# Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race Statistics (1945 – 2025)

**Number of Sydney Hobart Yacht Races conducted by the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia since 1945:** 80

**Number of yachts to have competed:** 1945-2025: 6689 completed the race; 1166 retired or were disqualified (2020 race was cancelled due to Covid)

**Estimated total crew to have competed:** About 65,250 between 1945 and 2025

**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:** 157 in 2019 (154 finished); 128 in 2025 (93 finished); 116 in 2004 (59 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 Honours and handicap winner

**Last fleet (2025):** 128 starters, 93 finishers (35 retirements)

**2025 IRC Overall winner:** Min River (DH), a JPK 10.30, owned by Jiang Lin and co-skippered by Alexis Loison (NSW). In winning the race, Jiang became the first female skipper to take the Overall title and Jiang and Alexis combined to be the first double handed winner.

**2025 Line Honours winner:** Master Lock Comanche, a Vplp Verdier 100, chartered by Matt Allen & James Mayo (NSW), in 2 days 05 hours 03 minutes 36 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
- Comanche (USA)/LDV Comanche/Comanche/Andoo Comanche (AUS) – 5 races
- Astor (NSW) – 3 races
- Bumblebee IV/Ragamuffin (NSW) – 3 races
- Perpetual LOYAL/LawConnect (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
- Alfa Romeo (NZL)/Black Jack (QLD) – 2 races

**Multiple overall winners**

- Freya (NSW) – 3 successive races from 1963-1965
- Love & War (NSW) – 3 races: 1974, 1978 and 2006
- Ichi Ban (NSW) – 3 races: 2017, 2019, 2021
- 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
- Alive (TAS) – 2 races: 2018 and 2023

**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 55th in 2025 on Midnight Rambler. Tony Cable was the first to sail 50 races, his 50th aboard Duende in 2015. 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
Lindsay May reached 50 consecutive races in 2023 on Antipodes – the most consecutive races by an individual
Syd Fischer reached 47 races in 2015 on his Ragamuffin 100 – his final race
As at 2025, Michael Spies (NSW) has 47 races; Mike Green (NSW) reached 44; Bruce Taylor (VIC) reached 44; Ed Psaltis (NSW/TAS) reached 43, Kingsley Piesse (WA) reached 42. The late Richard 'Sightie' Hammond (NSW) and Bernie Case (VIC), have 40 each, Hammond was the first person in history to attain 40 races (in 1998)

**Over 40 races, but including on Radio Relay Vessel which ceased operation in 2024:** Colin Wildman (NSW) 32 (SH) 21 (RRV); Bruce Gould (NSW) 50 (SH)10 (RRV); Tony Cable 51(SH) 2 (RRV); CYCA Life member David Kellett (NSW) 27 (SH) 21(RRV-Chief Radio Operator)

**Most races completed consecutively:** Lindsay May 50 races from 1973-2023 (2023 on Antipodes). Sailing aboard Brindabella in 2015, May equalled the 43 successive races 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 (dec), 47 from 1962 to 2015; Lou Abrahams (dec), 43 from 1965 to 2007

**Record races by sailors:** Six sailors have completed 50 or more races, 12 have 40-49, 69 have between 30-39 and 71 have 25-29, meaning altogether, up to and including 2025, 158 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), Felicity Nelson the second in 2021 and Vanessa Dudley the third in 2023. Robert Case was the youngest (at 41 years) to sail 25 consecutively (in 2009) but was usurped by Bradshaw Kellett (at 40 years of age in 2016) – the latter has not missed a race since his first, so had sailed 33 in 2025.

**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. Up to and including the 2023 race, Mike had done 44. Max (30, dec.) and Carl (38) Crafoord; Bernie (40) and Robert (37) Case; David (48 – incl. RRV since

2000) and Brad (33) Kellett; Bruce (44) and Drew (32) Taylor - the only father and son to sail all their races together.

