Stokes Bay Sailing Club

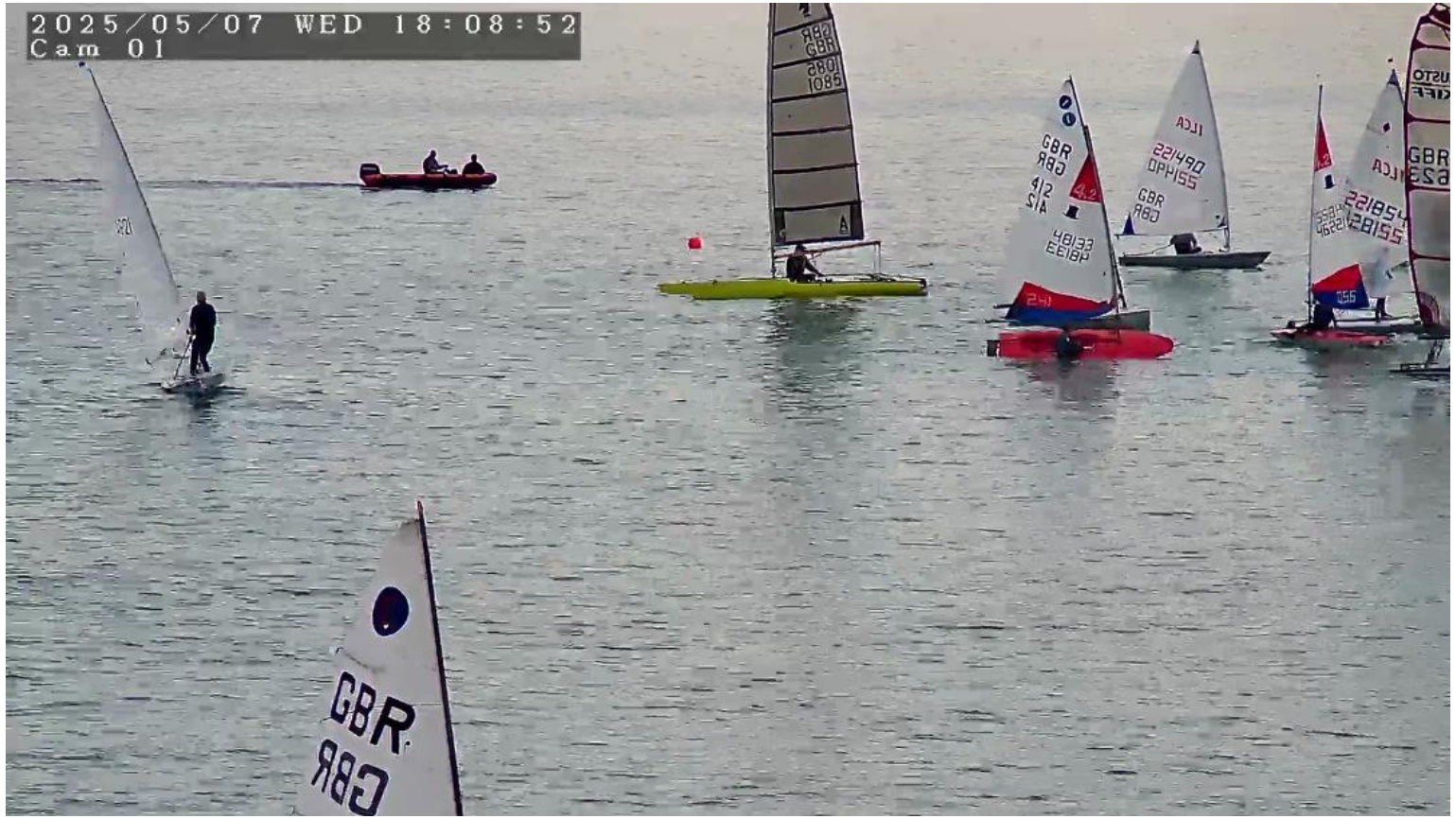
The Bridge Camera
and
The Race Assistant system

28th May 2025

The video camera

When you’re running a race things can sometimes go wrong – perhaps you’ll miss someone coming through the line. Having the camera properly trained on the start and finish lines means it won’t be a disaster. All footage is automatically kept for around two weeks so the correct results can be retrieved.

It’s important to ensure you can see – and read - the sail number of any boat that crosses the line. Something like this works well:



Switch on the video monitor to the right of the bridge window to see the picture that’s being captured.

Instructions for controlling the camera are printed on a laminated A4 sheet on the bridge.

The Race Assistant system

The Race Assistant system will help you to:

- Collect sign-ons for the race
- Schedule the starting sequence
- Raise and lower the right flags at the right time
- Time boats as they come through the line on each lap
- Keep track of how long the race has been going

Once the racing is over it will:

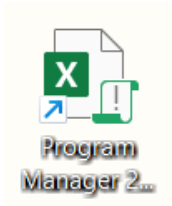
- Work out the handicap results
- Print a copy for you to pin on the board in the lobby
- email a copy to the Admin Office for inclusion in the series results
- Produce a file for the RYA as input to next year’s PY numbers

The Race Assistant is Copyright of Stokes Bay Sailing Club

Startup

The system is designed to be as intuitive as possible, and provides basic on-screen instructions where appropriate.

