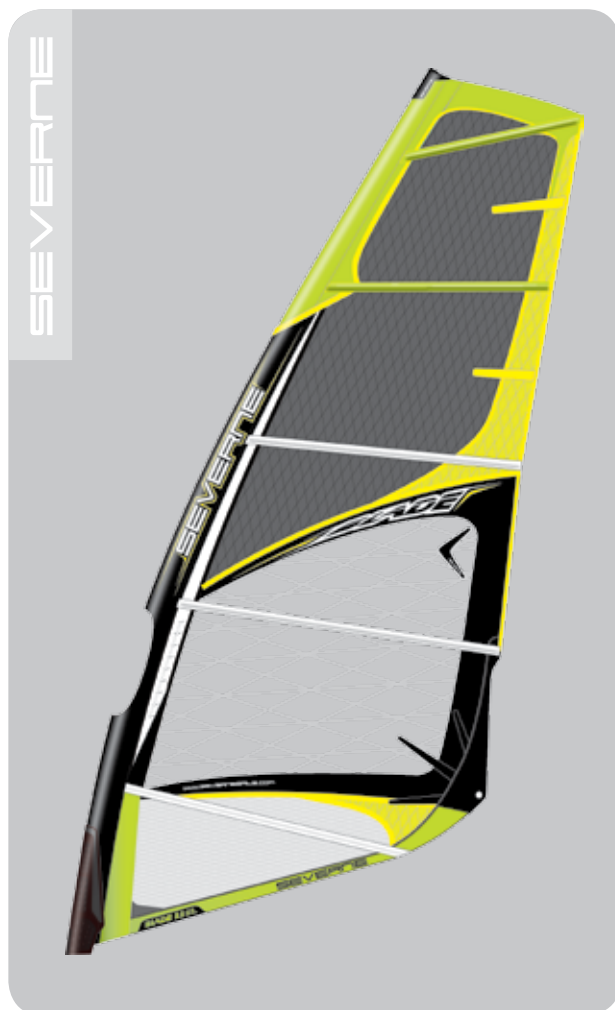


WIND MAG March 2011 – Special Test 2011
FREERACE, FREERIDE/FREEWAVE, WAVE

BLADE 5.3



DESIGN

Ben Severne shortened the boom length and luff of the 2011 Blade by introducing a cut away in the leach.

Work has been done to increase the durability and reduce the weight

We note the addition of a clew ring with webbing.



ON THE WATER

The Blade creates a gap between the other sails on test with the lightweight feeling in the hands when using the sail; a Severne trademark. With the profile directed forwards enough and offering only a little back hand pressure (doubtless the finest of the group), it strengthens this impression of lightness and freedom. The power is just right, with very little in the back hand, however it does not prevent the rider from planing and from getting very good acceleration. In European conditions, this pressure sometimes misses a little extra to go up wind very effectively in light to medium wind. The Blade remains very homogeneous in her wind range and takes advantage in the strong wind. It is also the fastest sail in a straight line and

breathes very well. On the wave, the Blade is particularly comfortable, on one hand thanks to this very fine back hand pressure. The sail helps to pressure to the front in the bottom turn and allows the rider to remain concentrated on the driving of the board and the change of rail to rail on the wave. Very neutral and nice in the waves.

VERDICT

General-purpose, the Blade proposes a very interesting compromise of efficiency with the speed, navigation and the neutral handling during surfing. A general-purpose sail that will be appreciated, not for the lightness. Some riders will need more back hand pressure.

SUMMARY

- + Lightweight, versatility, neutrality, compromise, neutral handling
- Less support for the heavy rider