



Grand Finals



2022 Pennants – Grand Finals

What a year it has been so far and we're in the middle of an unforgettable finals series that has already thrown up a raft of interesting results across the Grades. Plenty of clubs took advantage of the home ground advantage over the weekend and find themselves ready to go for a Grand Final this weekend.

My mind wanders back to this day in 2021 where we had the most interesting of days across all of the grades and the storylines that were built. There were tense battles across the greens with Grade 6 finishing at a draw before Weston Creek took it out on extra ends and there were undefeated teams going down left and right. If you look back, you were better off coming in as the underdog as they second best on paper took out most of the games.

It is a fascinating look into what we're in for across the weekend this year as we get set to renew some old battles, revisit local rivalries, and start some new ones across the grades. Canberra and Goulburn go head to head in Grade 2 for the second year running while on the Saturday local rivals Goulburn and Crookwell will go head to head in Grade 5. Bungendore have built on 2021's disappointment to make it there again while the biggest players in 2021, in Weston Creek and QRSL, won't be represented across the weekend.

Whatever club you're supporting across the weekend we're excited to celebrate the game with you down in Tuggeranong. We'll have Henselite setting up shop for both days and the Vikings volunteers on the BBQ all day in what should be a great way to bring the community together. All we ask of you is that we see you there with a smile and fantastic attitude to display bowls to Canberra.



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Maclaurin Cres, Chifley, ACT, 2606
@bowlsact



www.bowlsact.org.au
0499 587 783
admin@bowlsact.org.au



Contact for more info:

chris.falkner@henselite.com.au

Chris Falkner - 0499 472 874



HENSELITE DAY

Fri 20th- Sun 22nd May

Pennant Grand Finals Weekend

Tuggeranong Vikings BC

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Grade 1

Results

Semi Final 1	Vikings Bowls Club	65	38	Canberra Bowling Club
Semi Final 2	Queanbeyan Bowling Club	55	56	Belconnen Bowling Club
Preliminary Final	Canberra Bowling Club	47	62	Belconnen Bowling Club

Fair bit to unpack from the 1st Grade competition over a brilliant weekend. Vikings held on tot heir strong from throughout the season to take a convincing win over Canberra and move themselves straight onto the Grand Final. They took it out easily in the end, winning by almost 30 shots overall and now sit pretty with the Grand Final on their home turf.

Across town though it wasn't as easy going for the higher placed side as Queanbeyan were absolutely pipped at the post by Belconnen. An absolute thriller that nobody will forget anytime soon saw Belconnen taking it all with them in the elimination final out at Queanbeyan. QBC showed their usual consistency, however, Belconnen managed to find an extra bowl somewhere to just snag victory away. Devastating way to finish the season for QBC, but for Belconnen a brilliant motivator for Sunday.

Belconnen came into the match off the back of a thrilling win whilst the circumstances were a bit more sobering for Canberra on the Saturday. The Cobras needed to find their form early in the piece to silence a few of the Belconnen celebrations if they wanted to take the win, but inevitably weren't able to do so. Belconnen showed all year that on their day they can match and beat anyone in the competition, and in a spate of bad luck for the Cobras it would appear that Sunday was Belconnen's day. They ran out victors to the tune of 15 points over CBC and seal their place in the Grand Final against Vikings. Another strong season for Canberra ends in disappointment, this time a week earlier as they're left to pick up the pieces and move on to 2023.

Last Time They Met

Round 3 – Vikings Bowls Club 55 – 48 Belconnen Bowling Club

Round 10 – Belconnen Bowling Club 54 – 59 Vikings Bowls Club



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admin@bowlsact.org.au

The Final Dance – Vikings Bowls Club v Belconnen Bowling Club

Vikings will come into this match strong favourites based on their form through the season, as well as recent (very recent) history between them and Belconnen. They've got the job done over Belconnen twice this year, both at home and away throughout the season. Both matchups so far have been tantalisingly close in what tells me that this is going to be a Grand Final that is not to be missed.

