



BOWLS
ACT

PENNANT PREVIEW

ROUND 1, 2021

A quick snapshot of the week ahead.....



Welcome to 2021!

Well we've made it through 2020 but it seems Mother Nature hasn't quite finished up dishing out the challenges to the Bowls Community just yet. As we ramp up for a new Pennant season after having 2020 cancelled due to COVID-19 we see forecasted rains putting some doubt on Round 1 action. We're all hoping that the rains can hold off for a couple days so we can squeeze some bowls action in and don't we just have some fantastic matches to play.

2021 sees the introduction of Goulburn Railway Women's Bowling Club into the Bowls ACT competition with fantastic numbers producing two teams in the combined Grade 1/2. We are all happy to see the Women's club join after the successful introduction of the Men's Club and welcome them with open arms into the community.

A big off season has seen plenty of player movement which will make for an interesting competition across all grades for 2021. Let's hope Mother Nature gives us a break after what we've all been through and we can kick the season off with a bang.

Women's Grade 1/2

A tough introduction for GRWBC sees both teams on the road with GRWBC Green facing off against Weston Creek Women's BC. No doubt Weston Creek will be looking to build from a strong start to 2020, but Goulburn will have something to prove coming into the competition. Look out for the newcomers.

The GRWBC Gold squad starts the season on the road as well, heading to Canberra North BC to test themselves in some new water. Canberra North managed a mid-table finish at the abruptly interrupted 2020 season but will be looking to improve. Without any previous form, Goulburn could well prove to be a handful in 2021 and I'm sure all clubs will be looking at this match with interest to see where both clubs sit.

Canberra Bowling Club have combined with Yass Bowling Club to put together a strong team which rounds us out at 10 sides across the competition. They head to Yowani in round 1 to see if they can get the job done against some tough opposition who were in great form in the ACT Championships through late 2020 and early 2021.

Queanbeyan BC and QRSLMBC Blue will showdown in a local rivalry with both clubs looking to make a strong start to their campaign. Queanbeyan BC will get home ground advantage as QRSLMBC Blue cross the bridge to play on the beautiful new synthetic greens which were opened this week at QBC.

QRSLMBC Gold and Vikings finish off Round 1 with a matchup at QRSLMBC which will be an enticing affair for any onlookers as both clubs welcome new bowlers to the greens. With matches all starting at 9.30am it'll be tough to pick where to head to, but no doubt wherever you find yourself on Saturday morning you won't be disappointed.

Men's Grade 1

| Men's Grade 1 | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Belconnen Bowling Club | Canberra North Bowling Club | 31st January 2021 @ 9:30am | Belconnen Bowling Club |
| Queanbeyan RSLM Bowling Club | Yass Bowling Club | 31st January 2021 @ 9:30am | Queanbeyan RSL Memorial Bowling Club |
| Canberra Bowling Club | Queanbeyan Bowling Club | 31st January 2021 @ 9:30am | Canberra Bowling Club |
| Weston Creek Bowling Club | Tuggeranong Vikings Lawn Bowls Club | 31st January 2021 @ 9:30am | Weston Creek Bowling Club |

2021 sees the Men's Grade 1 competition split into conferences to give us a full 10 round calendar. Each team will play the other three teams in their conference home and away, with a showdown across conferences for the middle four rounds ensuring that every teams plays each other once before the finals series.

On the North side we open up with Belconnen taking on Canberra North BC at home. Belconnen will be looking to put some early work in at home in the 2021 season with a big block of clubs finishing even through the 6 games played in 2020. Canberra North BC will need to be strong away from home but will look to put some early pressure on the ladder.

In our other North side matchup QRSLMBC will take on Yass. After a strong 2020 campaign QRSL have had some player movement which may effect the performances out on the greens. The pressure is on to put some early wins on the board to ensure they are well placed towards the back end of the season. Yass BC will be looking to improve on their performances in 2020 and try to bridge the gap to the rest of the field. This is an important match up for both clubs to get the season started well.

