

## BLADERIDER BOAT



## KEY STATS

**Length\_** 3350mm  
**Hull beam\_** 300mm  
**Overall beam\_** 2300mm  
**Sail area\_** 8 m<sup>2</sup>  
**Hull weight\_** 10 kg  
**Sailing weight\_** 30 kg  
**Construction\_** pre-preg carbon fibre  
**Web site\_**  
[www.bladerider.com.au](http://www.bladerider.com.au)  
**Blog\_** [www.rohanveal.com](http://www.rohanveal.com)

# EXTREME SAILING

## [IN JUST 6 KNOTS]

BLADERIDER HYDROFOIL DINGHY, NOW IN SA.

Sailing very fast is the Holy Grail for many of you who read GUST, and hydrofoil dinghies may just be the way to achieve this.

The Bladerider, which conforms with the International Moth class rules, typically sails at two to two and a half times the windspeed (until it starts blowing hard) and routinely tops 17 knots upwind and 23 knots + offwind (in just 12 knots of breeze). Made from pre-preg carbon fibre, the whole boat weighs just 30 kg and, like windsurfers and kite boards, can be boxed and flown to your favourite

sailing destinations.

The history of hydrofoils being used successfully on sailing dinghies is relatively short, and most of the development has happened in the Moth class. Although the Moth has been around since 1928, its open class rules allow sailors to innovate in search of greater speed and this has allowed it to evolve and stay at the bleeding edge of development. While length, maximum beam, sail area and number of foils is governed, minimum weight and the shape of the foils is not – this has allowed the class to develop and become probably the most efficient sailboat in the world – World Champion, Rohan Veal (Aus),

is confident of beating an 18 foot skiff, and believes he has good odds against a new Tornado catamaran, depending on the course.

Hydrofoil Moths had their first success at the 2001 Worlds, where they won two races. In 2003, Veal sailed a foiler to third overall. Since 2005, all Moth Worlds have been won by foilers, with Veal taking 2005 and 2007.

First and second at this year's Worlds were claimed by Bladeriders and, to date, over 120 have been sold throughout the World. The first Bladerider on the African continent arrived in South Africa in August 07 and, by the time you read this, should have

visited all RSA's major sailing centres.

Sailing a hydrofoil basically means relearning how to sail. There are techniques for everything, from recovering from a capsized to tacking, gybing and just sailing in straight lines. Depending on the weight of the sailor (about 65kg to +-80kg is ideal, although sailors over 100kg have boats), you should be able start foiling in six knots of wind and the big trick is to stay in the air through all manoeuvres. While just a handful of sailors have perfected the foiling tack, the foiling gybe should be possible during your first month of sailing. However, going into your first gybe, doing 17 knots, perched four feet up in the air, balancing on a set of tiny foils, with great potential for a wipe out, is interesting to say the least...

It's all systems go to create a class of hydrofoil Moths in South Africa, and for the fleet to race locally and also take their boats to overseas regattas. March looks like a very big month for foiling in Dubai and the Worlds are in Weymouth (UK) in July.

For more information about the Bladerider, contact:

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