



## Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race Statistics – 1945 - 2014

**Number of Sydney Hobart Yacht Races conducted by the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia since 1945:** 70. 2015 will be the 71<sup>st</sup>

**Number of yachts to have competed:** 1945-2013: 5,720 (4,735 completed the race, 985 retired or were disqualified)

**Estimated total crew to have competed:** About 53,389 between 1945 and 2014

**Average size of fleets, 1945-2013:** 81.203 (or 81) boats per race

**Largest fleets:** 371 starters in the 50<sup>th</sup> race in 1994 (309 finished); 179 starters in 1985 (145 finished); 151 starters in 1984 (46 finished), 117 in 2014 (103 finished)

**Smallest fleet:** Nine starters in the inaugural Sydney Hobart Yacht Race in 1945

**First race winner:** *Rani*, Captain John Illingworth RN (UK). Design: Barber 35' cutter. Line and handicap winner

**Last year's fleet (2014):** 117 starters, 103 finishers (14 retirements)

**Last year's winner – IRC Overall:** *Wild Rose*, a Farr 43 owned by Roger Hickman, Cruising Yacht Club of Australia

**Last year's line honours winner:**

*Wild Oats XI*, a Reichel/Pugh 100 owned by Robert Oatley, skippered by Mark Richards, Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club/Hamilton Island Yacht Club, in the time of 2 days, 2 hours, 3 minutes and 26 seconds

**Race record:** 1 day 18 hours 23 minutes and 12 seconds, set by *Wild Oats XI* (AUS), in 2012

**Race records and years in which they were set or broken:**

- **1945:** *Rani* (UK) – 6 days 14 hours 22 minutes (first race)
- **1946:** *Morna* (NSW) – 5 days 2 hours 53 minutes 33 seconds
  - *First yacht to break six days for the 628 nautical mile course*
- **1948:** *Morna* (NSW) – 4 days 5 hours 1 minute 21 seconds
  - *Third consecutive line honours win and first yacht to break five days*
- **1951:** *Margaret Rintoul* (NSW) - 4 days 02 hours 29 minutes 01 seconds
- **1957:** *Kurrewa IV* (NSW/Vic) formerly *Morna* - 3 days 18 hours 30 minutes 39 seconds
  - *First yacht to break four days*
- **1962:** *Ondine* (USA) – 3 days 03 hours 46 minutes 16 seconds
  - *In breaking Kurrewa IV's record, set a time that stood until broken by Helsal in 1973*
- **1973:** *Helsal* (NSW) – 3 days 01 hour 32 minutes 09 seconds
- **1975:** *Kialoa III* (USA) – 2 days 14 hours 36 minutes 56 seconds
  - *First yacht to break three days*
- **1996:** *Morning Glory* (Germany) 2 days 14 hours 07 minutes 10 seconds
  - *Race record broken after 21 years – longest standing race record*
- **1999:** *Nokia* (Denmark/Australia) 1 day 19 hours 48 minutes 02 seconds for an open race record (water ballast allowed) and first yacht to break two days  
*Brindabella* (Australia) set a record for a conventional yacht of 1 day 20 hours 46 minutes 33 seconds

- **2005:** *Wild Oats XI* (Australia) 1 day 18 hours 40 minutes 10 seconds
  - Bob Oatley's then 98ft super maxi *Wild Oats XI*, skippered by Mark Richards, was also declared the overall winner of the Tattersall's Cup
- **2012:** *Wild Oats XI* (Australia) 1 day 18 hours 23 minutes 12 seconds
  - Bob Oatley's 100ft super maxi *Wild Oats XI*, skippered by Mark Richards, was also declared the overall winner of the Tattersall's Cup

#### **Double line and handicap winners**

- Rani (GBR) – 1945
- American Eagle (USA) – 1972
- Kialoa III (USA) – 1977
- New Zealand (NZL) – 1980
- Sovereign (NSW) – 1987
- Wild Oats XI (NSW/QLD) – 2005, 2012

#### **Multiple line honours winners**

- Wild Oats XI (NSW/QLD) – 8 races (a record) including 4 successive races (2005-2008)
- Morna/Kurrewa IV (NSW) – 7 races
- Astor (NSW) – 3 races
- Bumblebee IV/Ragamuffin (NSW) – 3 races
- Condor (BER) – 2 races
- Margaret Rintoul (NSW) – 2 races
- Solo (NSW) – 2 races
- Kialoa III (USA) – 2 races
- Sayonara (USA) – 2 races