Vikings continued their form against Canberra in Semi Final 1 to show that they haven't been making it up as they go and that they are in fact the real deal through the back end of the season. It was a very different weekend for Belconnen though as they went through the full range of excitement to make their way into the Grand Final. I've not quite found any rhythm to the madness that can be Belconnen so far this season, but when they've been found needing the results they've somehow managed to produce in what can be some wildly swinging form lines.

Regardless, we're at the big one and both clubs have the opportunity to secure a piece of history on Sunday as they go head to head in the Grand Final. Vikings hold the front position as we come in, but the odds would be shortening on Belconnen as we get closer and closer. My prediction is an extremely tight matchup across the green, with Vikings taking it by 3 shots on the big board.



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0499 587 783
admin@bowlsact.org.au

Grade 2

Results

Semi Final 1	Canberra Bowling Club	69	50	Goulburn Railway Bowling Club
Semi Final 2	Yass Bowling Club	46	63	Queanbeyan Bowling Club
Preliminary Final	Goulburn Railway Bowling Club	56	49	Queanbeyan Bowling Club

Saturday looked like Grade 2 were going to put on a replication of what we've seen in Grade 1 for the day. Top placed Canberra were well and truly too strong for Goulburn in the first Semi Final. They took it out by 19 shots at home to send Goulburn back home with their tail between their legs. Goulburn weren't quite up to the challenge for the day, perhaps suspecting like many of us that we wouldn't get on the greens, but that isn't to say they aren't up for the challenge.

In the second Semi Final we saw Yass host Queanbeyan looking to keep their season moving along. It was set as a big challenge for them with Queanbeyan having played some strong bowls through the season and looking to build further into the season. The home club looked rocked early and were never able to find the jack through the match as they went down at home to a ruthless Queanbeyan to the tune of 17 shots overall. A very disappointing way to finish the season on your home green, I'm sure there are plenty of lessons to be learnt for Yass out of that one. For Queanbeyan though it was onward and upward.

Sunday saw Goulburn playing host to Queanbeyan having made the journey home on the Saturday night to recollect their thoughts and resurrect their season. For Queanbeyan it meant another day on the road as they went from Yass to home to Goulburn within 18 hours in search of a Grand Final. It might just be that those hours on the road started to take their toll though as Goulburn started to put them down well on the home green. In the end it was Goulburn that came out on top, but they had to work for it as Queanbeyan came within 7 shots in the end of making the Grand Finals from the long run.


Last Time They Met

Round 7 – Goulburn Railway Bowling Club 47 – 52 Canberra Bowling Club

Semi Final 1 – Canberra Bowling Club 69 – 50 Goulburn Railway Bowling Club



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 admin@bowlsact.org.au

The Final Dance – Canberra Bowling Club v Goulburn Railway Bowling Club

We've hit the last match of the season in Grade 2 with the same two clubs playing for the flag in 2022 as we had in 2021. Both Canberra and Goulburn have set the pace in the competition across the year and it is no coincidence that they come together to add another chapter to their burgeoning rivalry. No doubt we're looking at a cracker, so let's see what we can expect.

Canberra have really dominated since handing Goulburn their first loss of the 2021 season in last year's Grand Final. They've put plenty of due diligence into the bowls throughout the season recording just the one loss along the way to find themselves at the top of the table come the end of the home and away. Not to be put at the mercy of the weather they put them down on the right tracks against Goulburn on the Saturday to make their way into the Grand Final.

Goulburn on the other hand have done it a little bit harder through the season, battling through three losses across the home and away to finish second on the ladder. Always a tough opponent at home they were up against it to get the win on the Saturday last week and ultimately couldn't get the job done on the day. They've done it the hard way though heading back home to get past Queanbeyan on the Sunday.