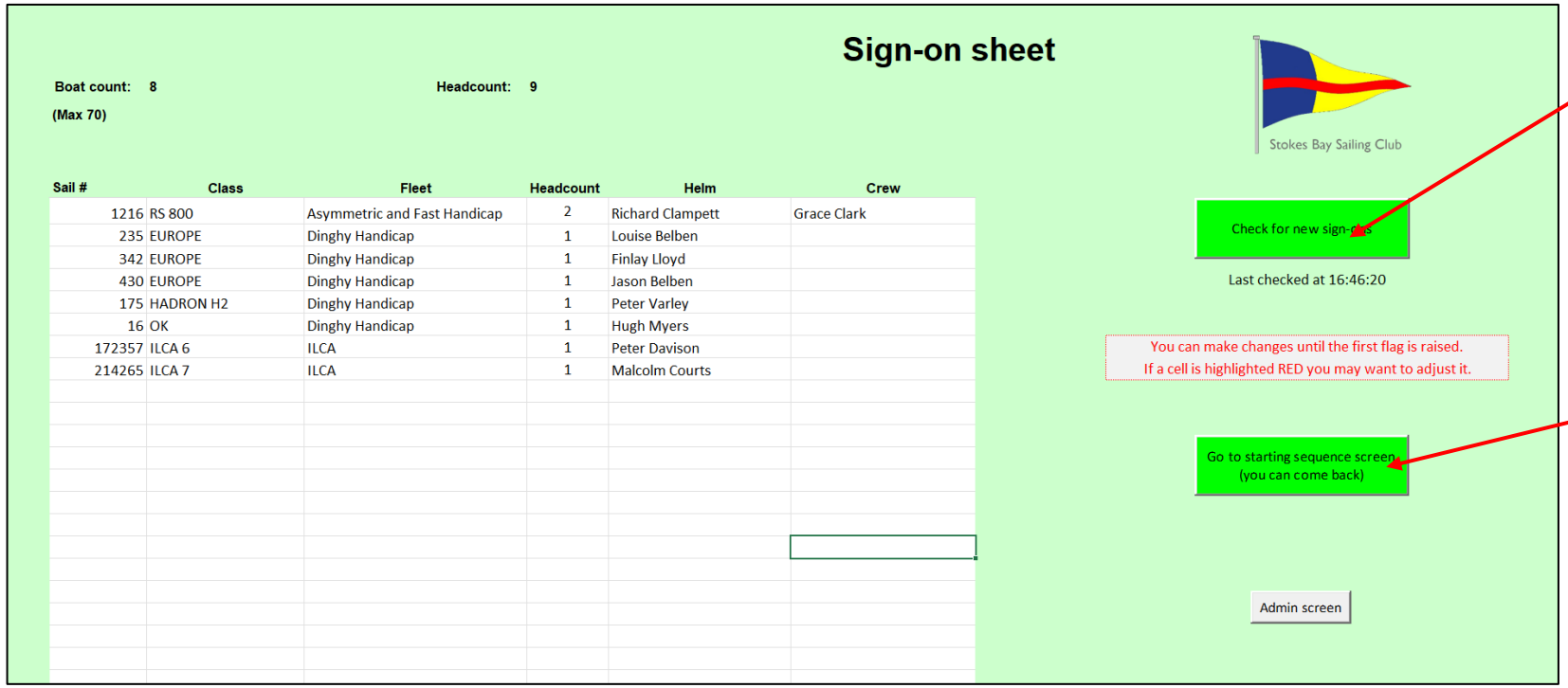
Power up the computer when you arrive, and double-click the Excel icon in the centre of the screen :



Follow the on-screen instructions, and give the system time to respond.

The Sign-on sheet

The Sign-On sheet should get populated automatically from SailEvent. You can also edit it manually – just like a spreadsheet. All your edits will be preserved, and will be unaffected when you check for new sign-ons from SailEvent – which you should do regularly until 15 mins before the scheduled start.



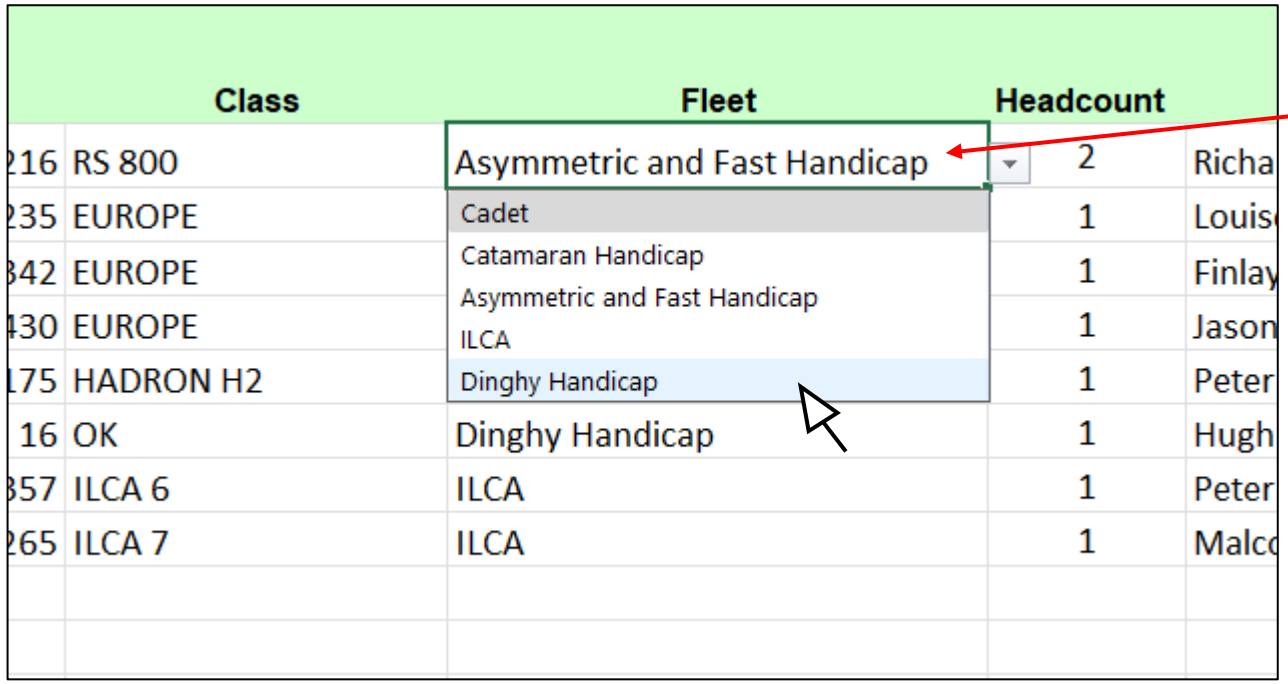
Sail #	Class	Fleet	Headcount	Helm	Crew
1216	RS 800	Asymmetric and Fast Handicap	2	Richard Clampett	Grace Clark
235	EUROPE	Dinghy Handicap	1	Louise Belben	
342	EUROPE	Dinghy Handicap	1	Finlay Lloyd	
430	EUROPE	Dinghy Handicap	1	Jason Belben	
175	HADRON H2	Dinghy Handicap	1	Peter Varley	
16	OK	Dinghy Handicap	1	Hugh Myers	
172357	ILCA 6	ILCA	1	Peter Davison	
214265	ILCA 7	ILCA	1	Malcolm Courts	

Click here to check SailEvent for new sign-ons.

Click here to go to the Starting Sequence screen

Editing a sign-on

In our example there's only one entry in the Asymmetric fleet, so we'll use the drop-down menu to put them in with the Dinghy Handicap.



Clicking on the Fleet cell opens up a drop-down menu with a list of all fleets.

