.
- Proceed as normal.

Option 3: Web Times:

Web Times allows the capture of finish times on a mobile phone, tablet or laptop, and sends them to the TopYacht server. It differs from TopYacht because there is no processing of results available on the user's device. The expectation is that the processing of results takes place at a different location to the finish line and (most probably) by different personnel.

See: TopYacht Web Times Users Guide

Appendix 1: Numeric Keypads

The numeric keypad is designed for entering numeric data. It limits the amount of distance needed to reach the keys.

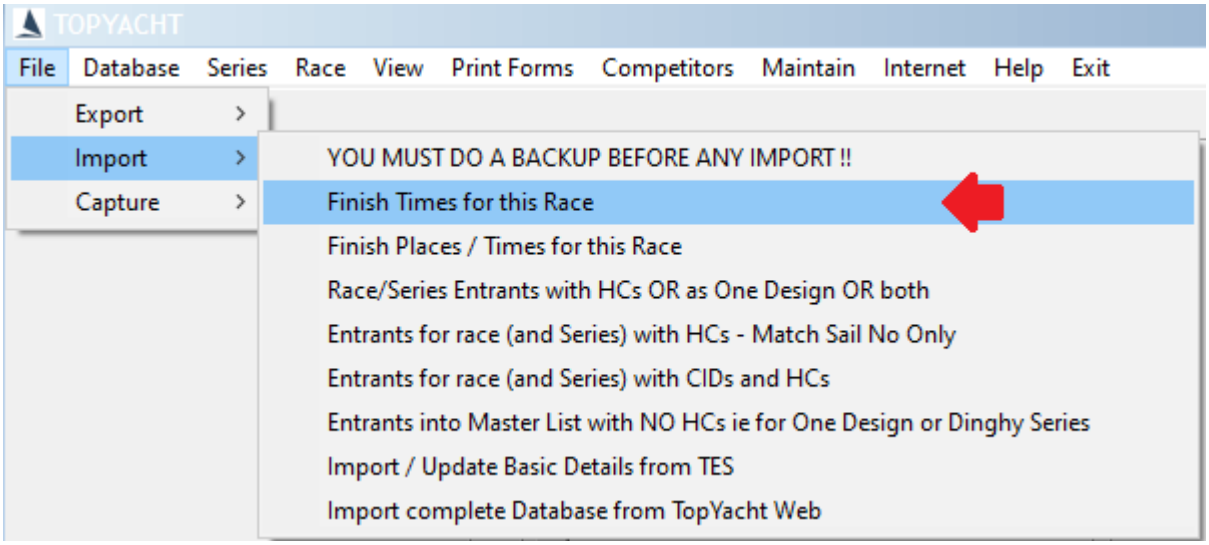
Users are advised to ensure the 'Num Lock' is on to enable the use of the numeric keypad.

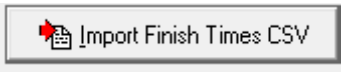
For laptops without a numeric keypad, wireless ones can be purchased.

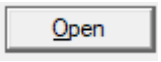
Example: https://www.amazon.com/Targus-Wireless-Numeric-Keypad-AKP11US/dp/B002NUYTCA

Appendix 2: Importing Finish Times from a .csv File

- Execute step 2 (Create a new Race)
- Execute Step 6 (or 6a… add entrants)
- Enable the File Menu See ***TopYacht HELP | Enable the "File Menu" item***
- ***Admin | File | Import | Finish Times for this Race.***



