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SOLENT AREA MARK CHANGES 2021

- ❖ **There are a lot of new names for existing yellow race marks:**
The 2-character codes and positions of these marks do not change, only the names are different.

Code	Name for 2021	Listed Previous Name
1C	Stoneways Marine	MS Amlin
1E	Ledge Buoy (LB)	Christchurch Ledge Buoy
12	Mid Bay (MB) / Eye Marine	Mid Bay
2H	Draycott's	"H"
22	Charles Stanley	River Yar Boatyard / Charles Stanley
24	Hall Hunter	The English Summer Berry Co
27	Generation Estates	Alitex
3B	John Rainger	NGR
3G	Kilburn & Strode Patents & TMs	Sevenstar Yacht Transport
3S	TeamO Marine	Royal Thames
3X	Donna	Battleflag.co.uk
4C	Fumesy	Chilling
4F	Royal Thames	Deloitte Sailing Club
4U	Goodall Roofing	TeamO Marine
4W	Ancasta	Goodall Roofing
43	Yawl	Velociwrap Graphics
47	Contessa 32 Class	Maraval
5A	Quarr	Liam
5E	Stokes Bay East	Darling Associates Architects
5G	RNC & Royal Albert YC	RNC & RAYC
5H	Portsmouth Sailing Club	Portsmouth Sailing Club 1920-2020
5P	Linington	Vail Williams
78	Hook # This buoy has been added to the list in order to emphasise that it should never be used for mark rounding. See below.	

- ❖ **There is a changed position/co-ordinates for this listed mark, to the following:**

Code	Name	New Latitude N	New Longitude W	Note
3T	CHS	50 46.09	01 18.70	About 195 metres east of its 2019 position (moved in 2020 after the lists were published)

- ❖ **Do not use old charts or lists!**
- ❖ **Note** that three sponsors have moved to a different buoy for 2021. Royal Thames is now at mark 4F and not mark 3S. TeamO Marine is now 3S and not 4U. Goodall Roofing is now mark 4U and not 4W.
- ❖ **Reminder: Main channel buoys #:** QHM Portsmouth and ABP Southampton have requested: that **3R North East Gurnard, 3V West Bramble, 4A Reach, 4D Calshot, 4T Norris and 78 Hook** should not be used as rounding marks for racing, although they may be used as passing marks e.g. to keep boats out of a channel; and that use of other main channel marks should be minimised, with full consideration given to shipping needs. Mark **5Q Outer Spit** may only be used if prior consent has been obtained from the QHM Port Safety Team, which may only be sought in weekday office hours.

SOLENT AREA RACING MARK CODES & LIST

The list contains some 150 of the main marks in the Solent and adjacent waters. Each mark is described by a code containing just two characters - one digit & one letter, or two digits. The list is recommended or use especially when courses are given on the radio, saving air time as the code can be used instead of the name.

The list shows marks that are intended to be used for any suitable race. There are other local marks in the Solent, e.g. off Lymington and Yarmouth, Portsmouth and Bembridge, Cowes and Gurnard. These are intended for local use only. In most cases, the local clubs or associations who lay them do not want them used by "all and sundry" and are grateful for that to be respected.

The whole area has been divided into 9 Zones, numbered 1 to 6 from west to east, plus Zone 7 for Southampton Water and Zones 8 & 9 for "specials." The zones are:-

Zone 1	Western Approaches to the Solent	Zone 5	East Solent
Zone 2	West Solent	Zone 6	Eastern Approaches to the Solent
Zone 3	Mid-Solent (Western part)	Zone 7	Southampton Water
Zone 4	Mid-Solent (Eastern part)	Zones 8 & 9	Local Marks and Laid Marks

Each buoy within a Zone has a letter or number to identify it. The unique designation for each mark is made up of the Zone number plus the buoy letter or number. Some examples:

1F	Needles Fairway	Western Approaches	40	Fastnet Insurance	Mid Solent (E)
26	Hamstead Ledge	West Solent	5D	Kemps Quay	East Solent
3Q	East Bay	Mid Solent (W)	6F	Bembridge Ledge Buoy	Eastern Approaches

Within each zone, the marks are in order of longitude from west to east, except for Zone 2 West Solent where they are further split into marks on the mainland side, marks in the middle, and marks on the Island side, to fit in with the pattern agreed between the Lymington and Yarmouth Clubs. There is an exception: newer marks, added since the current code system began in 2010, may have a code at the end of their Zone.

Zone 8 is for local use by Clubs to add marks. **Zone 9** is for laid marks and starts by listing some commonly used inflatable marks, e.g. 9A for Windward Laid Mark or 9H for Outer Distance Mark. The buoy and/or its position may need to be described. There is further room in Zone 9 from 9P onwards to give positions where inflatable marks are often laid, so that only the buoy shape/colour needs to be announced.

The Solent Mark Codes list is published afresh each February, with changes for the year ahead. Normally, the designated code for each mark does not alter, even if the name changes or if a buoy is moved slightly. This removes the need for extensive annual re-programming of GPSs; and the inadvertent use of last year's codes will usually still allow boats to go to the intended mark.

We welcome feedback - to kristen.lloyd@cowesweek.co.uk please.

Cowes Week Ltd and SCRA are grateful to all the sponsors. **Enquiries about sponsoring buoys for future seasons are always welcome** and opportunities are usually available. Marks are often named by businesses, in memory of someone, or with a favourite boat name. Contact kristen.lloyd@cowesweek.co.uk

Peter Bateson
09 February 2021

P.T.O.