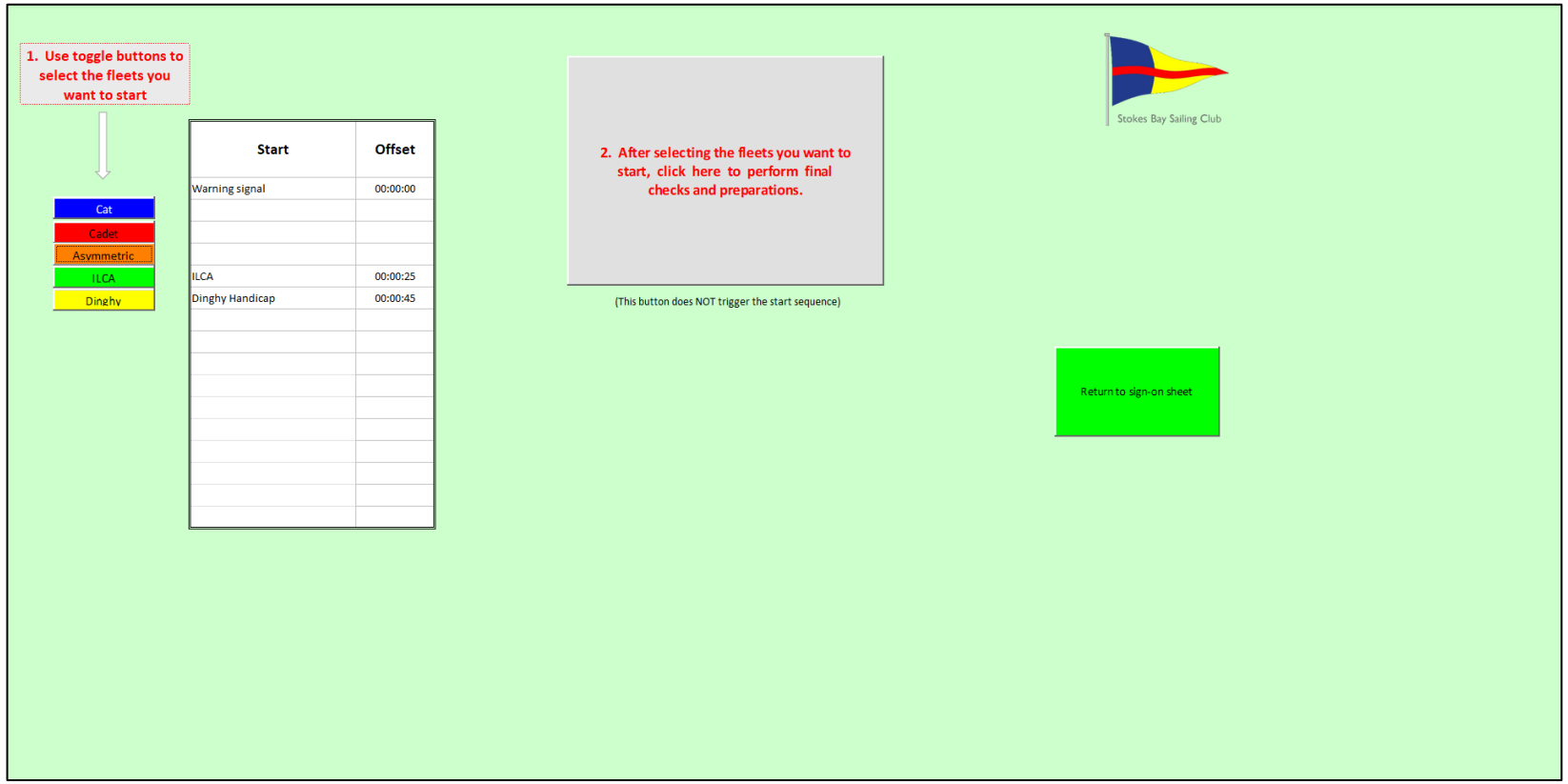
If you need to add a boat, there's a similar drop-down for Classes; just start typing to narrow down the options!

All your edits will be preserved, and will remain unaffected when you check for new sign-ons from SailEvent – which you should do regularly until 15 mins before the scheduled start.

Setting up the Starting Sequence

The Starting Sequence screen is where you select the fleets you will be starting. If the Race Assistant spots something that looks wrong it will prompt you to check.

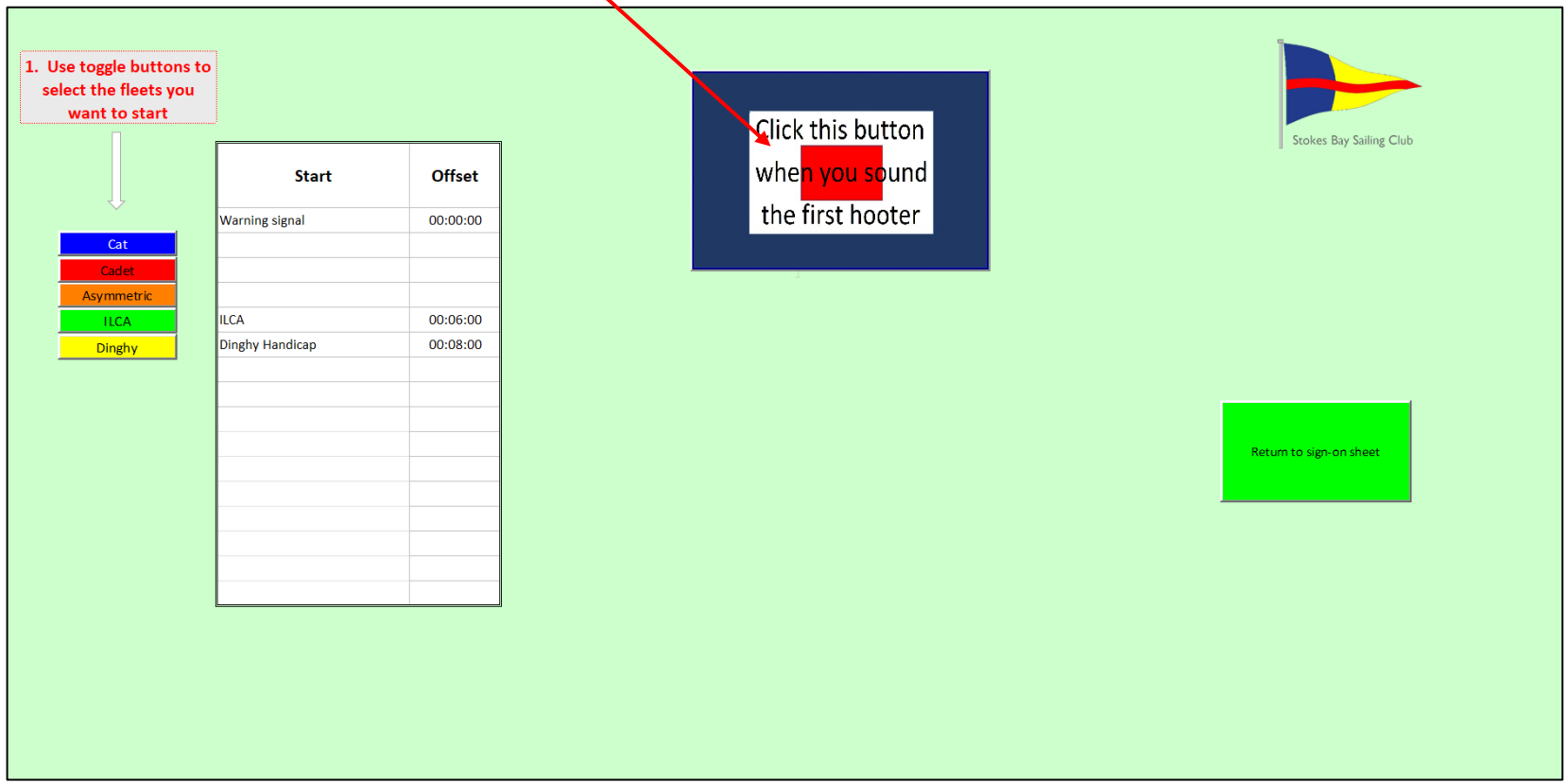
Follow the red on-screen instructions.



