



Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race

Statistics (1945-2019)

Number of Sydney Hobart Yacht Races conducted by the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia since 1945: 75

Number of yachts to have competed (1945-2019): 6,257 have completed the race (1036 retired or were disqualified). The 2020 Rolex Sydney Hobart was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Estimated total crew to have competed: About 60,061 between 1945 and 201

Largest fleets: 371 starters in the 50th race in 1994 (309 finished); 179 starters in 1985 (145 finished); 173 started in 1983 (128 finished); 159 started in 1981 (143 finished); 157 started in 2019 (154 finished); 154 starters in 1987 (146 finished); 151 starters in 1984 (46 finished); 147 started in 1979 (142 finished).

Largest fleet post-2000: 116 in 2004 (59 finished); 117 in 2014 (103 finished); 157 in 2019 (154 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 Honours and handicap winner.

Most recent fleet (2019): 157 starters, 154 finishers (3 retirements).

2019 Overall winner (IRC): *Ichi Ban*, a Botin 52 owned by Matt Allen (NSW).

2019 Line Honours winner: *Comanche*, Verdier Yacht Design and VPLP (FRA) owned by Jim Cooney and Samantha Grant, in 1 day, 18 hours, 30 minutes, 24 seconds. Just 1 hour, 58 minutes, 32 seconds separated the five super maxis at the finish.

Race record: 1 day, 9 hours, 15 minutes, 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 1 day, 9 hours, 48 minutes, 50 seconds.

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 and record held for an unprecedented 21 years*
- **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 winners (Line Honours and Overall)

- *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) – 3 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
- *Ichiban* (NSW) – 2 races: 2017 and 2019

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 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 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: 7 days, 19 hours, 43 minutes.
Skipper: Peter Luke, NSW

Closest finish for Line Honours: 1982 - *Condor* (BER) beat *Apollo* (NSW) by seven seconds.

Record races by an individual: Tony Ellis holds the record for the most races sailed by an individual after sailing his 52nd in 2019 on *No Limit*. Tony Cable was the first to sail 50 races, his 50th aboard *Duende*.

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 47 consecutive races in 2019 – the most consecutive races by an individual.

Michael Spies (NSW) reached 43 races in 2019; Mike Green reached 41 in 2019. 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 - 32 (SH) 19 (RRV)
- Bruce Gould - 40 (SH) 7 (RRV)
- Tony Cable - 51 (SH) 2 (RRV)
- David Kellett AM - 26 (SH) 20 (Chief Radio Operator on RRV)

Most races completed consecutively: Lindsay May - 47 races from 1973-2019 (2019 on *Love & War*). Sailing aboard *Brindabella* in 2015, May equalled the 43 successive races 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 sailors: Up to and including 2019, 134 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 41) to sail 25 consecutively (in 2009) but was usurped by Brad Kellett (at 40) in 2016 – neither of the latter two have missed a race since their first races. Lindsay May has done 47 consecutive races (in 2019).

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 2019, Mike had done 41.

- Max (30, dec.) and Carl (34) Crafoord
- Bernie (40) and Robert (35) Case
- David (46 – incl. RRV since 2000) and Brad (28) Kellett
- Bruce (39) and Drew (28) Taylor - the only father/son to sail all their races together

Most Line Honours victories by a 25-plus races 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.

Robbie Naismith, the first Kiwi sailor to make the 25s board (in 2019) has 12 Line Honours wins, including two record breaking runs with *Wild Oats XI* in 2005 and 2012.

Iain Murray has nine Line Honours wins, including two record breaking runs with *Wild Oats XI* in 2005 and 2012.

Mark Richards (17 races) and Rodney Daniel (16) are the only other crew who have been aboard the super maxi for all of her victories

Youngest ever sailor to achieve 25 Sydney Hobarts: Darren Senogles sailed his 25th Sydney 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 Sydney Hobarts, after he took the title from Michael Spies. The three sailed together on *Ichi Ban* in the 2013 race

Record races by yachswomen: 20 women have sailed 10 or more races. In 2016, Adrienne Cahalan (NSW) became the first woman to reach 25 Sydney Hobarts, after being the first to reach 20 Sydney 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 28th on *Chinese Whisper* in 2019.

Felicity Nelson (24 races), Vanessa Dudley (23) and Gail Harland (22) are the next most capped.

First female CYCA member to join the start team: 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 28 Hobarts together aboard Bruce's *Chutzpah* in 2019. It was Bruce's 39th race and his 34th successive as an owner/skipper of 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); in 1981, Tasmanian Greg Prescott (18) skippered the family Half Tonner, Hotshot to seventh overall; 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. Sam McCracken (19) skippered *Windrose* in 2019

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 *A/star* 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)

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 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.

25th, 50th and 75th races: Tony Ellis sailed the 25th on *Ragamuffin*, the 50th on *Ragamuffin* (No. 6) and the 75th on *No Limit*. Bill Wright sailed the 25th on *Weatherly*, the 50th on *Nell Gwynn* and at age 72, the 75th on *King Billy*.

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 Willman 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) and Gayle Melrose (Qantas New Zealand) – first female NZ crews; 1995 Kerry Goudge (*WOW – Nortel*); Amanda Wilmot (Mortgage Choice); 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*. In 2019, Ashok Mani became the first Indian owner/skipper (*Windrose*).

Oldest yachts to compete: In 2019, Bill Barry-Cotter brought *Katwinchar*, built in 1904, back to the start line. She had competed with a previous owner in 1951. It is believed she is the oldest yacht 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.

Oldest yacht to race in recent years: *Katwinchar*, the 1904 Watney (UK) built ketch competed in 2019 – the oldest to ever on record. *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. *Maluka*, a 9.2 metre yacht built in 1932, 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, last sailed in the 2000 race, aged 62.

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 2019 Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race, based on records from the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia and the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania. Thank you to CYCA Life Member and historian Alan Campbell, Tony Cable, Peter Campbell and Di Pearson for their contributions.