The Cobras have taken a win in both matchups so far through the season with the ghosts of 2021 somewhat haunting the Goulburn side throughout the season. They only just got over the line during the home and away out at Goulburn, but were very successful in their endeavours at home in the Semi Final. In saying that though, Goulburn showed just how difficult it can be to finish the job in 2021 and they'll really be out to settle the score come Sunday. Goulburn need to improve to be able to get the job done over CBC this weekend, with the Cobras in the box seat on paper. I'd be tipping Canberra to take it out on Sunday, but they'll have to make sure they're up for the challenge to get it done.



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Grade 3

Results

Semi Final 1	Crookwell Services Bowling Club	78	33	Canberra Bowling Club
Semi Final 2	Yowani CC Bowling Club	58	54	Weston Creek Bowling Club
Preliminary Final	Canberra Bowling Club	78	50	Yowani CC Bowling Club

Crookwell really set the standard on Saturday with a romping win over Canberra at home, to the tune of 45 shots, in what would go to show they are definitely the team to beat. Canberra weren't up to standard but would be hoping that it is just a blip on the radar on their way to the Grand Final.

Elsewhere, Yowani took it up to Weston Creek to push their way through to the Preliminary Final on a slim margin of just the 4 shots. The Creek set themselves up for the challenge on the day, coming from a long way back, but weren't able to get the job done on the day with Yowani proving too good.

The Preliminary Final saw Canberra playing host to Yowani, looking to bounce back from a terrible trip to Crookwell the day before. Yowani came out strong looking to build on their work from Saturday and push on towards a massive victory and a Grand Final. Ultimately though, Canberra proved that they were the better team with a decisive victory by 28 shots overall. Yowani really did give it their best shot to take their season on a bit further, but the top two from the season proved that they really did earn their spots up the top. A disappointing result for Yowani, but CBC find themselves in another Grand Final.

Last Time They Met

Round 5 – Crookwell Services Bowling Club 66 – 45 Canberra Bowling Club

Round 10 – Canberra Bowling Club 52 – 46 Crookwell Services Bowling Club

Semi Final 1 – Crookwell Services Bowling Club 78 – 33 Canberra Bowling Club



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The Final Dance – Crookwell Services Bowling Club v Canberra Bowling Club

There is a little bit more than meets the eye with this clash coming up on Sunday. Crookwell absolutely dismantled Canberra on Saturday, but that was on a home deck after a week of rain. If we go back through the season we see some closer battles with more mixed results across the matches that these two have played. Crookwell have taken out both matches at home through the season, with the last being Saturday just gone, but when the match was taken over to Canberra in the last round of the season the tables were turned and the Cobras got the job done.

This weekend will be the third on the bounce that the two teams have come up against each other, with a fair bit of travel involved for both teams in that time. Crookwell hold the advantage across those matches, but as we've seen the weather could have something to do with that. Canberra will be coming into the matchup looking to put the Saturday matchup behind them and take it on as a new opportunity as they must.

For Crookwell, they'll need to put the win out of their mind as they move off the home greens and out into the big wide world to take it on for the title. 8 wins through the season is proof that they aren't reliant on the home ground advantage and that they can take out the flag on foreign ground, but they need to be at their best.

With both clubs being taken off home ground this should be an enticing battle amongst two heavy hitters in the competition. If both clubs show up for the match it'll be a titanic struggle between the two, but if someone shows up with a rink down then it could well be lights out. Consistent clubs on both sides, I'm predicting a very close matchup for this one.



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0499 587 783
admin@bowlfact.org.au

Grade 4

Results

Semi Final 1	Queanbeyan Bowling Club	74	44	Yass Bowling Club
Semi Final 2	Queanbeyan RSLM Bowling Club	73	46	Vikings Bowls Club
Preliminary Final	Yass Bowling Club	54	51	Queanbeyan RSLM Bowling Club

Queanbeyan blasted their way straight through to the Grand Final on Saturday with a resounding win against Yass to the tune of 30 shots on the big board. They did it with class and ease in what should be a very settling score heading into the Grand Final. Yass are left to pick up the pieces, but would have no doubt that they can make that score turnaround a bit if they get the chance.