Starting the race

When you've confirmed you're ready to go, you'll be presented with a 'Warning Flag' button.

There are three things to do at once here: 1. Get your ARO, outside, to hoist the warning flag 2. Sound the horn 3. Click this button (Tip: it's easier if you click the button first, and sound the horn a split second later).

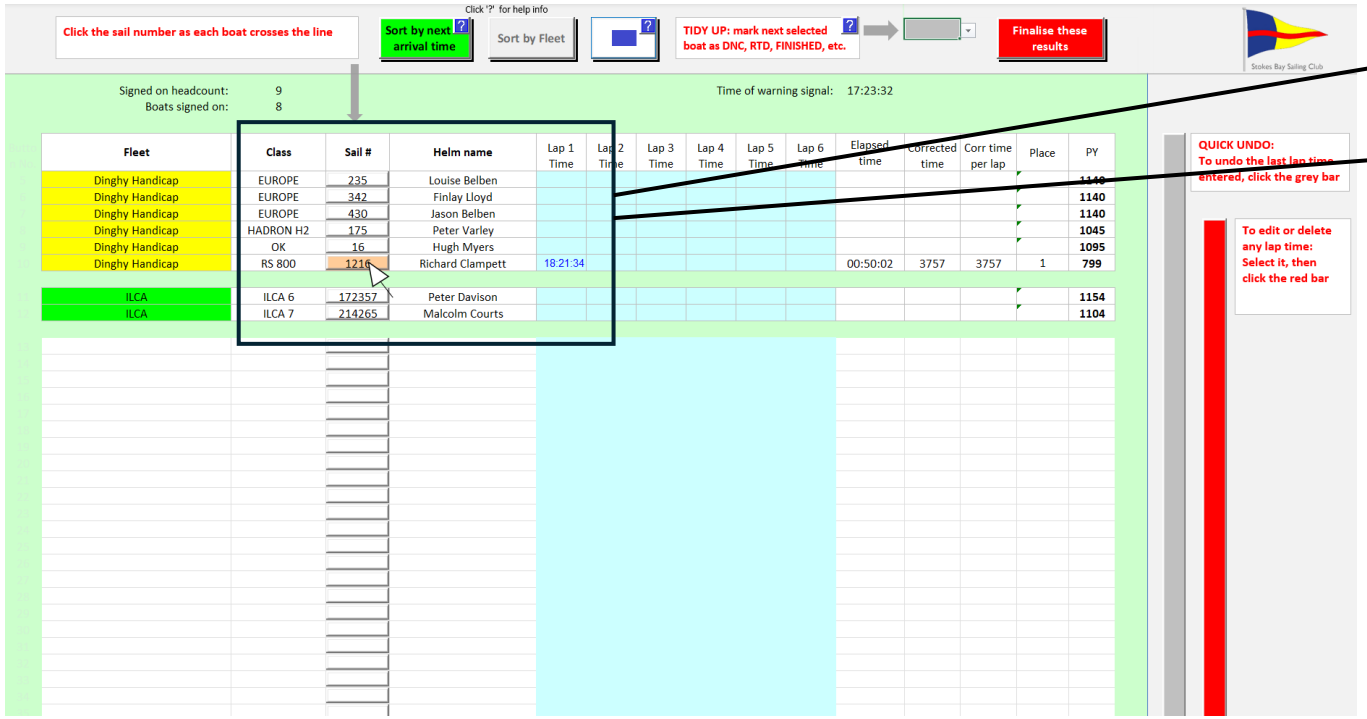


Having done that you can relax for a few minutes while the system counts down. Watch the screen for what to do and when.

Clocking boats through the line

Once the start sequence is complete you'll be taken to this screen, where you can record each boat as it crosses the line.

Clicking the Sail # will record the lap time in the appropriate column, and the Sail # cell will change colour.



Fleet	Class	Sail #	Helm name	Lap 1 Time	Lap 2 Time	Lap 3 Time	Lap 4 Time	Lap 5 Time	Lap 6 Time	Elapsed time	Corrected time	Corr time per lap	Place	PY
Dinghy Handicap	EUROPE	235	Louise Belben											1140
Dinghy Handicap	EUROPE	342	Finlay Lloyd											1140
Dinghy Handicap	EUROPE	430	Jason Belben											1140
Dinghy Handicap	HADRON H2	175	Peter Varley											1045
Dinghy Handicap	OK	16	Hugh Myers											1095
Dinghy Handicap	RS 800	1216	Richard Clampett	18:21:34						00:50:02	3757	3757	1	799
ILCA	ILCA 6	172357	Peter Davison											1154
ILCA	ILCA 7	214265	Malcolm Courts											1104

Tip: Provided it's not their last lap, the exact timing for a boat is not important – you just need to record that they've done the lap.

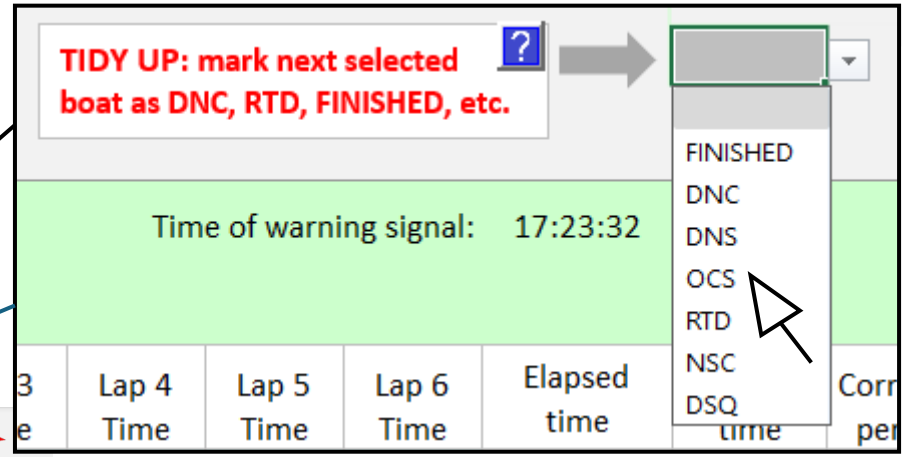
Class	Sail #	Helm name	Lap 1 Time	Lap 2 Time
EUROPE	235	Louise Belben		
EUROPE	342	Finlay Lloyd		
EUROPE	430	Jason Belben		
HADRON H2	175	Peter Varley		
OK	16	Hugh Myers		
RS 800	1216	Richard Clampett	18:21:34	
ILCA 6	172357	Peter Davison		
ILCA 7	214265	Malcolm Courts		

