

## SOLENT AREA MARK CHANGES 2026

❖ **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 2026	Last Year's Name
12	Mid Bay Buoy	MB (EYE Marine/Christchurch SC)
2A	Hill Robinson	Embley School
24	BDM CX	Now Students
25	Contessa 26 Association	Jeremy Rogers Contessa
3C	Basher	Craftinsure
3F	Markby	Monex Marine
3G	Cowes Week 200	Cowes Week 2026
3S	SCRA.ORG.UK	TeamO
4E	Andy Cassell	Jane
4L	Jane	William
5E	Stokes Bay East	Warsash Sailing Club
5K	Naomi House & Jacksplace	Yola
5P	<a href="http://www.victoryclass.org.uk">www.victoryclass.org.uk</a>	Naomi House & Jacksplace
70	Warsash Sailing Club	Cathead
74	William	Sposa

**NB** several of "last year's names" are on the list but have moved to a different mark and location.

❖ **Changes of position for these listed marks, to the following:**

Code	Name	New Latitude	New Longitude	Previous Latitude	Previous Longitude
13	Parkstone YC	50 39.61	01 55.20	50 39.46	01 55.20
2D	Lymington Yacht Haven	50 44.24	01 29.90	50 44.17	01 30.10

❖ **Marks removed/no longer listed:**

Code	Name	Latitude	Longitude
5N	Mary Rose Mark removed during 2025 and replacement is uncertain: the mark is no longer included in the list	50 45.80	01 06.20
7F	Jib	50 52.96	01 23.06
71	Mark	50 49.56	01 18.94
75	Magazine	50 52.83	01 23.98

❖ **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 (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.

Mark **5Q Outer Spit** may only be used with prior consent from KHM Port Safety Team, only to be sought in weekday office hours.

Peter Bateson

23 February 2026

## SOLENT AREA RACING MARK CODES & LIST

The list contains over 150 of the main marks in the Solent and adjacent waters. Each mark is described by a code containing two characters - one digit & one letter, or two digits. Only the code (not the name) should be used when courses are given on the radio, saving air time on busy channels.

The list shows marks that may be used for any suitable race. Other local marks in the Solent (e.g. off Lymington and Yarmouth, Portsmouth and Bembridge, Cowes and Gurnard) 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:-

<b>Zone 1</b> Western Approaches to the Solent	<b>Zone 6</b> Eastern Approaches to the Solent
<b>Zone 2</b> West Solent	<b>Zone 7</b> Southampton Water
<b>Zone 3</b> Mid-Solent (Western part)	<b>Zone 8</b> Local Marks and Positions
<b>Zone 4</b> Mid-Solent (Eastern part)	<b>Zone 9</b> Laid Inflatable Marks
<b>Zone 5</b> East Solent	

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:

<b>1F</b> Needles Fairway	Western Approaches	<b>47</b> Contessa 32 Class	Mid Solent (E)
<b>26</b> Hamstead Ledge	West Solent	<b>5H</b> Portsmouth SC	East Solent
<b>3G</b> Cowes Week 200	Mid Solent (W)	<b>6E</b> West Princessa	Eastern Approaches

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

- Zone 2 West Solent - 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 for their own use.

**Zone 9** is for laid inflatable marks. It lists some commonly used ones, such as 9A for Windward Laid Mark or 9E for Leeward Gate Above Start Line. The buoy and/or its position may need to be described. There is further room in Zone 9 from 9P onwards for Clubs to add positions where inflatable marks are often laid, so that only the buoy shape/colour needs to be announced.

The Mark Codes list is published afresh each February with the changes for the year. 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 list will usually still allow boats to go to the intended mark since the code is unchanged.

We welcome feedback - to [admin@cowesweek.co.uk](mailto:admin@cowesweek.co.uk) please.

The racing community is grateful to all the sponsors and mark organisers. 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. Those Clubs, Classes and charter companies who use the marks for racing but do not yet sponsor one 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 [admin@cowesweek.co.uk](mailto:admin@cowesweek.co.uk) who directly administer some marks and can refer enquiries about other marks to their organisers.

Peter Bateson

P.T.O.