

Solent Cruising & Racing Association

Founded in 1895



Solent Mark Changes 2015

25 March 2015

New names for marks:

Code	Previous name	Name for 2015
25	Harken	Caldwells Estate Agents
3X	Island Sailing Club 125	Island Sailing Club
4R	Meon	Darling Buoy
4W	Bart's Bash	Artemis the Profit Hunter
43	UKSA	Chilgrove Gin
44	The Ranges	Champagne Pol Roger
5A	Clarence Boatyard	Mackley Van Oord

The 2-character codes do not change even though the names change.

w

Mark 5A Mackley Van Oord is off Wootton. It is not the same as the mark that used to be called Mackley Construction which was on the Ryde Middle Bank in 2013 and earlier years.

We have been notified of changes in the co-ordinates for certain navigation marks to the following:

Code	Name	Latitude N	Longitude W
1B	Poole Bar No 1	50 39.29	01 55.14
1E	Christchurch Ledge Buoy	50 41.60	01 41.50
1G	South West Shingles	50 39.29	01 37.52
1L	Needles Lighthouse	50 39.73	01 35.50
21	Black Rock	50 42.53	01 30.43
3D	Salt Mead	50 44.51	01 23.04
33	Prince Consort	50 46.41	01 17.56
42	Peel Bank	50 45.49	01 13.35
45	South East Ryde Middle	50 45.93	01 12.10
5S	Saddle Buoy	50 45.20	01 04.98

SCRA and Cowes Week Ltd are grateful to all the sponsors. Enquiries about sponsoring buoys for future seasons are always welcome - there are usually a few opportunities available.

Peter Bateson

Honorary Secretary

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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 for use by all clubs and race organisers where courses are given on the radio, and may be used for course boards if desired. A mark symbols list is also published separately.

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	21	Black Rock	West Solent
3N	Quinnell	Mid Solent (W)	4R	Darling Buoy	Mid Solent (E)
5F	Browndown	East Solent	6R	Nab Tower	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.

Zone 8 lists some commonly used inflatable marks. Sometimes, the code alone may suffice (e.g. 8C Leeward Laid Mark). Otherwise, race committees will need to describe the mark and/or its position. There is also 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 new, added because some race organisers had 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; and so on.

The Solent Mark Codes list is published afresh each February, with changes for the year ahead. The designated code for each mark will not alter, even if the name changes or if (occasionally) 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. Any new marks will be given a code at the end of their zone. 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.

Peter Bateson

Honorary Secretary, SCRA

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