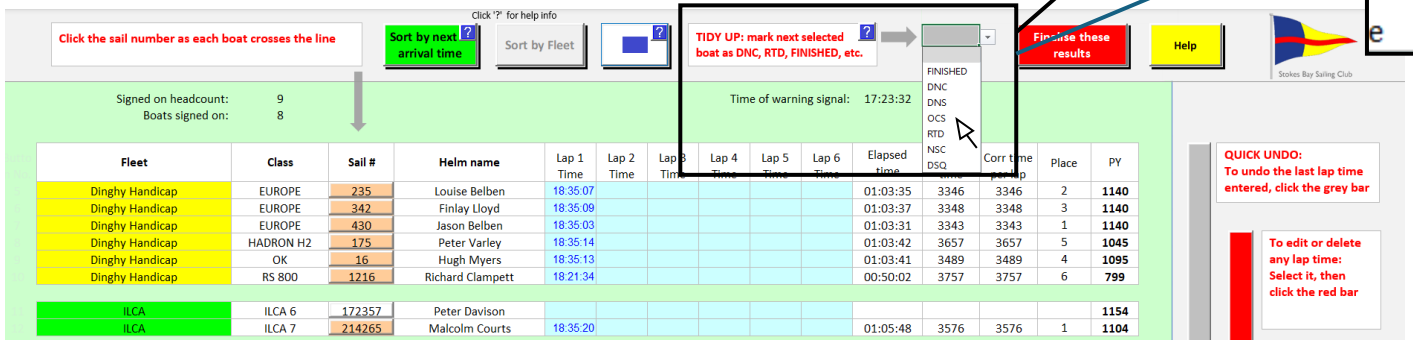
We've now covered all the core tasks. So let's look at a few ways you can make things easier for yourself as you go through the race…

Applying finish codes

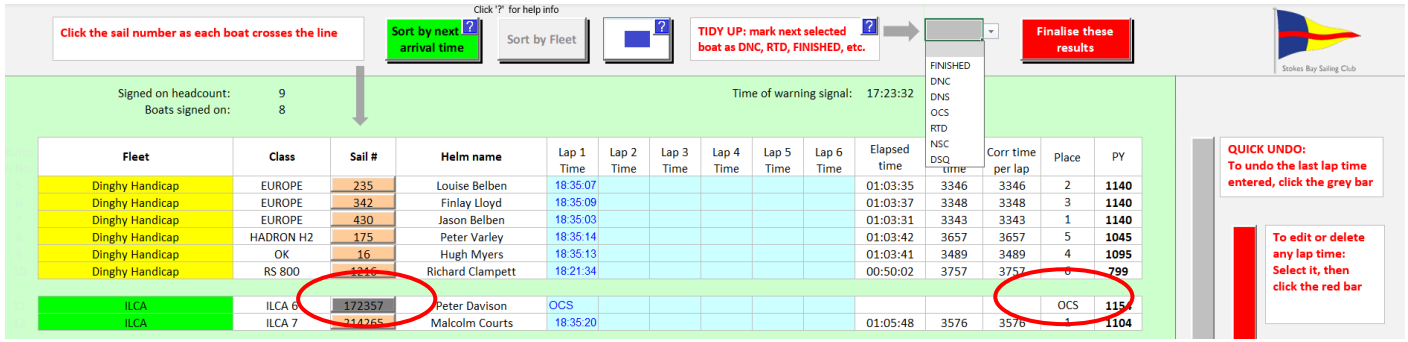
The TIDY UP function allows you to mark a boat as being no longer in the race. In this case we are going to mark the ILCA 6 as having been OCS.

We select OCS from the drop-down menu, then click the Sail # of the boat:





The Sail # turns grey, and the boat's result is shown as OCS:



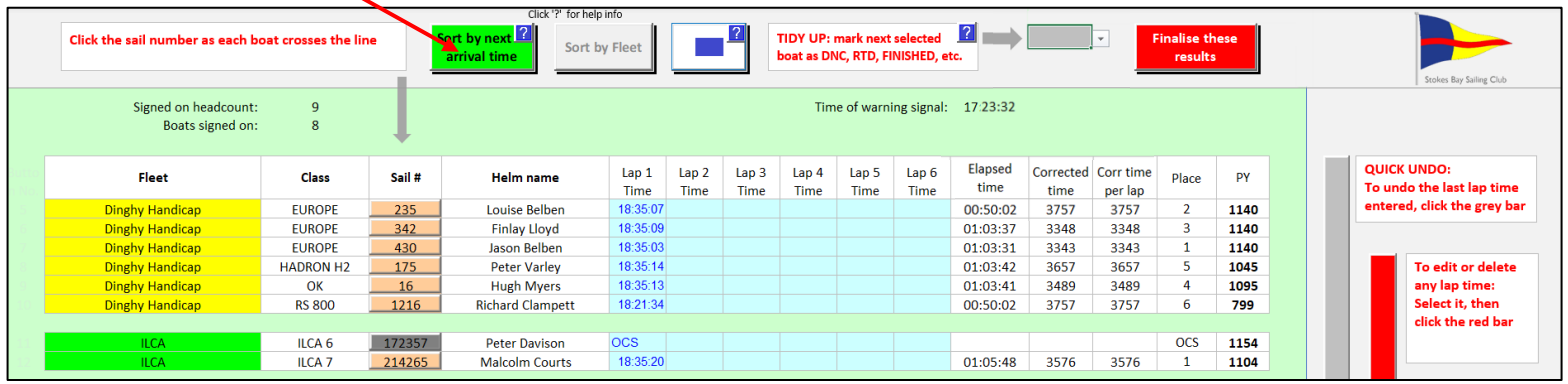
Fleet	Class	Sail #	Helm name	Lap 1 Time	Lap 2 Time	Lap 3 Time	Lap 4 Time	Lap 5 Time	Lap 6 Time	Elapsed time	Corr time	Corr time per lap	Place	PY
Dinghy Handicap	EUROPE	235	Louise Belben	18:35:07						01:03:35	3346	3346	2	1140
Dinghy Handicap	EUROPE	342	Finlay Lloyd	18:35:09						01:03:37	3348	3348	3	1140
Dinghy Handicap	EUROPE	430	Jason Belben	18:35:03						01:03:31	3343	3343	1	1140
Dinghy Handicap	HADRON H2	175	Peter Varley	18:35:14						01:03:42	3657	3657	5	1045
Dinghy Handicap	OK	16	Hugh Myers	18:35:13						01:03:41	3489	3489	4	1095
Dinghy Handicap	RS 800	1216	Richard Clampett	18:21:34						00:50:02	3757	3757	6	799
ILCA	ILCA 6	172357	Peter Davison											1154
ILCA	ILCA 7	214265	Malcolm Courts	18:35:20						01:05:48	3576	3576	1	1104

