

Finishlynx Files

There are 3 types of files that Finishlynx uses, Lynx.evt, Lynk.ppl and Lynk.sch, all of which are text files with comma separation.

The system MUST have a Lynx.evt file present but the other 2 can either be in use or not.

The basic creation of these files is usually made in a spreadsheet program, then converted to the required text type file by use of a text editor such as notepad. Create your file in a spreadsheet and then save as ".csv", open this file in "Notepad" or equivalent, you may need to change file type to "All Files" in order to open it. Then use the "Save As" feature, select file type as "All Files" then type either Lynx.evt, Lynx.ppl or Lynx.sch. The Lynx.evt may produce a "Classic Event" file type to view this right click the file and select "Open With" and choose "Notepad" or equivalent and select the option of "Always" this will allow you to open and view your finished files in your text editor.

Since i earlier stated that a Lynx.evt file must be present we will look at that file first.

As the title would seem to imply it is a list of all the events that are to take place in your meeting, generally this list would be in the order of your timetable. This list has several forms that it could be produced in, all of which would work but each variation giving you more or less information when that event is loaded within Finishlynx.

```
;EVENT,ROUND,Heat,Title,,,,,,,,Wind Mode
;BLANK,ID,Lane,,,,,,,,
;1,1,1,100M,,,,,,,,,"100M,0.0,10.0"
;2,1,1,100Mh,,,,,,,,,"100M Hurdles,0.0,13.0"
;3,1,1,200M,,,,,,,,,"200M,12.0,10.0"
1,1,1,100m Senior Men Heat 1,,,,,,,,
1,1,2,100m Senior Men Heat 2,,,,,,,,
1,1,3,100m Senior Men Heat 3,,,,,,,,
,,1,,,,,,,,
,,2,,,,,,,,
,,3,,,,,,,,
1,1,4,100m Senior Men Heat 4,,,,,,,,
,1,1,,,,,,,,
,2,2,,,,,,,,
1,1,5,100m Senior Men Heat 5,,,,,,,,,"100M,0.0,10.0"
1,1,6,100m Senior Men Heat 6,,,,,,,,
,1,1,HOOD,Tim,KUHAC,123456789,M,,,,
```

This is an image of a Lynx.evt file opened in Notepad, all lines that start with a semi-colon are ignored but show how they are constructed.

Heats 1 and 2 show the simplest form that can be used, simply event title. Heat 3 has added 1 extra step and included the lanes so they are created automatically when the event opens.

Heat 4 now has added bib numbers next to a lane, this will draw information from the ppl.

This heat will turn an automatic wind gauge on if in use.

Heat 6 is what you would normally expect if working with a meeting manager.

In our world you will most likely be needing to produce files along the format of Heat 3 in our examples above in advance of a meeting, possibly with the addition of the automatic wind gauge in column 12. This is because we normally work with a Lynx.ppl file as well and add the seeding on the day. This works because when an event is opened by Finishlynx, if it is not fully populated as in example Heat 6 and we add a "Bib Number" in the second space it looks for "Data" associated with that number in the Lynx.ppl file.

Now we know that our Lynx.evt file is not fully completed and is to work in conjunction with a Lynx.ppl we need to look at how this is constructed.

```
|,,,,,,,,,
;ID,SURNAME,Forename,Affiliation,Licence,Gender,Events,User3
1,HOOD,Tim,KUHAC,123456789,M,,V60
2,BLOGGS,Fred,Unattached,,M,,
```

The above is a very small but fully functioning Lynx.ppl file which is very likely to be in the style that you will need. As the title would suggest this is a list of People / entries.

Unlike the Lynx.evt that has a "Header" line and several lines for lanes EVERY athlete is a single line in this file, and the order is structured the same for every entry.

ID this is usually a Bib Number but could just as easily be a Name

Surname

Forename

Affiliation usually Club Name

Licence is usually the National licence number of an Athletes Governing body, can be left blank.

Gender again this can be left blank

The next column is blank unless using a meeting manager and then it will contain the event numbers they have entered, generated by said meeting manager.

I tend to use this column for age groups particularly if it is an open graded meeting and likely to have mixed age groups in an event, can be left blank or a meeting manager may use it for another purpose.

Now we have our 2 main meeting files we are ready for the meeting to take place.

What if the organisers suddenly decide that the timetable doesn't work for them and requests the events get changed to a new timetable?

You are most probably going to throw a strop and say i will need time to change all my files, what if i were to tell you there is a very quick and easy solution.

```
1,1,1
1,1,2
1,1,5
1,1,6
1,1,3
1,1,4|
```

This to the left is a copy of a working 3rd file that Finishlynx can use. It only contains 3 figures for every entry, the initial 3 numbers from our Lynx.evt header lines. This tells Finishlynx which order the files should be loaded without having to re-write your Lynx.evt at all.

So lets recap what we have learnt, Finishlynx MUST have a Lynx.evt file present to work, if we load an event and everything is present it doesn't do anything else.

If there is no athlete data present and we enter a Bib number in to a lane in the Lynx.evt when it opens and no Athlete Data is present it searches for a Lynx.ppl and if present looks for the Data allocated next to the Bib Number.

Finally if we have produced a Lynx.sch then Finishlynx will load our list of events in our Lynx.evt in that order.

Any queries or questions please contact me via email or phone "tim1hood@hotmail.co.uk" phone 07979893938.