

# Regatta House

18 Bath Road Cowes Isle of Wight PO31 7QN

[www.cowesweek.co.uk](http://www.cowesweek.co.uk) - [www.scra.org.uk](http://www.scra.org.uk)

E-mail: [kristen.lloyd@cowesweek.co.uk](mailto:kristen.lloyd@cowesweek.co.uk) Telephone: 01983 295744

## SOLENT AREA MARK CHANGES 2022

❖ **There are a 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 2022	Name Last year
27	Generation	Generation Estates
3B	Shoosmiths	John Rainger
3E	The Boss	YachtDataBank
3N	Greenings Payments	Stansore
3Q	Royal Cork	East Bay
3S	TackGybeSet	TeamO Marine
4N	YachtDataBank	QXI International
40	Howden Fastnet	Fastnet Insurance
43	Little Ship Club	Yawl
5E	Greenings FinTech	Stokes Bay East
5G	Baker Trayte Marine	RNC & Royal Albert YC
7N	SWSA	Royal Southampton

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

Code	Name for 2021	Previous Name	New Latitude	New Longitude	No topmark. Back to its pre-2020 position
3T	Cowes Harbour	CHS	50 46.10N	01 18.87W	

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

Code	Name	New Latitude	New Longitude	Note
4J	hamblewinterseries.com	50 48.63 N	01 16.56 W	About 100m east of old position

❖ **There is a changed code for this mark, to the following:**

New Code	Name	Latitude N	Longitude W	Note
2V	"V"	50 43.30	01 31.30	Previously code 28. Unchanged Name/position

❖ **Mark 7N** was removed in 2021 but is being replaced in the same spot 50 51.76N, 01 22.28W with its new name SWSA. **Mark 7G Hythe 4 has been removed from the list** (previous position 50 52.19N, 01 23.10W).

❖ **One sponsor has moved to a different buoy for 2022.** YachtDataBank is now at mark 4N and not mark 3E.

❖ **Do not use old charts or lists!**

❖ **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.

❖ **Anchoring near 4S Royal Southern mark:** last autumn a suggestion arose that committee boats should not anchor here, near the IFA2 electric cable, conflicting with undertakings given before the cable was laid. ABP as Harbour Authority has confirmed to SCRA that there is no exclusion zone or prohibition on anchoring. However larger vessels should avoid anchoring immediately over the cable, which is shown on the latest electronic charts and paper charts.

## 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 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 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:-

<b>Zone 1</b>	Western Approaches to the Solent	<b>Zone 5</b>	East Solent
<b>Zone 2</b>	West Solent	<b>Zone 6</b>	Eastern Approaches to the Solent
<b>Zone 3</b>	Mid-Solent (Western part)	<b>Zone 7</b>	Southampton Water
<b>Zone 4</b>	Mid-Solent (Eastern part)	<b>Zones 8 &amp; 9</b>	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	5P	Lington	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 further split into marks on the mainland side, marks in the middle, and marks on the Island side, to match 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 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 [kristen.lloyd@cowesweek.co.uk](mailto:kristen.lloyd@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 do so. Individuals who would like to contribute towards Solent racing and the provision of these marks are invited to join SCRA as members. Contact [kristen.lloyd@cowesweek.co.uk](mailto:kristen.lloyd@cowesweek.co.uk)

Peter Bateson  
February 2022

P.T.O.