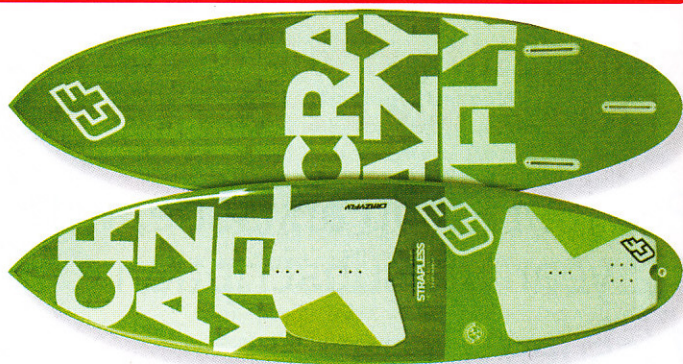


CRAZYFLY STRAPLESS 5'8"



INTRODUCING

The Crazy Fly Strapless is a new board in their range for 2015. It's designed to suit this fast growing discipline we are seeing in the sport of small wave freestyle and generally getting air. To achieve this, CF have designed the board to be lightweight and yet high volume to maximise those mediocre days. TESTED WK

BUILD

Although named the 'Strapless', there are still options for fitting foot straps. This does make it more appealing to the wider audience but is not the primary purpose of the board. They have also used 2 large EVA footpads for grip, which are made extra thick making them remarkably comfortable in chop, and when landing jumps. The rest of the deck is smooth without any traction meaning an extra bit of surf wax was definitely needed to avoid the odd heel slip. The board is made up of a foam core with a wood stringer and is covered in a bamboo veneer and fibreglass. This makes it strong and light but with a good amount of flex to help absorb some of the impact when landing jumps. Underneath the board has a fairly flat rocker line combined with a thruster set up of 'Futures' fins. This really helps the board get up on the plane early and it flies upwind, whilst also giving it a playful touch in the waves. Its rails are custom designed for grip when pushing hard through bottom turns although you do need to

stamp your back foot down to really whip it round. The bamboo subtly shines through the bold green exterior, followed by CF's large font writing on top. This 2 tone white/green combo stands out on the beach with a very friendly, non-intimidating presence. This perfectly mirrors its playful nature on the water and we always seemed to have a smile on our face after riding it.

PERFORMANCE

All the aspects of this board give it one of the smoothest and most comfortable rides possible. Its extra width means it's fantastic for beginners to learn water starts with ease, and it became hugely popular when learning to jibe and tack thanks to its big stable platform. On a wave, it grips amazingly but needs quite a lot of brute force to really whip those top turns. The main selling point is what the board was originally designed for, getting air! It's the perfect weight; light enough to boost and grab, but still enough weight not to blow away from you if your foot placement isn't perfect. The EVA grip gives you great control in the air and is really comfortable on landings. Our main issues with it were when using it in bigger, faster waves. It became harder to control and struggled with the chop. This shouldn't take much away from its glory as this wasn't really what the board was designed for.

VERDICT

Designed for those light wind, small wave days for beginner surfing and higher end freestyle, it certainly ticks its own boxes. Out of all our test boards this became the favourite amongst the beginners for learning to tack, jibe and wave ride as it's hugely forgiving. It's a lot of fun for the higher end freestyle rider although a little frustrating when pushed through its paces with both aggressive turning on the wave face and larger wave days. Definitely a board worth adding to your quiver for the majority of summer days and fun waves.