

Crewsaver Shield

Buoyancy aids have evolved from chunky waistcoats to the kind of minimalist design epitomised by Crewsaver's Shield, writes *Jeremy Evans*. It's difficult to get passionate about a new buoyancy aid, but this one is a class apart as the best I have ever worn! Go shopping for buoyancy aids and you'll find a huge choice. However, Crewsaver have one big advantage – they are renowned for producing top quality lifejackets, with a databank of knowledge to benefit their buoyancy aid designs.

Is anything bad about the Shield? Well, they package it in a rather useless plastic briefcase which does no favours for the environment. But otherwise the Shield is great. First it's really easy to slip on and off, with a quick-release side-buckle and adjustable main strap; the shoulders are also adjustable, but the length seemed fine to me. Second, and probably most important, you hardly notice it's on. I sailed a Lark and an A-Class cat – two totally different boats – and the Shield didn't get in the way or catch. Third, it's got a maze of pockets including one specially designed for your 'SAFETY KNIFE' (marked in big letters!) with an anchor for the lanyard. The only modification I'd like is totally dry car key storage, but that's personal preference. Fourth, despite the minimal design, 50N of buoyancy provided by the M/L size did a good enough job keeping me bobbing in the water without any tendency to ride up. Fifth, the Shield is a trim fit and doesn't have bits which are likely to trap and snare you – either in the boat or down in the water.

Sizes: Junior, S/M, M/L, XL

Colours: Red/Navy, Royal/Navy, Anthracite/Black **RRP:** £44.50

www.crewsaver.co.uk



MINUTES!