Fleet	Class	Sail #	Helm name	Lap 1 Time	Lap 2 Time	Lap 3 Time	Lap 4 Time	Lap 5 Time	Lap 6 Time	Elapsed time	Corr time	Corr time per lap	Place	PY
Dinghy Handicap	EUROPE	235	Louise Belben	18:35:07						01:03:35	3346	3346	2	1140
Dinghy Handicap	EUROPE	342	Finlay Lloyd	18:35:09						01:03:37	3348	3348	3	1140
Dinghy Handicap	EUROPE	430	Jason Belben	18:35:03						01:03:31	3343	3343	1	1140
Dinghy Handicap	HADRON H2	175	Peter Varley	18:35:14						01:03:42	3657	3657	5	1045
Dinghy Handicap	OK	16	Hugh Myers	18:35:13						01:03:41	3489	3489	4	1095
Dinghy Handicap	RS 800	1216	Richard Clampett	18:21:34						00:50:02	3757	3757	6	799
ILCA	ILCA 6	172357	Peter Davison	OCS									OCS	1154
ILCA	ILCA 7	214265	Malcolm Courts	18:35:20						01:05:48	3576	3576	1	1104

Tip: If a boat has transgressed it's essential to give them an appropriate finish code. Applying it as soon as possible helps you to keep your screen tidy (see following pages).

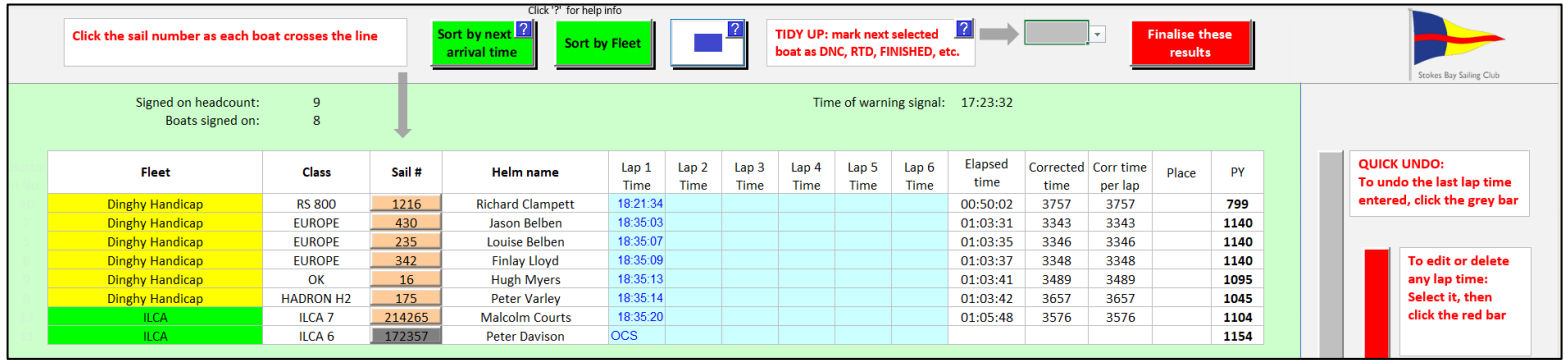
Sorting the list of boats

‘Sort by next arrival time’ does what the name suggests



Fleet	Class	Sail #	Helm name	Lap 1 Time	Lap 2 Time	Lap 3 Time	Lap 4 Time	Lap 5 Time	Lap 6 Time	Elapsed time	Corrected time	Corr time per lap	Place	PY
Dinghy Handicap	EUROPE	235	Louise Belben	18:35:07						00:50:02	3757	3757	2	1140
Dinghy Handicap	EUROPE	342	Finlay Lloyd	18:35:09						01:03:37	3348	3348	3	1140
Dinghy Handicap	EUROPE	430	Jason Belben	18:35:03						01:03:31	3343	3343	1	1140
Dinghy Handicap	HADRON H2	175	Peter Varley	18:35:14						01:03:42	3657	3657	5	1045
Dinghy Handicap	OK	16	Hugh Myers	18:35:13						01:03:41	3489	3489	4	1095
Dinghy Handicap	RS 800	1216	Richard Clampett	18:21:34						00:50:02	3757	3757	6	799
ILCA	ILCA 6	172357	Peter Davison	OCS									OCS	1154
ILCA	ILCA 7	214265	Malcolm Courts	18:35:20						01:05:48	3576	3576	1	1104

Boats no longer in the race, such as the ILCA 6, are moved to the bottom. The others are sorted, using whatever lap time data has been collected so far, putting likely next arrivals to the top of the list:



Fleet	Class	Sail #	Helm name	Lap 1 Time	Lap 2 Time	Lap 3 Time	Lap 4 Time	Lap 5 Time	Lap 6 Time	Elapsed time	Corrected time	Corr time per lap	Place	PY
Dinghy Handicap	RS 800	1216	Richard Clampett	18:21:34						00:50:02	3757	3757		799
Dinghy Handicap	EUROPE	430	Jason Belben	18:35:03						01:03:31	3343	3343		1140
Dinghy Handicap	EUROPE	235	Louise Belben	18:35:07						01:03:35	3346	3346		1140
Dinghy Handicap	EUROPE	342	Finlay Lloyd	18:35:09						01:03:37	3348	3348		1140
Dinghy Handicap	OK	16	Hugh Myers	18:35:13						01:03:41	3489	3489		1095
Dinghy Handicap	HADRON H2	175	Peter Varley	18:35:14						01:03:42	3657	3657		1045
ILCA	ILCA 7	214265	Malcolm Courts	18:35:20						01:05:48	3576	3576		1104
ILCA	ILCA 6	172357	Peter Davison	OCS										1154

