

Solent Cruising & Racing Association

Founded in 1895



Solent Racing Mark Changes 2017

06 February 2017

New names for existing marks:

The 2-character codes and positions of those marks do not change, even though the names change.

Code	Previous name	Name for 2017
1C	Haven Insurance	MS Amlin
2K	John Hollamby	Bart's Bash
22	George Hotel	Charles Stanley Wealth Managers
3E	Cowes Radio	Dick Johnson
3Q	EFG	C J May
4C	Stormforce Coaching	Zetman
4E	RYS	Mike Till
4U	Sunsail	Southampton Solent University
4X	Destination Cowes	Colette
43	Roger Swinney	Wightlink
44	Champagne Pol Roger	Royal Yacht Squadron
5H	Portsmouth Sailing Club	PSC Parhelion
5K	Look Marine Insurance	A-Plan

Do not use old charts or lists! For instance, in 2014 a different mark was called Bart's Bash. In 2014-2016, mark 4E was RYS, now mark 44 is Royal Yacht Squadron.

One mark with a changed Code:

Old code	Code for 2017	Name
32	39	Snowden

New marks (local use only except Cowes Week):

Code	Name	Colour	Latitude N	Longitude W
50	Stokes Bay SC West	Y	50 46.81	01 10.40
51	Stokes Bay SC Central	Y	50 46.60	01 09.85

Corrected or changed position/co-ordinates for these listed marks, to the following:

Code	Name	Latitude N	Longitude W
1E	Christchurch Ledge Buoy	50 41.50	01 41.60
21	Black Rock	50 42.57	01 30.59
5M	Gleeds	50 46.11	01 06.52
5P	Vail Williams	50 46.36	01 06.08
5Q	Outer Spit	50 45.40	01 05.54
5S	Saddle Buoy	50 45.01	01 04.94

Horse Sand Buoy (normal position 50 45.53N, 01 05.27W) is temporarily located 575m south, at 50 45.21N, 04 05.24W. QHM Navwarn 07/17 of 12 January 2017 refers. A further Navwarn is expected when the buoy is returned to its normal position.

P.T.O.

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SOLENT RACING MARK CODES & LIST

SCRA publishes a list of some 150 of the main racing marks in the Solent area. Each mark is described by a code containing just two characters - one digit & one letter, or two digits. The list is recommended to all clubs and race organisers for use especially when courses are given on the radio, saving air time as the code can be used instead of the name.

The SCRA 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	Laid Marks and Local 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:

2J	Zwerver	West Solent Zone	26	Hamstead Ledge	West Solent
3P	Party	Mid Solent (W)	4Q	Jonathan Janson	Mid Solent (E)
5C	Browdown	East Solent	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. Any new marks since the current code system was started in 2011 will be given a code at the end of their zone.

Zone 8 starts by listing some commonly used inflatable marks. Sometimes, the code alone may suffice (e.g. 8A Windward Laid Mark or 8H Outer Distance Mark). Otherwise, the mark and/or its position should be described. There is room in Zones 8 & 9 for local use by Clubs to add marks, or to give the positions where inflatable marks are often laid, so that only the buoy shape/colour needs to be announced. Zone 9 is used if/when race organisers have used up all the codes in Zone 8.

Clubs operating only in some of the zones can publish just those Zones. For much of the racing in the central Solent, only Zones 3 and 4 will be needed; Southampton Water racing where only Zone 7 is needed; etc.

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, although Snowden has been re-designated from 32 to 39 this year. 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. The list is published in Zones, and also as an alphabetical version so that a known buoy name can be located.

We welcome feedback - to admin@scra.org.uk please.

SCRA and Cowes Week Ltd are grateful to all the sponsors. Enquiries about sponsoring buoys for future seasons are always welcome and there are always opportunities available. Marks are named by businesses, or in memory of someone, or with a favourite boat name.

Peter Bateson

Honorary Secretary SCRA

P.T.O.