Back towards the Capital and QRSL made pretty light work of Vikings in what was a fairly predictable result coming into the matchup. There was a clear top three that QRSL ended up on the back end of at the end of the season and they went in to the matchup just needing to put down some consistent form. They did so and ended up a strong 27 shots up on Vikings to keep their season alive and move on to Sunday. Vikings would be disappointed with the results, but no doubt will be down at the club to throw some support behind Grade 1 and watch the Grade 4 Grand Final with some disappointment that they aren't playing.

The Preliminary final looked set to be a fantastic matchup as Yass played host to QRSL to win through to the Grand Final. The top three was a close battle through the season which meant that the Prelim was always going to be a challenge for whoever found themselves there. And that is exactly what we saw on Sunday as Yass held out against QRSL by just the 3 shots overall. QRSL brought it all to the table to try to win their way through, but ultimately they were unsuccessful, putting an end to the clubs Pennant campaign for 2022.

Last Time They Met

Round 4 – Yass Bowling Club 54 – 68 Queanbeyan Bowling Club

Round 9 – Queanbeyan Bowling Club 55 – 45 Yass Bowling Club

Semi Final 1 – Queanbeyan Bowling Club 74 – 44 Yass Bowling Club



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The Final Dance – Queanbeyan Bowling Club v Yass Bowling Club

Queanbeyan have been dominant through the course of the season and so far have really put a bit of hurt on Yass throughout. Yass only lost two matches through the home and away season, but two of those losses were at the hands of Queanbeyan and now they have doubled down to put a huge win on Yass in the Semi Final. History is certainly not on the side of Yass coming into this weekend's Grand Final, but as we've talked about before, anything can happen!

Yass have come through the season with some inconsistent results, but hung on to the top two spot at the end of the home and away by just the single point. They made it count though after going down to Queanbeyan in the first Semi before using their double chance to get over the line against QRS in a result that showed the ladder result was a true reflection of the closeness on the ladder.

So we come into the Grand Final with history telling us a story that Yass aren't at the level of Queanbeyan right now. The Grand Final represents an opportunity for Yass to put that all behind them and really push forward to show their true colours on the day. I've seen plenty of clubs fall at the final hurdle and for Queanbeyan the pressure is stacking up coming towards the big day. They've done all the good work for now, but they still need to finish strong to take home the win.

It will be a battle of consistency when these two come together on Sunday to see who puts the better bowls down across all three rinks. Yass haven't been consistently been putting the bowls down which has resulted in up and down results across the season, but the picture couldn't be any more different from Queanbeyan. They've been a picture of consistency across the season which will put them in good stead coming up to this one. All Queanbeyan need to do is play their own bowls to take out the win and you'd be bold to bet against them taking the flag on the weekend.



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0499 587 783
admin@bowlsact.org.au

Grade 5

Results

Semi Final 1	Crookwell Services Bowling Club	62	46	Goulburn Railway Bowling Club
Semi Final 2	Weston Creek Bowling Club	59	53	Queanbeyan Bowling Club
Preliminary Final	Goulburn Railway Bowling Club	55	46	Weston Creek Bowling Club

Crookwell enter into a second Grand Final for the club in 2022 with a healthy win against the old foe in the Railway at home. They finished top of the table and put it to good work as Goulburn headed up the highway only to be sent back home to play again the next day. It was a good margin with 16 shots ahead after the last bowls and they look all set to have a good crack at the Flag come Saturday. For Goulburn though it puts them on the hard path to the flag with plenty of work to be done to pick up those extra bowls.

The Creek took out their first win across two matches with a good showing against Queanbeyan, getting across the line by a slim 6 shots to progress further into the season. Queanbeyan put up a valiant effort, but in the end weren't quite up to scratch and see their season put to bed down at Stirling. For the Creekers it was a good hitout that would give them plenty of confidence heading into the next day's Preliminary Final against the Railway.