#### **Multiple overall winners**

- Freya (NSW) – 3 successive races from 1963-1965
- Love & War (NSW) – 3 races: 1974, 1978 and 2006
- Westward (TAS) – 2 successive races 1947 and 1948
- Siandra (NSW) – 2 races: 1958 and 1960
- Solo (NSW) – 2 races: 1956 and 1962
- Ausmaid (SA/VIC) – 2 races: 1996 and 2000
- Wild Oats XI (NSW/QLD) – 2 races: 2005 and 2012
- Wild Rose (NSW) – 2 races: 1993 and 2014

**Largest line honours winners:** *Wild Oats XI*, Australia AUS (2010, 2012, 2013) – LOA 30.48m (100ft); Investec Loyal, AUS (2011) – LOA 30.48m (100ft); *Alfa Romeo*, NZL/AUS (2009) – LOA 30.48m (100ft), *Wild Oats XI*, Australia (2005-2008) – LOA 30m (98ft); *Nicorette*, Australia (2004) – LOA 27.38m (90ft); *Skandia*, Australia (2003) – LOA: 30m (98ft); *Alfa Romeo/Shockwave*, Australia/New Zealand (2002) - LOA: 27.43m (89ft)

**Smallest line honours winner:** *Rani*, NSW (1945) – LOA 10.59m (34.73ft)

**Smallest line honours winner in modern times:** *Ninety Seven*, NSW (1993) – LOA 14.3m (47ft)

**Largest overall handicap winner:** *Wild Oats XI* (2012) – LOA 30.48m (100ft). *Wild Oats XI* had previously held the record in 2005 when she was 30m (98ft)

**Smallest overall handicap winner:** *Screw Loose* (1979) – LOA 9.2m (30ft);  
*Zeus II* (1981) LOA 9.2m (30ft)

**Smallest official competitor:** *Klinger*, NSW (1978) – LOA 8.23m (27ft)

**Largest official competitors:** *Wild Oats XI*, AUS, *Alfa Romeo*, AUS, *Skandia*, AUS and *Konica Minolta*, NZL, all contested the 2005 Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race, finishing in this order on line honours, and all were 30m (98ft). *Maximus* (later to become *Loyal*), also 30m, contested the 2006 race along with *Wild Oats XI* and *Skandia*. *City Index Leopard* (later known as *ICAP Leopard*) at 29.99m, contested the 2007 race

In 2009, the maximum LOA was extended to 30.48m (100ft), bringing the race into line with overseas events. Five 100 footers took to the start line, including the lengthened versions of *Wild Oats XI* (Robert Oatley, NSW), *Alfa Romeo* (Neville Crichton, NSW), *ICAP Leopard* (Mike Slade, UK) and *Loyal* (chartered by Sean Langman, NSW), along with *Rapture* (Brook Lenfest, USA)

**Slowest race on elapsed time:** *Wayfarer*, 1945, 11 days 6 hours 20 minutes; Skipper: Peter Luke, NSW

**Slowest race on corrected time:** *Wayfarer*, 1945; 7d 19h 43m; Skipper: Peter Luke, NSW

**Closest finish for line honours:** 1982 - *Condor* (BER) beat *Apollo* (NSW) across the line by seven seconds

**Record races by an individual:** Tony Cable (NSW) holds the record for the most races sailed by an individual by sailing his 49<sup>th</sup> race aboard *Duende* in 2014

Racing aboard *Getaway Volvo* in 2008, Cable broke the 44 race record the late John Bennetto (Tas) set in 2004, which was equalled by Lou Abrahams (Vic) in 2007

Tony Ellis (NSW) reached the 47 milestone in 2013. Syd Fischer and Colin Wildman from NSW have competed in 46 races each (Wildman aboard the Radio Relay Vessel since 2005), Bill Ratcliff (NSW) has competed in 45 races, Bruce Gould (NSW) has attained 44 races (aboard the Radio Relay vessel since 2010), CYCA Life member David Kellett has attained 41 races, acting as the Chief Radio Operator aboard the Radio Relay Vessel since 2000, while the late Richard 'Sightie' Hammond (NSW) and Bernie Case (VIC) sailed to Hobart 40 times, and Hammond was the first person to ever attain 40 races (in 1998)

**Most races completed in a row:** Lou Abrahams did 43 from 1965 until 2007 with his own yachts; Lindsay May competed in his 42<sup>nd</sup> successive race in 2014, having started in 1973

