



Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race Statistics 1945 – 2018

Number of Sydney Hobart Yacht Races conducted by the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia since 1945: 74; 2019 will be the 75th

Number of yachts to have competed: 1945-2018: 6103 completed the race, 1033 retired or were disqualified)

Estimated total crew to have competed: About 58,314 between 1945 and 2018

Largest fleets: 371 starters in the 50th 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

Largest number of international entries: In 2015 and 2017 there were 27, including the 12 Clipper yachts (11 in 2017). In the record entry of 371 yachts in the 50th in 1994, there were 24 internationals

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

Last year's fleet (2018): 85 starters, 79 finishers (6 retirements)

Last year's winner – IRC Overall: *Alive*, an RP66 owned by Phillip Turner, Tas

Last year's line honours winner: *Wild Oats XI*, Reichel/Pugh 100 (USA) 100 owned by the Oatley family, in 1 day 19 hours, 7 minutes, 21 seconds

Race record: 1 day 9 hours 15 minutes and 24 seconds, set in 2017 by *LDV Comanche* after *Wild Oats XI* was penalised one hour in port/starboard incident for a finish time of 1d 9h 48m 50s

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
 - 98ft was also declared the overall winner of the Tattersall Cup
- **2012:** *Wild Oats XI* (Australia) 1 day 18 hours 23 minutes 12 seconds
 - Updated to 100ft was also declared the overall winner of the Tattersall Cup
- **2016** *Perpetual LOYAL* (Australia) 1 day 13 hours 31 minutes 20 seconds
- **2017** *LDV Comanche* (Australia) 1 day 9 hours 15 minutes 24 seconds

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) – 9 races (a record) including 4 successive (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
- Comanche (USA)/LDV Comanche (AUS) – 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/SAP Ausmaid (VIC/SA) – 2 races: 1996 and 2000
- Wild Oats XI (NSW/QLD) – 2 races: 2005 and 2012
- Wild Oats/Wild Rose (NSW) – 2 races: 1993 and 2014
- Quest/Balance (NSW) – 2 races: 2008 and 2015

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)

- In 2009, the maximum LOA was extended to 30.48m (100ft), bringing the race in line with overseas events. Five 100 footers took to the start line that year, 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)

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

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

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) by seven seconds

Record races by an individual: Tony Cable (NSW) and Tony Ellis hold the record for the most races sailed by an individual. Cable sailed his 51st race aboard *Duende* in 2016 and Ellis his in 2018 aboard *Triton*

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

Bill Ratcliff reached 50 races in 2018 aboard *Relish IV*. Now retired, Syd Fischer reached 47 races in 2015. Lindsay May reached 46 consecutive races in 2018

Michael Spies (NSW) reached 42 races. The late Richard 'Sightie' Hammond (NSW) and Bernie Case (VIC) reached 40 each, Hammond being the first person to ever attain 40 races (in 1998)

Over 40 races, but including on Radio Relay Vessel:

Colin Wildman (NSW) has attained 50 races (but aboard the Radio Relay Vessel since 2005); Bruce Gould (NSW) has attained 46 races (aboard the RRV from 2010-2015, then Young Endeavour in 2017); Tony Cable (aboard the RRV in 2018); CYCA Life member David Kellett has attained 45 races, including acting as Chief Radio Operator aboard the RRV since 2000

Most races completed in a row: Lindsay May 46 races from 1973-2018 (2018 on *Kialoa II*). Sailing aboard *Brindabella* in 2015, May equalled the 43 successive Lou Abrahams sailed (all on his own yachts) from 1965 until 2007

Most races by an owner/skipper: Syd Fischer, 47 from 1962 to 2015; Lou Abrahams (dec.), 43 from 1965 to 2007

Record races by yachtsmen: Up to and including 2018, 132 sailors have been recorded as having sailed in 25 or more races since 1945. Adrienne Cahalan became the first woman to achieve 25 (in 2016). Robert Case becoming the youngest (at 40) to sail 25 consecutively (in 2009), then Brad Kellett (at 40) in 2016

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. At the end of 2018, Mike had done 40. Max (30, dec.) and Carl (33) Crafoord; Bernie (40) and Robert (34) Case; David (45 – incl. RRV since 2000) and Brad (27) Kellett; Bruce (38) and Drew (27) Taylor - the only father/son to sail all their races together