Weston Creek faced a tough ask in heading out to Goulburn for a chance to play in a Grand Final. Never an easy task they took the opportunity with both hands but were ultimately unsuccessful in their bid to claim a spot in the big dance. Goulburn, heavy favourites on their home deck, put in another great display for the club to see a second team entering into Grand Finals off the back of Grade 2's success. It wasn't easy though as Weston Creek closed the margin down to just the 9 shots overall in a fair display. Goulburn will be happy to put that one behind them and roll into a massive clash of rivals in their biggest game of the season looking to add a bit of history to the story between the two clubs.

Last Time They Met

Round 2 (postponed) – Crookwell Services Bowling Club 55 – 56 Goulburn Railway Bowling Club

Round 7 – Goulburn Railway Bowling Club 53 – 56 Crookwell Services Bowling Club

Semi Final 1 – Crookwell Services Bowling Club 62 – 46 Goulburn Railway Bowling Club



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admin@bowlsact.org.au

The Final Dance – Crookwell Services Bowling Club v Goulburn Railway Bowling Club

Such an interesting season has been played between these two clubs over the course of the home and away and even into the finals series. They've shared the wins across the home and away, each coming with a victory on the other's home turf, but it was Crookwell that proved too good in their most recent clash at home in the first Semi Final. Never to be deterred we should be in for a cracker as the old foes go head to head for a flag.

Crookwell have been up and down through the season. When they're on they are hot, but when they're off they've been lukewarm at best. They managed to finish the season at the top of the pile despite having less wins than Goulburn through the home and away. When they won they piled it on across the greens, but somehow managed to find themselves on the wrong side of the scoreboard a few times. It'll be interesting to see how that consistency goes test at a neutral venue.

Goulburn have played some brilliant bowls at times through the season, yet found themselves in the uncomfortable position of having to head up the road to Crookwell for the first Semi Final. They hit a snag there, but nevertheless turned it around the next day against an in form Weston Creek to secure their spot in the Grand Final. An interesting season for the club will come to a culmination alongside their colleagues on Saturday.

This is set to be a fantastic tussle between two clubs who know each other pretty well. No doubt they'll both be looking forward to this one as they go head to head as the old rivals playing off for the biggest prize. One and one during the season with the home club on the losing end both times, both clubs have what it takes to win the flag this year and it'll come down to a hitout on a neutral green. Crookwell hold the advantage in the headspace after a decent victory on Saturday, but that won't deter the Railway on their quest. I am certain there will be plenty of Goulburn supporters there on Saturday so I'd be watching out for a few buses making their way into town across Saturday and Sunday as both clubs go after some success.

Very tough match to call and no doubt that this one will go down to the wire in what will hopefully be as thrilling as the 2021 Grand Finals. I'm tipping Crookwell to get over the line on recent form, but I don't think you'll get past 5 shots difference on the day and you'll want to find a seat early to watch it.



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Grade 6

Results

Semi Final 1	Goulburn Railway Bowling Club	61	67	Bungendore Bowling Club
Semi Final 2	Canberra Bowling Club	60	54	Vikings Bowls Club
Preliminary Final	Goulburn Railway Bowling Club	60	45	Canberra Bowling Club

A dip in form on the back end of the season seems to have rectified itself for Bungendore as they come out on top in the first Semi Final. They struggled in the back end letting Goulburn move past them to the top of the tree, missing out on the home Semi, but they didn't let it get to them. Goulburn couldn't get the result they were after and have to come back and do it all again the next day.

A nice and tight match for the second Semi Final as Canberra played host to Vikings to play for a spot in the Preliminary Final. The Cobras took it out by just the 6 shots overall to send the Vikings packing, leaving just the 1st Grade squad to represent the club over the Grand Final weekend. Canberra were too strong, but they didn't get the results they would have been after based on the ladder positions. They were stronger than that through the season and would be a bit concerned that they couldn't put a few more shots on them, but they got the job done which is what counts at finals time.

