



## SOLENT AREA MARK CHANGES 2025

❖ **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 2025	Name Last year
3B	Newtown East	MDL Marinas
3C	Craftinsure	craftinsure.com
3F	Monex Marine	Elephant Boatyard
3N	MDL Marinas	Royal Cork
3X	Island Sailing Club	Donna
5E	Warsash Sailing Club	Stokes Bay East
5K	Yola	Suffolk Sails
5P	Naomi House & Jacksplace	Linington
9E	Leeward Gate Above Start Line	Leeward Gate
9F	Leeward Gate Below Start Line	Middle Gate

❖ **NEW MARK FOR 2025:**

Code	Name	Latitude	Longitude
49	250 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	50 46.40	01 13.58

This is on the Ryde Middle Bank, roughly half way from 4Y North Ryde Middle to 43 Little Ship Club.

❖ **CONFIRMATION:**

Code	Name	Latitude	Longitude
25	Jeremy Rogers Contessa (formerly Caldwell's Estate Agents)	50 43.15	01 27.49

Mark 25 was laid in 2024 after the year's list was closed. It is included on the 2025 list.

❖ **Do not use old charts or lists!**

❖ **3Z Trinity House buoy is NOT being moved.** In a draft of this Changes list circulated recently, we mentioned a plan to move the buoy during 2025. We have today received confirmation that it is NOT going to be moved. So it still appears in the list in the same position as in earlier years.

❖ **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, 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 with prior consent from KHM Port Safety Team, only to be sought in weekday office hours.

Peter Bateson  
 For SCRA and CWL

07 February 2025

## SOLENT AREA RACING MARK CODES & LIST

The list contains over 160 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 (instead of the name) needs to 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>5E</b> Warsash Sailing Club	East Solent
<b>3G</b> Cowes Week 2026	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:

- a) 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.
- b) 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 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 [mary.scott-jackson@cowesweek.co.uk](mailto:mary.scott-jackson@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. 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 [mary.scott-jackson@cowesweek.co.uk](mailto:mary.scott-jackson@cowesweek.co.uk)