- Click 

, and choose the file
- Click , 

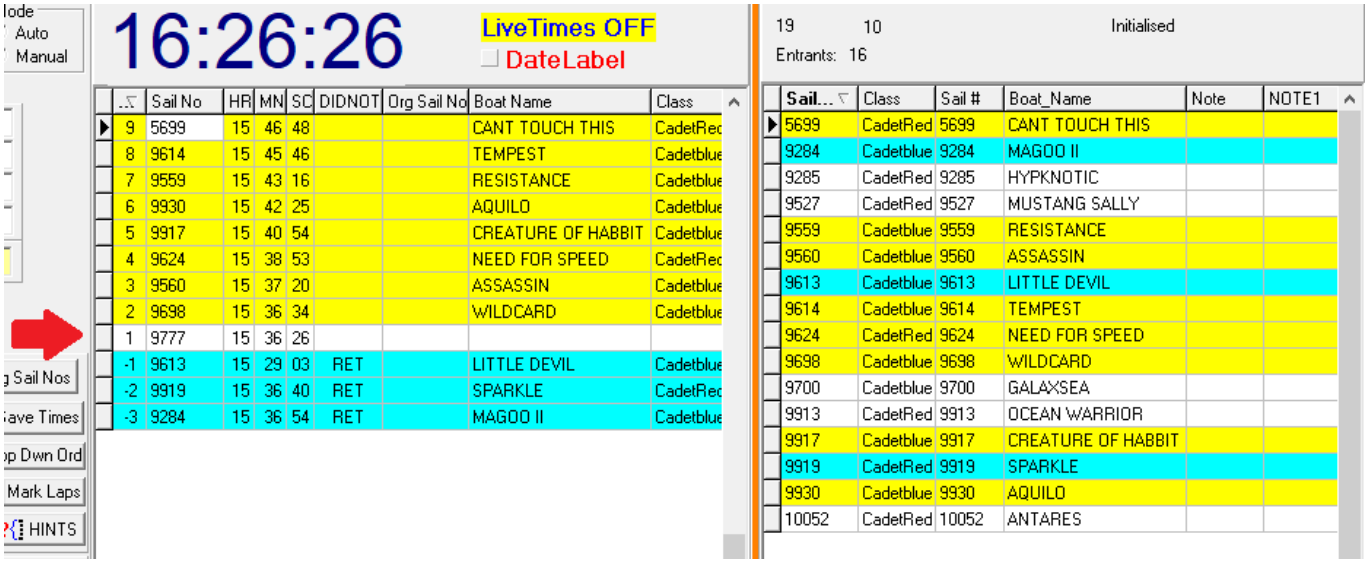
and follow the prompts
- Process the Race

Appendix 3: Using TopYacht with Places rather than Times.

Refer to the document: Using TopYacht with Places rather than Times

Appendix 4: Stopwatch: No Matching of Sail Numbers

When a Sail Number is loaded, and the 'Enter' button is pressed, Stopwatch takes the Time Stamp, and, with the sail number loads it into the left-hand table.



	Sail No	HR	MN	SC	DIDNOT	Org Sail No	Boat Name	Class
9	5699	15	46	48			CANT TOUCH THIS	CadetRed
8	9614	15	45	46			TEMPEST	Cadetblue
7	9559	15	43	16			RESISTANCE	Cadetblue
6	9930	15	42	25			AQUILO	Cadetblue
5	9917	15	40	54			CREATURE OF HABBIT	Cadetblue
4	9624	15	38	53			NEED FOR SPEED	CadetRed
3	9560	15	37	20			ASSASSIN	Cadetblue
2	9698	15	36	34			WILDCARD	Cadetblue
1	9777	15	36	26				
-1	9613	15	29	03	RET		LITTLE DEVIL	Cadetblue
-2	9919	15	36	40	RET		SPARKLE	CadetRed
-3	9284	15	36	54	RET		MAGOO II	Cadetblue

Sail...	Class	Sail #	Boat_Name	Note	NOTE1
5699	CadetRed	5699	CANT TOUCH THIS		
9284	Cadetblue	9284	MAGOO II		
9285	CadetRed	9285	HYPKNOTIC		
9527	CadetRed	9527	MUSTANG SALLY		
9559	Cadetblue	9559	RESISTANCE		
9560	Cadetblue	9560	ASSASSIN		
9613	Cadetblue	9613	LITTLE DEVIL		
9614	Cadetblue	9614	TEMPEST		
9624	CadetRed	9624	NEED FOR SPEED		
9698	Cadetblue	9698	WILDCARD		
9700	Cadetblue	9700	GALAXSEA		
9913	CadetRed	9913	OCEAN WARRIOR		
9917	Cadetblue	9917	CREATURE OF HABBIT		
9919	CadetRed	9919	SPARKLE		
9930	Cadetblue	9930	AQUILO		
10052	CadetRed	10052	ANTARES		

If the Sail Number matches one in the Right-Hand table (containing the entered boats) the background turns yellow. If the right-hand table does not contain an identical sail number, it remains white (as for 9777) above.