**Most races by an owner/skipper:** Syd Fischer, 46 from 1962 to 2014; Lou Abrahams, 43 from 1965 to 2007

**Record races by yachtsmen:** Up to and including 2014, 115 yachtsmen have been recorded as having sailed in 25 or more races since 1945

**Fathers and sons to compete in 25 plus races:** In 2013, Peter (dec.) and Mike Green became the first father/son to reach a milestone 35 Hobarts each. In 2014, Mike had done 36, Max (30, dec.) and Carl (29) Crafoord, Bernie (40) and Robert (30) Case

**Most line honours victories by a 25 plus race sailor:** Steve Jarvin. *Wild Oats XI's* 2014 line honours win made it 13 victories, including two record breaking runs with *Wild Oats XI* in 2005 and 2012

**Youngest ever sailor to achieve 25 Hobart milestone:** Darren Senogles sailed his 25<sup>th</sup> Hobart on *Ichi Ban* (Matt Allen's Carkeek 60) in 2013. His first was at 14 years of age in 1987 and has only missed two races since. His record is unlikely to be broken because of the introduction of the minimum age requirement (of 18) in 1999. Prior to Senogles reaching this milestone, Robert Case was the youngest person to achieve the 25 Hobart milestone, taking the title from Michael Spies. All three sailed on *Ichi Ban* in the 2013 race

**Record races by yachtswomen:** Fourteen women have sailed 10 or more races. In 2011, Adrienne Cahalan (NSW) was the first woman to reach the milestone 20 Hobarts (2014 marked her 23<sup>rd</sup> race). A trophy was dedicated in Cahalan's honour to recognise her achievement. Other women who reach 20 races will also have their names engraved on it. She is also the most decorated, with six line honours and two overall wins, all but one achieved as *Wild Oats XI's* navigator

Gail Harland and Felicity Nelson are the next most capped women with 20 races each; Vanessa Dudley 19; Mary Holley 16; the late Sally Gordon 15; Jan Howard 14; Sue Crafer 13; Amanda Wilmot, Julie Hodder 12; and Audrey Brown with 11 of 12 races aboard the radio relay vessel

**Record races by yachts:** In 2014, *Bacardi*, a Peterson 44 now owned by Martin Power (VIC), set a new record of 28 races. In 2013, *Bacardi* equalled the previous record of 27 races set in 2007 by Phillip's Foote Witchdoctor, a Davidson 42 from NSW.

*Polaris of Belmont*, a Cole 43, sailed her 26th race in 2010; *Spirit of Koomooloo* (formerly *Ragamuffin*, then *Margaret Rintoul II*), a Sparkman and Stephens 48, sailed her 26th in 2014; *Mark Twain*, a Sparkman & Stephens 38, sailed her 25th in 2002; *Impeccable*, a Peterson 34, sailed her 25th in 2008

**Record races sailed together by multiple crews:** Syd Fischer and Tony Ellis sailed their 41st together aboard *Ragamuffin 100* in 2013

Bruce and Andrew Taylor (father and son) celebrated 23 Hobarts together aboard *Chutzpah* in 2014. It was Bruce's 34th race and his 29th successive as an owner/skipper

**Youngest skippers:** The youngest recorded skipper is Sean Kirkjian (17) who skippered his parents' yacht, *Lady Ann* (NSW), in the 1986 race with his mother, Ann, as navigator

In 1976, *Ballyhoo* and *Apollo* from NSW, finished first and second across the line, *Ballyhoo* was skippered by Jack Rooklyn and *Apollo* by his son, Warwick (19); Greg Prescott (Tas) skippered his father's yacht, *Hotshot* in 1980, aged 18; Liz Wardley (PNG), skippered her yacht, *Dixie Chicken*, in the fatal 1998 race aged 19, and was one of the many who did not finish. In 2011, three 18 year olds skippered yachts: Jessica Watson (*Ella Bache*), Peter Langman (*Maluka of Kermandie*) and Christopher Percy (*Alacrity*), the latter two under the guidance of their well-known sailing parents, Sean and Matt.

**Oldest skipper:** In 2014 at 87, Syd Fischer became the oldest yachtsman to sail the race. In 2013 at 86, he equalled the record set by John Walker (*Impeccable*) in 2008, who retired after that race. He and *Impeccable* are the only owner/boat combination to compete in 25 races together

In 1999, aged 84, Alby Burgin skippered *Alstar* in his 32nd and last race. He won the race overall with *Rival* in 1961 and retired from active offshore racing in 2001

**Oldest sailor ever:** Syd Fischer (87 years, 2014)

**Youngest sailors ever:** As a baby, Raud O'Brien did his first of some six Sydney Hobarts on his parent's *Wraith of Odin* (sic). As a veteran at three, Raud broke his arm when he fell off the companionway steps whilst feeding biscuits to the crew on watch

Sophie Tasker sailed the 1978 race as a four year-old on her father's yacht *Siska*, which was not an official starter due to not meeting requirements of the CYCA. Sophie raced to Hobart in 1979, 1982 and 1983.