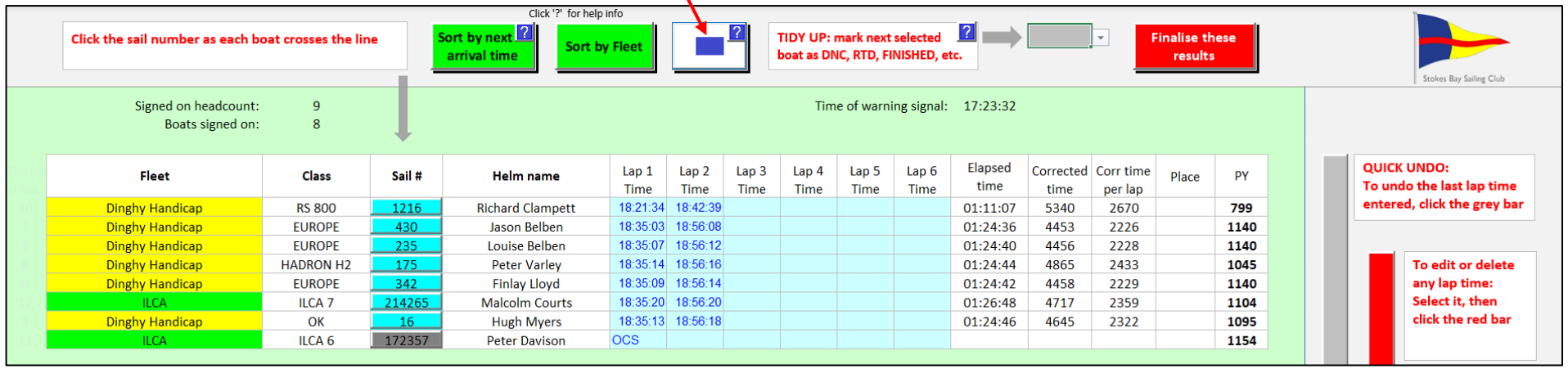
Using this button is entirely optional, but it can help when there are a lot of competitors, as it saves you searching right down the screen.

You can sort the boats at any time, and as often as you like.

Clicking ‘Sort by Fleet’ restores the original order.

Shortening course (finishing the race) - 1

Like the previous button, this one is optional. However if you are shortening course for everyone*, clicking the ‘Shorten Course’ flag will help you keep track of who has finished.



Fleet	Class	Sail #	Helm name	Lap 1 Time	Lap 2 Time	Lap 3 Time	Lap 4 Time	Lap 5 Time	Lap 6 Time	Elapsed time	Corrected time	Corr time per lap	Place	PY
Dinghy Handicap	RS 800	1216	Richard Clampett	18:21:34	18:42:39					01:11:07	5340	2670		**799**
Dinghy Handicap	EUROPE	430	Jason Belben	18:35:03	18:56:08					01:24:36	4453	2226		**1140**
Dinghy Handicap	EUROPE	235	Louise Belben	18:35:07	18:56:12					01:24:40	4456	2228		**1140**
Dinghy Handicap	HADRON H2	175	Peter Varley	18:35:14	18:56:16					01:24:44	4865	2433		**1045**
Dinghy Handicap	EUROPE	342	Finlay Lloyd	18:35:09	18:56:14					01:24:42	4458	2229		**1140**
ILCA	ILCA 7	214265	Malcolm Courts	18:35:20	18:56:20					01:26:48	4717	2359		**1104**
Dinghy Handicap	OK	16	Hugh Myers	18:35:13	18:56:18					01:24:46	4645	2322		**1095**
ILCA	ILCA 6	172357	Peter Davison	OCS										**1154**

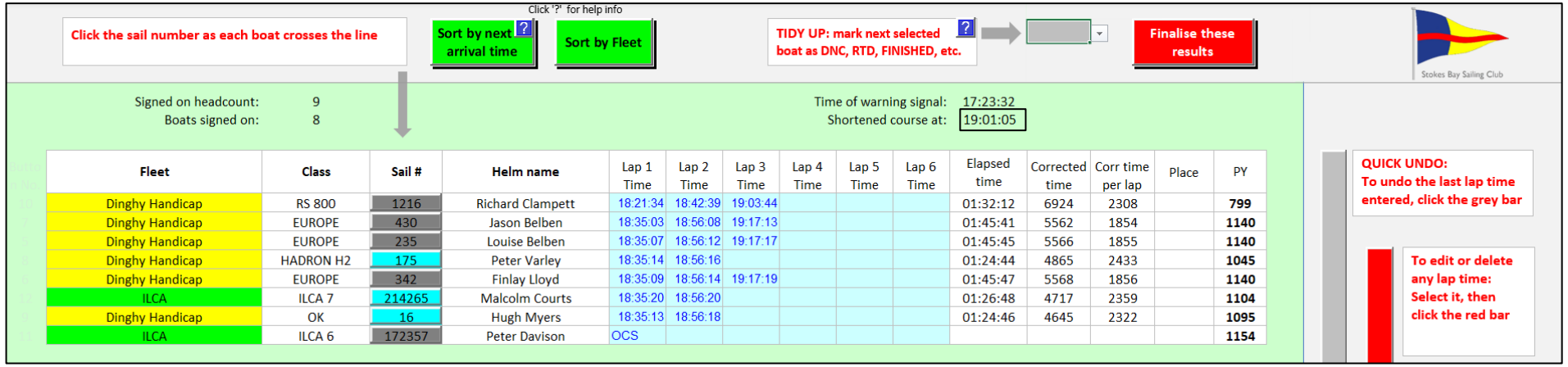
In this example we’ll shorten them after two laps (so they finish on the third). The screen has just been sorted again by next arrival time, and the ILCA 7 clearly had a good second lap!

See the next page for what happens after clicking the ‘Shorten Course’ flag.

* Results are always calculated using average lap times, so you can shorten course at any time, and it does not matter if boats in the same fleet don’t all do the same number of laps.

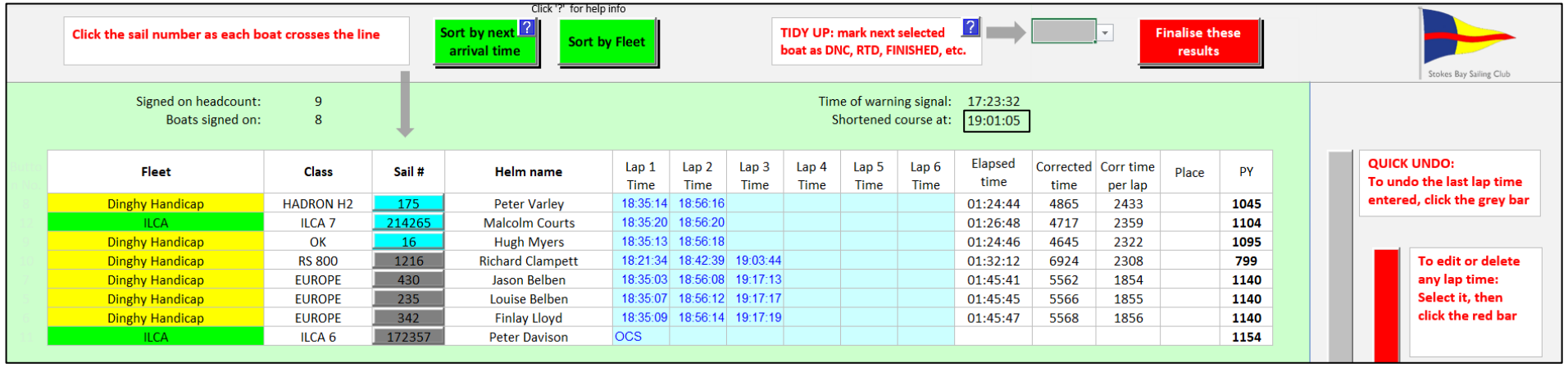
Shortening course (finishing the race) - 2

