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SOLENT AREA MARK CHANGES 2023

❖ 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 2023	Name Last year
12	MB/EYE Marine/Christchurch SC	Mid Bay
2B	Dunford Construction	Dunford
2H	Draycott Chartered Surveyors	Draycott's
2J	Sowley	Zwerver
3B	Newtown East	Shoosmiths
3G	Greenings Payments	Kilburn & Strode Patents & TMs
3N	Royal Cork	Greenings Payments
3Q	Polly's Challenge	Royal Cork
3T	CHS	Cowes Harbour
4G	Chieftain Training	Cutter
5E	Stokes Bay East	Greenings FinTech
7N	SWSA/HSC	SWSA

❖ NEW MARKS: Yellow race marks off Poole and in the West Solent are now listed for the first time as follows:

Code	Name	Latitude	Longitude	Note
13	Parkstone YC	50 39.46	01 55.20	At the south of Hook Sands: "a good turning mark before entering the Swash Channel"
2D	Lymington Yacht Haven	50 44.17	01 30.10	
2E	Circle Marine Insurance	50 44.49	01 29.32	
2G	Bridgeworks WAN Acceleration	50 44.79	01 28.47	
2L	Royal Lymington YC	50 43.14	01 31.95	
2U	Tuakana Construction	50 43.67	01 29.50	
28	Harwoods	50.42.73	01.28.69	

❖ CHANGED POSITION/co-ordinates and an AMENDED NAME for the following:

Code	Name	New Latitude	New Longitude
2A	Chewton Glen Hotel & Spa	50 42.77N	01 32.43W

❖ The former Mark 2V - named "V" - has been removed.

❖ Some sponsors have moved to different buoys for 2023.

Greenings Payments is now at mark 3G and not mark 3N. Royal Cork is now at mark 3N and not 3Q

❖ Do not use old charts or lists!

❖ Main channel buoys #: KHM 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 with prior consent from KHM Port Safety Team, only be sought in weekday office hours.

❖ Anchoring near 4S Royal Southern mark: there is no exclusion zone or prohibition on anchoring. Larger vessels should avoid anchoring directly over the cable, which is shown on the latest charts.

P.T.O.

SOLENT AREA RACING MARK CODES & LIST

The list contains over 160 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 code is recommended for use 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 may 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 and many are in shallow water. In many 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/Positions 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	Howden Fastnet	Mid Solent (E)
26	Hamstead Ledge	West Solent	5A	Quarr	East Solent
3W	Williams Shipping	Mid Solent (W)	6F	Bembridge Ledge Buoy	Eastern Approaches

Within each zone, the marks are normally in order of longitude from west to east, except for:

- Zone 2 West Solent where they are split into marks on the mainland side, marks in the middle, and marks on the Island side, to match the coding agreed between the Lymington and Yarmouth Clubs.
- Newer marks, added since the current system began in 2010, may have a code out of sequence or at the end of their Zone.

Zone 8 is for local use by Clubs to add marks and positions. **Zone 9** is for laid marks and starts by listing some commonly used inflatable marks, e.g. 9A for Windward Laid Mark or 9E for Leeward Gate. 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 mary.scott-jackson@cowesweek.co.uk please.

Cowes Week Ltd and SCRA are grateful to all the sponsors. Without them, the racing marks could not be provided. **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. Some Clubs and Classes who use the marks for racing, but do not yet sponsor a mark, are invited to contribute. Individuals who would like to help Solent racing and the continued provision of these marks are invited to join SCRA as members and/or to sponsor a mark. Contact mary.scott-jackson@cowesweek.co.uk

Peter Bateson
February 2023

P.T.O.