



Great Midlands FUN RUN

Although not a race, participants in the Great Midlands Fun Run had, until 2008, been quoted a course completion time based on a gun start and using operators at four computer terminals at the finish. We had previously considered using timing chips; however the unit cost & means of distributing the chips had been considered a barrier to introducing such a system.

Our desire to introduce an accurate timing system was based more on safety and the control of junior entrants at the start assembly area, rather than providing an accurate finish - which was very much a secondary benefit.

Our introduction to HS Sports was initially to consider using the Dag System, however this was superseded by the 'credit card' style chip as it was shown to be more reliable. We decided to proceed with the chip which was enthusiastically received by the 5200 participants in the 2008 Great Midlands Fun Run.

We enjoyed tremendous support prior to, during and post event from the HS Sports team and received the results promptly. No system is fool proof, however, any errors in the timing were found to be down to individual entrants not following the simple instructions on how to attach the chip to shoe laces.

The system allowed us to quickly identify that 10% of the junior entrants had indeed assembled and started from the wrong area. We were then able to contact each of these entrants to point out this fact - something we had been unable to act upon in previous years. We expect that the introduction of the timing chip will result in fewer junior entrants assembling and starting from the wrong area thus significantly reducing the potential risk of an accident at the start of the event.

We have no plans to change our supplier and with planned developments to convert the system to a single use chip, this will make management of the finish area much easier as we will no longer have to recover the timing chips.

Race Director – Great Midlands Fun Run

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