On the South side we get what could well turn out to be match of the round down at Forrest with Canberra BC taking on Queanbeyan BC. Both clubs have made strong moves off the green over the offseason and will be looking to put early wins in the bank. With Mac McLean joining QBC and Flynn O'Shaughnessy joining CBC both players will be looking to put in impressive performances in new colours as they establish themselves on the competition. Don't take your eyes away from this one.

Our other South side matchup brings us Weston Creek BC taking on Tuggeranong Vikings LBC in what will be a hotly contested affair. Tuggeranong have spent the offseason bolstering up their sides while Weston Creek were the strong performers in 2020. Weston Creek will look to show they've still got what it takes to be at the top while Vikings will look to show they've improved from 2020.

Men's Grade 2

| Men's Grade 2 | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Weston Creek Bowling Club | Goulburn Railway Men's Bowling Club | 31st January 2021 @ 9:30am | Weston Creek Bowling Club |
| Queanbeyan Bowling Club | Belconnen Bowling Club | 31st January 2021 @ 9:30am | Queanbeyan Bowling Club |
| Canberra Bowling Club | Tuggeranong Vikings Lawn Bowls Club | 31st January 2021 @ 9:30am | Canberra Bowling Club |

Goulburn Railway will look to build on their impressive form from 2020 when they take on Weston Creek in Round 1 down in Stirling. Four wins out of six matches in 2020 saw Goulburn sitting atop the table before the season was cancelled and they'll look to push further in 2021. Weston Creek will look to put their woes of 2020 behind them to kick off the new season in fine fashion.

Queanbeyan's Grade 2 match up with Belconnen will see the first Men's matches on the new greens this Sunday. This means there won't be too much home ground advantage for QBC as they look to get their eye in on the new greens. Belconnen will be out to improve on 2020 performances against a strong Queanbeyan outfit.

Canberra BC will take on Vikings in our third match of the round in what is sure to be a fantastic match up. Both clubs have bolstered their stocks in the lead up to 2021 and are proving to have strong depth through the squads. This one could go either way, so make sure you keep an eye out for scores as they roll in.

Men's Grade 3

| Men's Grade 3 | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Yowani CC Bowling Club | Crookwell Services Bowling Club | 31st January 2021 @ 9:30am | Yowani Country Club Bowling Club |
| Tuggeranong Vikings Lawn Bowls Club | Queanbeyan RSLM Bowling Club | 31st January 2021 @ 9:30am | Tuggeranong Vikings |
| Yass Bowling Club | Canberra North Bowling Club | 31st January 2021 @ 9:30am | Yass Bowling Club |

After losing some talent through the offseason Yowani will open their campaign with a tough matchup against a strong Crookwell squad in Grade 3. Joining in 2021 Crookwell put a strong effort in during the first half of the season, with a few home games helping the results. They'll be looking to push this form into the new year and build further towards taking out the competition.

Vikings will play host to QRSL on Sunday morning in what will be a sightseeing match for both clubs. With player movement in the grades above meaning both clubs will have new look squads it is difficult to call on where this one will head. Both clubs will look to get a gauge on the opposition early and start the season off well.

Canberra North BC have a road trip out to Yass BC to start the year off. Good to get it done early some might say, but a win would prove massive in putting them in the right direction for the season. Yass will need to bank these early home wins if they are to put some weight into the back end of the season.

Men's Grade 4

| Men's Grade 4 | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Queanbeyan Bowling Club | Goulburn Railway Bowling Club | 31st January 2021 @ 9:30am | Queanbeyan Bowling Club |
| Queanbeyan RSLM Bowling Club | Weston Creek Bowling Club | 31st January 2021 @ 9:30am | Queanbeyan RSL Memorial Bowling Club |
| Yowani CC Bowling Club | Tuggeranong Vikings LBC | 31st January 2021 @ 9:30am | Yowani Country Club Bowling Club |

Queanbeyan Bowling Club's Grade 4 squad will share the duties of breaking in the greens with the Grade 2 squad this Sunday as they take on the visiting Goulburn Railway. The travelling side won't even need to enter the ACT, but the roadtrip is difficult all the same. Used to travelling GRBC will look to put an early win away and kick 2021 into full gear right from the get go. Queanbeyan will be sure to put up strong opposition in what could be a classic.