The Blue –background entries (all who have received some form of penalty) are separated out from the list with negative order numbers. Note that the time-stamps remain intact for audit reasons.

The usual causes of a no-match are

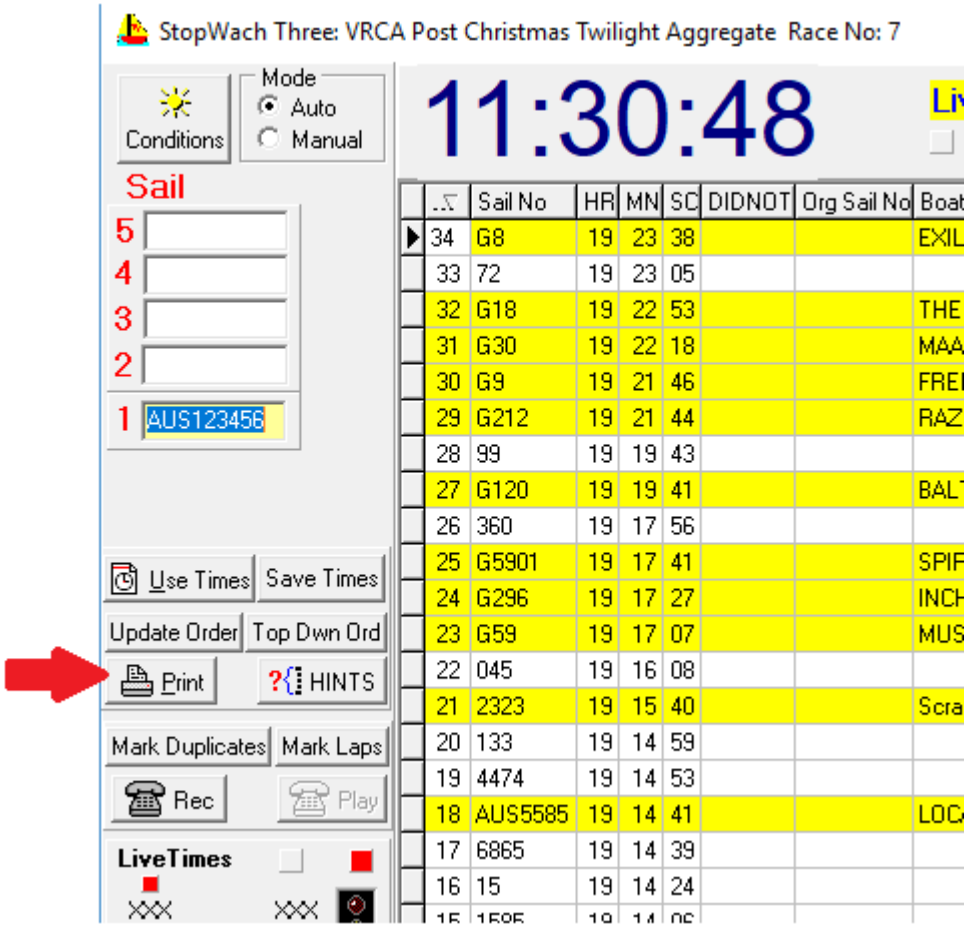
- Boat has not entered
- Competitor has borrowed a sail from a friend from another club and not told anyone
- The RO calling the finish has misread the sail number.

Some forensic work is needed to resolve this, and edit the sail numbers appropriately.

