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**SOLENT RACING MARK CHANGES 2018**

- ❖ **There are two new yellow race marks:**

Code	Name	Latitude N	Longitude W	Location
34	Cowes Corinthian	50 46.15	01 17.20	Off The Shrape, Cowes
47	Maraval	50 47.70	01 15.25	0.6NM SE of Hill Head Buoy

- ❖ **There are 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 2018	Previous name
2H	"H" (buoy may be unmarked)	Denisons
2K	1851 Trust	Bart's Bash
3P	Cowes Yacht Haven	Party
3Q	East Bay	C J May
3X	Party	Island Sailing Club
4C	Rigit UK Rigging	Zetman
4Q	Robin Culpan	Jonathan Janson
4U	Fever-Tree	Southampton Solent University
4W	Goodall Roofing	Kilchoman
5A	Quarr	Mackley Van Oord
5H	PSC Parhelion Racing Series	PSC Parhelion
5K	Alfie	A Plan

Note that the name Party has moved from mark 3P to 3X.

Baxters (formerly mark 3J) has been removed from the list.

- ❖ **There are changed position/co-ordinates for these listed marks, to the following:**

Code	Name	Latitude N	Longitude W
5Q	Outer Spit	50 45.44	01 05.46
5S	Saddle Buoy	50 45.10	01 04.95

- ❖ **Zones 8 and 9 have been re-organised.**

All the codes in Zone 8 are now available for local use.

Zone 9 lists the names of common laid marks, see table.  
Then codes from 9P onwards are available for local use.

**Zone 9 Laid Marks**

9A	Windward Laid Mark
9B	Windward Spreader Mark
9C	Leeward Laid Mark
9D	Leeward Spreader Mark
9E	Leeward Gate
9F	Middle Gate
9G	Wing Mark
9H	Outer Distance Mark
9J	Finish Mark
9K	Far Windward Mark
9L	Far Windward Spreader
9M	Near Windward Mark
9N	Near Windward Spreader

Do not use old charts or lists!

## SOLENT RACING MARK CODES & LIST

The list contains 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 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
3Q	East Bay	Mid Solent (W)	4Q	Robin Culpan	Mid Solent (E)
5A	Quarr	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. However any new marks added since the current code system was started in 2011 are given a code at the end of their zone.

Zone 8 is 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 starts by listing some commonly used inflatable marks; sometimes, the code alone may suffice (e.g. 9A Windward Laid Mark or 9H Outer Distance Mark) but otherwise, the mark and/or its position should be described. There is further room in Zone 9 from 9P onwards for extra local marks 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. 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@lendycowesweek.co.uk](mailto:admin@lendycowesweek.co.uk) please.

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

Peter Bateson

06 February 2018

P.T.O.