



PRESS RELEASE

The new SCRA designate system explained by Checkcharts Ltd

The Solent Cruising & Racing Association (SCRA) have recently changed the way they publish the racing buoy designates for the Solent. The new system makes it easier to geographically locate the marks within the Solent and includes many more buoys.

Historically, up to 90 Solent marks were identified in alphabetical order and their allocated designates were updated every year. The new system allocates a zone number followed by a letter or number to over 150 buoys. The zones are numbered 1 to 8 from west to east, with 7 being *Southampton Water* and 8 referring to *Laid Marks and Local Marks*.

For example, special mark *William Shipping* is located off Cowes, which is in zone 3. Going forward, it will be known as 3W regardless of potential sponsor or name changes. In hearing the course, yacht racers can easily locate the zone on their Checkchart and quickly find the buoy within said zone.

Checkcharts director and keen sailor Simon Nuding commented, "When you sail in the same area year on year, it's frustrating to have to re-memorise most of the designates allocated to the buoys. In time, this will be a much clearer system which will benefit all yacht racers in the Solent."

Since 1895, the SCRA promotes the interest of yacht cruising and racing in the Solent and coordinates over 400 sailing events in the Solent every year. All new zones and designates are listed on the 2011 Checkcharts, available in any good Solent chandlery.

To download an image – [click here](#)

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