Elsewhere, QRSL host Weston Creek in what could be another great match up. Weston Creek put in strong performances during 2020 and with the QRSL squad jumping up a grade this could turn into a shootout. Expect plenty from both clubs with a point to prove in the first round.

Rounding it out is Yowani hosting Vikings. After a disappointing 2020 Vikings will be looking to start the year off well. Strong depth across the club means this team could surprise a few and Yowani are the first club in the way. Yowani will be looking to put in strong results in Grade 4 with plenty of players willing to show their pride in the club. I wouldn't be counting either team out here in what could be one of the most hotly contested grades across 2021.

Men's Grade 5

| Men's Grade 5 | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Tuggeranong Vikings LBC | Queanbeyan Bowling Club | 31st January 2021 @ 9:30am | Tuggeranong Vikings |
| Canberra North Bowling Club | Belconnen Bowling Club | 31st January 2021 @ 9:30am | Canberra North Bowling Club |
| Crookwell Services Bowling Club | Canberra Bowling Club | 31st January 2021 @ 9:30am | CROOKWELL SERVICES BOWLING CLUB |

Vikings and Queanbeyan BC kick us off for Grade 5. With so much movement in the grades above it is always difficult to know what will happen across the lower grades. No doubt there are plenty of players in both of these teams who will have a point to prove though. With plenty of grades above them some strong performances might see players moving around and nobody will want to miss out on the early win here.

Canberra North take on Belconnen in a local showdown. The northsiders will be playing for bragging rights on Sunday morning as they look to establish themselves early in the competition. Plenty on the line here so watch out.

Canberra Bowling Club get the early road trip to face Crookwell on their home turf. Always a tough match the CBC players will need to be at their best if they are going to take this one out. Both teams are full of strong bowlers and no doubt they'll be looking to put their best foot forward early in the season.

Men's Grade 6

| Men's Grade 6 | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Weston Creek Bowling Club | Yass Bowling Club | 31st January 2021 @ 9:30am | Weston Creek Bowling Club |
| Crookwell Services Bowling Club | Goulburn Railway Bowling Club | 31st January 2021 @ 9:30am | CROOKWELL SERVICES BOWLING CLUB |
| Canberra North Bowling Club | Bungendore Bowling Club | 31st January 2021 @ 9:30am | Canberra North Bowling Club |

Weston Creek will host the travelling Yass squad with Yass looking to continue some good form from 2020. A strong performance from Yass could kick the season off in the right fashion while Weston Creek will need to be at their best if they are to stand a chance here.

Kicking things off the right way for 2021 we have a big local derby in the Men's Grade 6 competition. Goulburn Railway will be heading up past Pejar Dam to take on the noisy new neighbours on the block from Crookwell Services Bowling Club. DO. NOT . MISS. THIS! Plenty of pride on the line while both clubs look to make an early statement.

Rounding it out Canberra North play host to Bungendore BC. While Bungendore struggled through the 2020 season there is no doubt that they are looking to be a club on the rise. Canberra North will need to make sure they are up for it as Bungendore look to prove they're not the easybeats they've been in the past.

Match of the Round

Tough one to call here. There will be high quality bowls on display as Canberra Bowling Club take on Queanbeyan Bowling Club over at Forrest in the Men's Grade 1 competition, but it is hard to go past a classic local derby. If you're in the area on Sunday morning and looking for an absolutely cracking affair get down to Crookwell Services Bowling Club and watch CSBC take on GRBC. This is like a classic sibling rivalry with each club holding nothing back, but plenty of love in the air. Both clubs will be looking to put on a show with the Crookwell Services Club always providing a perfect venue on a Sunday morning. Get down to the club, show your support and enjoy yourself for the day.

Looking forward

Wherever you may be headed for the weekend or whoever you may be bowling against remember that we are all one community. We've worked hard through 2020 to ensure that we can return to some resemblance of normal life so be sure to look out for your mates and look out for our bowling community. Enjoy the start of 2021 and let's all, together, make 2021 a great year on and off the greens.