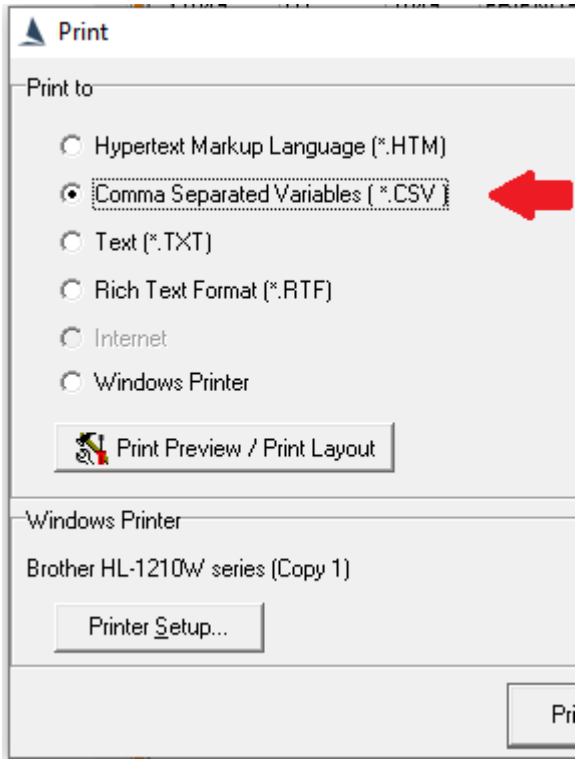
- Amend the entry in the Sail No. column to reflect the true number registered with the boat.
- Transfer the called number to the Org Sail No. column. (This gives an audit trail)
- Club policy should dictate how to handle the first two causes above.

Appendix 5: Produce a CSV file from Stopwatch

From Stopwatch,

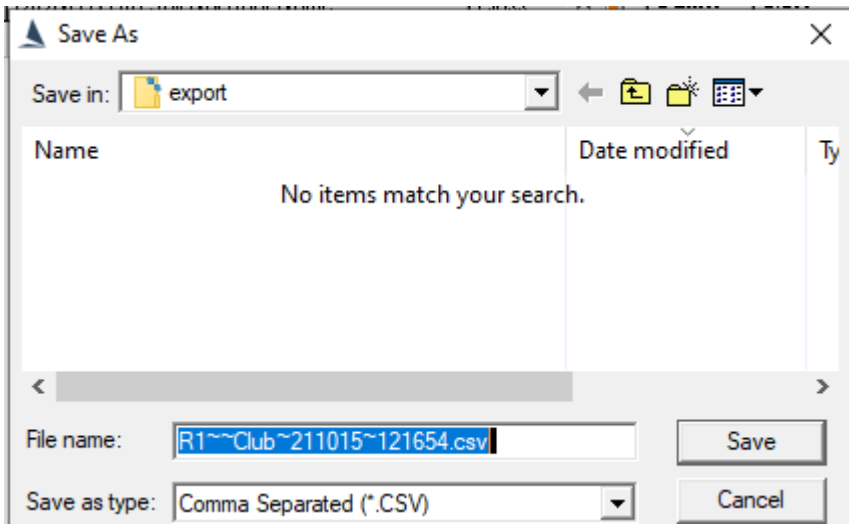


Click



- Select Comma Separated Variable radio button
- Click

TopYacht will nominate a default folder and file name to store the file


Save As
Save in:
export
Name
Date modified
Ty
No items match your search.
File name:
R1~~Club~211015~121654.csv
Save
Save as type:
Comma Separated (*.CSV)
Cancel

Click Save

Associated Documents:

Using TopYacht with Places rather than Times

TopYacht Web Times Users Guide

Stop Watch Handling Duplicates

Cheat Sheet for TopYacht WebTimes on the Finish Boat

Race to Results on the Web: a How-To

WebTimes ~ Sharing Finish Times

Revision Record

2022-01-27, 2021-10-15, 2021-10-11, 2021-07-21, 2021-03-19, 2020-02-16, 2019-07-17