Most line honours victories by a 25 plus race sailor: Steve Jarvin. *Wild Oats XI's* 2018 line honours win made it 14 victories, including two record breaking runs with Wild Oats XI in 2005 and 2012. Iain Murray (25), Robbie Naismith (21), Mark Richards (17) and Rodney Daniel (16) are the only other crew who have been aboard Wild Oats XI for all of her victories

Youngest ever sailor to achieve 25 Hobarts: Darren Senogles sailed his 25th Hobart on *Ichi Ban* (Matt Allen's Carkeek 60) in 2013. His first was at 14 years of age in 1987. Brad Kellett missed this distinction by three weeks, but in 2016, became the youngest to contest 25 consecutive races (aged 40). In 2009, Robert Case sailed his 25th consecutive race (aged 41). These records are 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 25 Hobarts, after he in turn took the title from Michael Spies. The three sailed together on *Ichi Ban* in the 2013 race

Record races by yachswomen: Nineteen women have sailed 10 or more races. In 2016, Adrienne Cahalan (NSW) became the first woman to reach 25 Hobarts, after being the first to reach 20 Hobarts in 2011. A perpetual trophy was dedicated in Cahalan's honour to recognise her '20' achievement. She is also the most decorated female sailor, with six line honours and two overall wins, all but one achieved as *Wild Oats XI's* navigator. Cahalan sailed her 27th on *Voodoo* in 2018

Felicity Nelson and Vanessa Dudley are the next most capped with 23 races; then Gail Harland, 22

First female CYCA member to start the race: Gail Lewis-Bearman, a Life Member since 2013, fired the five minute gun in 2018

Record races by yachts: In 2014, *Bacardi*, a Peterson 44, set a new record of 28 races, following 2013, when she equalled the previous record of 27 races set in 2007 by *Phillip's Foote Witchdoctor*, a Davidson 42 from NSW
Polaris, a Cole 43 also known as *Polaris of Belmont*, achieved 26 in 2010
Spirit of Koomooloo (formerly *Ragamuffin*, then *Margaret Rintoul II*), an S&S 48, sailed her 26th in 2014
Mark Twain, an S&S 39, sailed her 25th in 2002 (the first yacht to ever race 25) and her 26th in 2018
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. This record is unlikely to be beaten



Bruce and Andrew Taylor (father and son) celebrated 27 Hobarts together aboard Bruce's *Chutzpah* in 2018. It was Bruce's 38th race and his 33rd successive as an owner/skipper of his various *Chutzpahs*

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 Langman and Matt Percy

Oldest skipper: In 2015 at 88, Syd Fischer became the oldest skipper to sail the race on his *Ragamuffin 100*. In 2013 at 86, he equalled the record set by John Walker (*Impeccable*) in 2008, who retired after that race. Walker and *Impeccable* are the only owner/boat combination to compete in 25 races together – unlikely to be repeated

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

Oldest sailor ever: Syd Fischer (88 years, 2015) – unlikely to be beaten

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), Kathrynne (8) and Donald (6). Since 1999, the CYCA has set an age limit of 18 for competitors

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 *Connellia*. Unfortunately, *Connellia* 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*); 1994 – Teresa Borrell (Brightstone, NZL – first female NZ crew); 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*); 2017 – Lisa Blair (Climate Action Now); 2018 – Stacey Jackson (*Wild Oats X*)

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 Sang Cho, the first South Korean to race. 2015 produced the first ever Mainland Chinese male sailors via entries *Ark323* and *Shuguang Haiyang*

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



Oldest yacht to race in recent years: Dorade was built in 1930, the S&S 52 Yawl was bought and restored by Matt Brooks and Pamela Rorke Levy in 2010 and contested her first Sydney Hobart in 2017, finishing 31st overall and second in Division 4. *Maluka* 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, 2012 and 2016 as *Maluka of Kermandie* and 2017 as *Maluka*. However, in 2014, competitors from the early Hobart races, *Landfall* (built in 1935) and *Southern Myth* (built 1953) returned to the race. *Landfall* returned again in 2015 (the oldest boat in the fleet) and 2016

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

Most successful designer of overall winners: Bruce Farr/Farr Yacht Design (NZL/USA) – can claim 20 overall wins from 1976 (with *Piccolo*) up to and including 2015 (with *Balance*)

These statistics have been compiled up to and including the 2018 Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race, based on records from the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia and the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania; CYCA Life Member and historian Alan Campbell, Tony Cable, Peter Campbell, Di Pearson

Updated by Di Pearson 6/3/2019