

A photograph taken from the deck of a sailboat, looking forward. The boat's white hull and metal railings are visible in the foreground. A large white sail is partially visible on the right. The water is a deep blue with small waves. In the distance, a city skyline is visible across a body of water, with hills in the background under a blue sky with light clouds.

Blackwater Sailing Club

New Race courses for 2021 season

Introduction

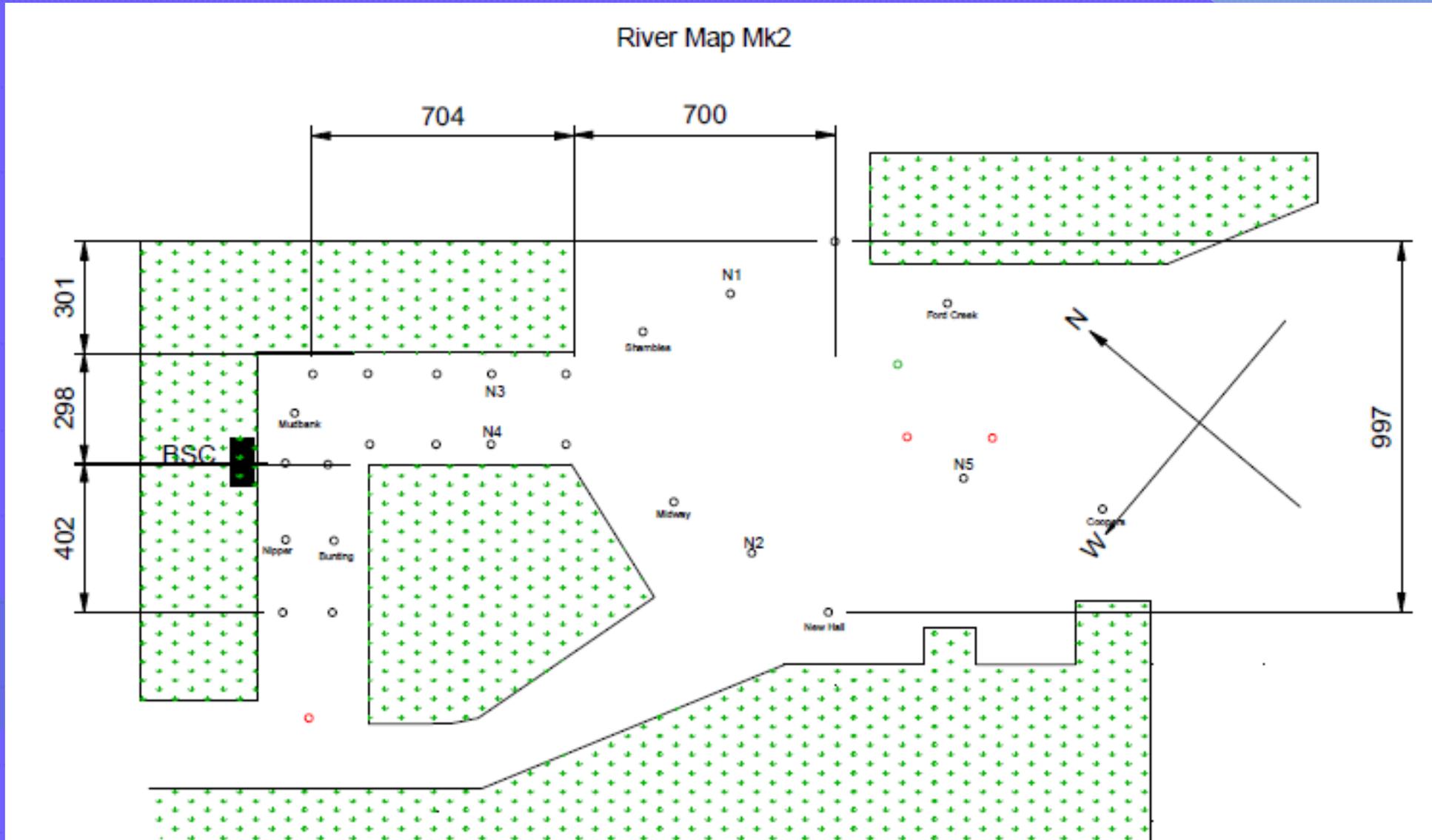
1. The Sailing Committee were asked to review existing courses in 2019 for the 2020 season. Rationale was:

- To provide more balanced courses, with more true beats, and an even mix of windward / leeward and reaching legs. Existing format had a set of courses for 8 wind directions, each one covering a 45 degree wind variance
- Inconsistencies in race mark locations to be addressed
- The club had been instructed not to use navigation marks for racing
- Increasing number of 'skiff' type boats racing creating an appetite for more 'windward / leeward' course

What did we do?

1. A sub-committee was set up representing the main race fleets at BSC
2. An additional 8 sets of courses were produced, effectively reducing the wind angle variance for each set from 45 degrees to 22.5 degrees
3. To facilitate these courses, an additional five race marks were agreed, and two existing marks will be moved slightly (Ford Creek and Shambles). Sponsorship considered pre-pandemic
4. Existing courses were also reviewed and amended to provide better angles for true windward / leeward legs
5. All courses created to ensure distances consistent with existing minimum / maximum parameters
6. We were ready to present to main committee in March 2020, but due to pandemic this was delayed, taken more time to further improve, now ready and keen to introduce for the 2021 season.

River schematic with new race marks



Current status

1. All existing courses checked and adjusted as required
2. Eight new course groups defined, checked, re-checked, ready to publish
3. Five new races marks agreed:
 - N1 - Beacons
 - N2 - Mundon
 - N3 - Sandy Bight
 - N4 - Muddy Hole
 - N5 - Kraken
 - The Sailing Committee feel this change will provide fairer racing for all, and ultimately encourage more competitors

Next steps

1. Main committee approval requested for:
 - Publish the new courses
 - Produce guidance notes for Race Officers
 - Purchase and prepare the new race marks
 - Proceed with proposed new names