**Three generation families to compete:** Robert Scrivenor Snr – Commander (first race 1956, Four Winds), his son Robert II (1976, Anaconda II), his son Robert III (2007, Wot Yot) and his daughter Amanda (2007, Wot's Next). Peter Kurts (first race 1964, Kaleena), son Simon (1981, Once More Dear Friends), his son Phillip (2009, Love & War, as 18-year-old). They are also the first three generational family to skipper the same boat in the race – Love & War, which Phillip skippered for the first time in the 2024 race. Bill Psaltis (first race 1960, Wild Wave), his oldest son, Charles, (first 1976, Meltemi), Bill's middle son Ed (1979, Meltemi); Ed's son Ben (2014, St George Midnight Rambler, as an 18-year-old); Bill's youngest son, Arthur (first 1982, Meltemi), Arthur's daughter Georgie Psaltis (2023, Cinquante, 26-years-old). Max Crafoord (first 1953, Warana), his son Carl (1980, Inch By Winch) his son, Ben (2024, Wild Thing 100)

**Most Line Honours victories by a 25 plus races sailor:** Steve Jarvin. Wild Oats XI's 2018 line honours win made it 14, including two record breaking runs with Wild Oats XI in 2005 and 2012; Rodney Daniel, including all WOXI victories, also has 14 after sailing on LawConnect in 2023 and 2024; 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 11 line honours wins including two record breaking runs with WOXI in 2005 and 2012. Apart from the above, Mark Richards is the only other person to have been aboard WOXI 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 on his father's yacht, Mistress Again. Bradshaw 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. Ironically, the three sailed together on Ichi Ban in the 2013 race

**Record races by yachtswomen:** Three women have sailed more than 25 races, a further eight have sailed between 11-24 and another 13 sailed between 10-14 races, meaning 24 women have sailed ten or more Hobarts. 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 three overall wins, all but two line honours achieved as Wild Oats XI's navigator. Cahalan sailed her 33rd on the Aragon, in 2025. In 2021, Felicity Nelson became the second woman to achieve 25 races. She sailed her 29th in 2025 on Supernova, which she co-owns. Vanessa Dudley sailed her 25th on Tilting at Windmills in 2023

**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. In 2023, another Life Member, Kendi Kellett, was given that same honour

**Record races by yachts: In 2025,** Bacardi, a Peterson 44, extended the record to 32. 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 and final race together aboard Ragamuffin 100 in 2013. This record is unlikely to be beaten. Bruce and Andrew Taylor (father and son) celebrated 32 Hobarts together aboard Bruce's Chutzpah in 2025. It was Bruce's 44th race and his 38th 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. This cannot be beaten due to the age requirement of 18 years that started in 1999. In 1976, Ballyhoo and Apollo, both 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 retired. 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, Fischer equalled the record set by John Walker (Impeccable) in 2008, Walker retired after that race. He 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 double handed skipper:** David Henry skippered his Philosopher double handed in 2022 aged 80 and did so again in 2023 aged 81

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

**Youngest competitors ever:** As a baby, Raud O'Brien did the first of some six Sydney Hobarts on his parent's Wraith of Odin. 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 his 25th on Ragamuffin, the 50th on Ragamuffin (No. 6) and the 75th on No Limit. Bill Wright sailed his 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 (fully crewed):** 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), 2025 – Elizabeth Tucker (First Light)

**First double handed females:** In 2022, Kathy Veel and Bridget Canham became the first all-female two-handed crew to compete – with Currawong. They repeated that feat in 2023

**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 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. As Maritimo Katwinchar, the yacht started the 2025 race with Michael Spies as skipper but did not make it to Hobart. 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 9.0 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 retuned again in 2015 and 2016
Prior to Maluka, also known as 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 21 overall wins from 1976 (Piccolo) up to and including 2015 (Balance)

**Record number of Line Honours wins:** Steve Jarvin with 14.

**Record number of Overall wins:** Stan Darling (Dec.), Magnus Halvorsen (Dec.), Trygve Halvorsen (Dec.) and Gordon Maguire with five.

**Record number of Line Honours wins by a yachtswoman:** Adrienne Cahalan with six.

**Record number of Overall wins by a yachtswoman:** Adrienne Cahalan with three.

*These statistics have been compiled up to and including the 2025 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, Alan Campbell, Tony Cable, Peter Campbell and Di Pearson*
*Updated by CYCA 24/08/2026*