



Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race Statistics (1945 – 2021)

Number of Sydney Hobart Yacht Races conducted by the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia since 1945: 76

Number of yachts to have competed (1945-2021): 6307 completed the race, 1074 retired or were disqualified). 2020 race was cancelled due to Covid.

Estimated total crew to have competed: About 60,921 between 1945 and 2021

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 and handicap winner

Last fleet (2021): 88 starters, 50 finishers (38 retirements)

2021 winner – IRC overall: *Ichi Ban*, a Botin 52 owned by Matt Allen, NSW

2021 line honours winner: *Black Jack*, a Reichel/Pugh (USA) 100, owned by Peter Harburg, skippered by Mark Bradford, in 2 days, 12 hours, 37 minutes, 17 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 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 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) – 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
- Ichi Ban (NSW) – 3 races: 2017, 2019, 2021

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

Smallest line honours winner since 1953: *Ninety Seven*, NSW (1993) – LOA 14.3m (47ft). She is the fourth smallest yacht in history to take line honours.

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 Ellis holds the record for the most races sailed by an individual after sailing his 53rd in 2021 on *No Limit*. Tony Cable was the first to sail 50 races, his 50th aboard *Duende* in 2016. 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 48 consecutive races in 2021 on *Kialoa II* – the most consecutive races by an individual

Michael Spies (NSW) reached 44 races in 2021; Mike Green reached 42 in 2021. 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) 32 (SH) 20 (RRV); Bruce Gould (NSW) 40 (SH) 8 (RRV); Tony Cable 51 (SH) 2 (RRV); CYCA Life member David Kellett NSW 46 races, 26 (SH) 20 (Chief Radio Operator on RRV).

Most races completed consecutively: Lindsay May 48 races from 1973-2021 (2021 on *Kialoa II*). Sailing aboard *Brindabella* in 2015, May equalled the 43 successive Lou Abrahams sailed (the latter all on his own yachts) from 1965 until 2007

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

Record races by sailors: Up to and including 2021, 140 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) and Felicity Nelson the second in 2021. Robert Case becoming the youngest (at 41) to sail 25 consecutively (in 2009) but was usurped by Brad Kellett (at 40) in 2016 – the latter has not missed a race since his first race. Lindsay May has done 48 consecutive races (in 2021).

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 2021, Mike had done 42. Max (30, dec.) and Carl (35) Crafoord; Bernie (40) and Robert (35) Case; David (46 – incl. RRV since 2000) and Brad (29) Kellett; Bruce (40) 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 *WOXI* in 2005 and 2012; Iain Murray has nine line honours wins including two record breaking runs with *WOXI* in 2005 and 2012. Mark Richards (18 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 Hobarts: Darren Senogles sailed his 25th Hobart on *Ichi Ban* 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 (18 years) in 1999. Prior to Senogles reaching this milestone, Robert Case was the youngest person to achieve 25 Hobarts, after he took the title from Michael Spies. The three sailed together on *Ichi Ban* in the 2013 race

Record races by yachtswomen: Twenty 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 inclusive of two overall wins, all but one achieved as *Wild Oats XI's* navigator. Cahalan sailed her 29th on *Oroton Drumfire* in 2021. In 2021, Felicity Nelson became the second woman to achieve 25 races)

Vanessa Dudley (23) and Gail Harland (22) are the next most capped

First female CYCA member to join the race 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, after .In 2013, she equalled the previous record of 27 races set in 2007 by *Phillip's Foote Witchdoctor*, a Davidson 42 from NSW

Spirit of Koomooloo (formerly *Ragamuffin*, then *Margaret Rintoul II*), an S&S 48, sailed her 25th in 2010 and her 26th in 2014

Impeccable, a Peterson 34, sailed her 25th in 2008

Polaris, a Cole 43 also known as *Polaris of Belmont*, sailed her 25th in 2010

Mark Twain, an S&S 39, sailed her 25th in 2018

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 Kermadie*) 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, Fischer 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 competitor ever: Syd Fischer (88 years, 2015)

Youngest competitors 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), Kathryn (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 *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 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 at age 74 years. *Maluka* has done the race six times since. 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 and 2016.

Prior to *Maluka of Kermantie*, 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 2021 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 and Di Pearson.