Four boats have now finished and, because the Shorten Course button had been clicked, their Sail Numbers have turned grey to indicate they are no longer racing:



Fleet	Class	Sail #	Helm name	Lap 1 Time	Lap 2 Time	Lap 3 Time	Lap 4 Time	Lap 5 Time	Lap 6 Time	Elapsed time	Corrected time	Corr time per lap	Place	PY
Dinghy Handicap	RS 800	1216	Richard Clampett	18:21:34	18:42:39	19:03:44				01:32:12	6924	2308		799
Dinghy Handicap	EUROPE	430	Jason Belben	18:35:03	18:56:08	19:17:13				01:45:41	5562	1854		1140
Dinghy Handicap	EUROPE	235	Louise Belben	18:35:07	18:56:12	19:17:17				01:45:45	5566	1855		1140
Dinghy Handicap	HADRON H2	175	Peter Varley	18:35:14	18:56:16					01:24:44	4865	2433		1045
Dinghy Handicap	EUROPE	342	Finlay Lloyd	18:35:09	18:56:14	19:17:19				01:45:47	5568	1856		1140
ILCA	ILCA 7	214265	Malcolm Courts	18:35:20	18:56:20					01:26:48	4717	2359		1104
Dinghy Handicap	OK	16	Hugh Myers	18:35:13	18:56:18					01:24:46	4645	2322		1095
ILCA	ILCA 6	172357	Peter Davison	OCS										1154

We can sort again by next arrival time, and they will be moved to the bottom of the list, leaving you to focus on only those still to finish:



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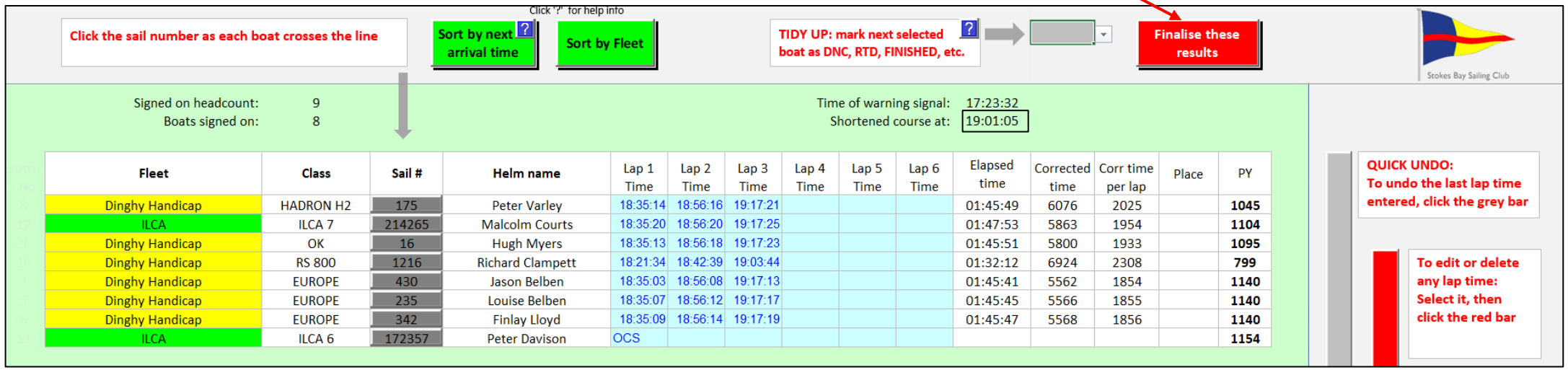
Dinghy Handicap	HADRON H2	175	Peter Varley	18:35:14	18:56:16					01:24:44	4865	2433		1045
ILCA	ILCA 7	214265	Malcolm Courts	18:35:20	18:56:20					01:26:48	4717	2359		1104
Dinghy Handicap	OK	16	Hugh Myers	18:35:13	18:56:18					01:24:46	4645	2322		1095
Dinghy Handicap	RS 800	1216	Richard Clampett	18:21:34	18:42:39	19:03:44				01:32:12	6924	2308		799
Dinghy Handicap	EUROPE	430	Jason Belben	18:35:03	18:56:08	19:17:13				01:45:41	5562	1854		1140
Dinghy Handicap	EUROPE	235	Louise Belben	18:35:07	18:56:12	19:17:17				01:45:45	5566	1855		1140
Dinghy Handicap	EUROPE	342	Finlay Lloyd	18:35:09	18:56:14	19:17:19				01:45:47	5568	1856		1140
ILCA	ILCA 6	172357	Peter Davison	OCS										1154

Finalising the results

When the race is over there's one more thing to do: Click 'Finalise these results'.



Fleet	Class	Sail #	Helm name	Lap 1 Time	Lap 2 Time	Lap 3 Time	Lap 4 Time	Lap 5 Time	Lap 6 Time	Elapsed time	Corrected time	Corr time per lap	Place	PY
Dinghy Handicap	HADRON H2	175	Peter Varley	18:35:14	18:56:16	19:17:21				01:45:49	6076	2025		1045
ILCA	ILCA 7	214265	Malcolm Courts	18:35:20	18:56:20	19:17:25				01:47:53	5863	1954		1104
Dinghy Handicap	OK	16	Hugh Myers	18:35:13	18:56:18	19:17:23				01:45:51	5800	1933		1095
Dinghy Handicap	RS 800	1216	Richard Clampett	18:21:34	18:42:39	19:03:44				01:32:12	6924	2308		799
Dinghy Handicap	EUROPE	430	Jason Belben	18:35:03	18:56:08	19:17:13				01:45:41	5562	1854		1140
Dinghy Handicap	EUROPE	235	Louise Belben	18:35:07	18:56:12	19:17:17				01:45:45	5566	1855		1140
Dinghy Handicap	EUROPE	342	Finlay Lloyd	18:35:09	18:56:14	19:17:19				01:45:47	5568	1856		1140
ILCA	ILCA 6	172357	Peter Davison	OCS										1154

You will be asked to enter your name, and to add any comments that might be useful to the competitors or the Admin Office. For example: "ILCA 234567 was disqualified for sailing inside the 50m mark" or "Sail # 123 was actually 234, but used a different sail tonight".

Summary

- Make sure the video is trained on the start / finish line and is correctly zoomed in
- Start the Race Assistant system and collect entries from SailEvent
- Edit sign-ons as appropriate, and manually add / delete competitors if needed
- Set up and run the starting sequence
- Clock boats through the line
- Apply finish codes as soon as you can, and consider sorting the screen frequently to keep the boats you’re interested in near the top of the list.
- Provided you’re shortening all fleets, use the Shorten Course button to keep track of finishers.