Quite a number of teenage boys and girls have sailed with their fathers and mothers, including Tasmanian Ken Gourlay's 14-year-old son who sailed on *Kismet* in 1957. A 12-year-old boy, Travis Foley, sailed in the fatal 1998 race aboard *Aspect Computing*, which won PHS overall

In 1978, the Brooker family sailed aboard their yacht *Touchwood* – parents Doug and Val and their children, Peter (13), Jacqueline (10), Kathryne (8) and Donald (6). Since 1999 the CYCA has set an age limit of 18 for crew members in the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race

**First and 50th races:** The late Peter Luke and the late 'Boy' Messenger sailed in the first and 50th races. Luke skippered his own yacht, *Wayfarer*, in the first Hobart, Messenger sailed aboard *Horizon*. Luke, a CYCA co-founder, owned *Wayfarer* up until his death in September 2007 and was the official starter of the 2001 Sydney Hobart Yacht Race

**First women to compete in the race:** Jane ('Jenny') Tate, from Hobart, sailed with her husband Horrie aboard *Active* in the 1946 Race, as did Dagmar O'Brien with her husband, Dr Brian ('Mick') O'Brien aboard *Connella*. Unfortunately, *Connella* was forced to retire in Bass Strait, but *Active* made it to the finish. The Jane Tate Memorial Trophy is presented each year to the first female skipper to finish the race

**First all-women crew to compete in the race:** 1975, Vicki Wilman skippered *Barbarian*

**Other all women crews:** 1989 - Christine Evans (*Belles Long Ranger*); 1992 - Kerry Goudge (*Nadia IV*); Adrienne Cahalan (*Ella Bache*); 1993 and 1994 - Kerry Goudge (*Telecom Mobilenet*); 1995 Kerry Goudge (*WOW – Nortel*); 1996 - Adrienne Cahalan (*Elle Racing*) as an unofficial entry starting 5mins ahead of the fleet; 2001 – Lisa McDonald (*Amer Sports Too*)

**First time international crew members:** In 2013, the international flavour of the fleet was bolstered with the inclusion for the first time of the 2013-2014 Clipper Round the World Yacht Race fleet (12 x Clipper 70s plus two Clipper 68 training vessels). Vicky Song (*Qingdao*) was the first mainland Chinese woman and first mainland Chinese sailor to compete in a Sydney Hobart and Masibulele Libaya (*Invest Africa*) was the first black South African to compete. Zaw Sis Naing (*Zefiro*) was the first competitor representing Myanmar (Burma). In 2014, aboard the lone Clipper entry, Clipper Ventures 10, was the first South Korean to race, Sang Cho

**Oldest yacht to race in recent years:** *Maluka of Kermandie* was built in 1932. The 9.1 metre yacht was restored by Sean Langman and raced in the Hobart for the first time in 2006 as *Maluka* at age 74 years. He raced her again in 2008, 2011 and 2012 as *Maluka of Kermandie*. However, in 2014, competitors from the early Hobart races, *Landfall* (built in 1935) and *Southern Myth* (built 1953) returned to the race.

Prior to *Maluka of Kermandie*, the oldest boat was *Southerly* (Don Mickleborough), built in Tasmania in 1938, which won the Over 30 Year Veterans Division in the 50<sup>th</sup> Race in 1994. She sailed in the 2000 race, aged 62, but retired before reaching Bass Strait

**Oldest yachts to compete:** According to CYCA life member and historian Alan Campbell, more than 31 yachts built before 1938 have competed in the race, including line honours winners *Morna/Kurrewa IV* (same boat, renamed) and *Astor*, which were built in the 1920s. He believes that *Alice*, which competed in the 1948 race, was built before 1908, although no records exist

**Most successful designer of overall winners:** Bruce Farr/Farr Yacht Design (NZL/USA) – can claim 19 overall wins

These statistics have been compiled up to and including the 2013 Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race, based on records from the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, CYCA life member and historian Alan Campbell, Tony Cable, Di Pearson, Peter Campbell and other sources

**Updated by Di Pearson 10/09/2015**