Goulburn played host to their third Preliminary Final on Sunday as the Cobras came to town looking to get their season back on track. Home ground advantage was all at play across the greens though as Goulburn finished off a fantastic day for the club to win through and send a third side through to the Grand Finals. They did it well, 15 shots overall, and rally the troops to move on to the Grand Final with form back on their side to get the job done.

Last Time They Met

Round 5 – Bungendore Bowling Club 64 – 50 Goulburn Railway Bowling Club

Round 10 – Goulburn Railway Bowling Club 63 – 53 Bungendore Bowling Club

Semi Final 1 – Goulburn Railway Bowling Club 61 – 67 Bungendore Bowling Club



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The Final Dance – Bungendore Bowling Club v Goulburn Railway Bowling Club

A fair split of the spoil between the two clubs through the season with Bungendore setting a good early pace out in front of Goulburn, but they lost their way a little through the backend. Goulburn were storming home and took the victory in the last round of the season by 10 shots, building some good form into the finals series. But Bungendore managed to turn it around coming into the finals, heading out to Goulburn to get the job done and find their mojo at just the right time.

Bungendore's season has gone up and down since losing the Grand Final in 2021. They have shown some strong form, especially early in the season, before they lost their way coming through the back end of the season. They let it slip in the last couple rounds with a loss to the Railway in Round 10 kicking them off the top of the tree, but turned it around to flip the result and play through to the Grand Final.

Goulburn have done things the hard way through the season. They never looked like the strongest in the Grade, but they managed to put wins on the board when they were needed. In proving the point they were storming home with a wet sail to take out wins across the final weekend and put themselves atop of the ladder. From there though they hit a snag in a resurgent Bungendore with a rare loss at home before re-finding the form to play through.

This will be a tense battle. Bungendore will have some memories of the extra ends in 2021's Grand Finals etched strongly in their memory, but will be hoping it doesn't come to that again. Goulburn have their third side in the Grand Final and will look to build on the club strength to push everyone to greater heights. It'll be a tense battle, but with the extra experience of last year I'm tipping Bungendore to take this one out.



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Maclaurin Cres, Chifley, ACT, 2606
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0499 587 783
admin@bowlsact.org.au

Grade 7

Results

Semi Final 1	Canberra North Bowling Club	37	70	Yass Bowling Club
Semi Final 2	Weston Creek Bowling Club	65	46	Crookwell Services Bowling Club
Preliminary Final	Canberra North Bowling Club	69	42	Weston Creek Bowling Club

Yass really showed up to the party this weekend where you could be forgiven for thinking that Norths missed the memo entirely. They poured down the shots in the first Semi Final here to take the match out by 43 shots overall at Norths, sending them into a Prelim. Norths would be disappointed with that showing, no doubt with plenty of the club there in support. They need to pick up the pieces to get their heads straight from here on out.

Weston Creek played host to Crookwell looking to fight their way through to the Grand Final and put up a good show to take the match out by 19 shots overall in a fairly dominant performance. It spells the end of the road for Crookwell's season in Grade 7, but they never really had a good chance to take this one out. For Weston Creek it was a good tune up and they put the bowls down well to take it out and head into a Prelim with everything on the line.

Norths forgot to show up on Saturday but thanks to a solid season they had the chance at home to play their way through to a Grand Final against the Creek. They definitely found their feet though as they took out the clash by a good 17 shots overall at the end of the day. For the Creek, that spells the end of their seasons across the grades, unable to follow up on their dominance in 2021 and bowing out with no teams in the Grand Finals. For Norths, that was the match they needed to find a bit of form as they run into the Grand Final.

Last Time They Met

Round 1 – Yass Bowling Club 51 – 48 Canberra North Bowling Club

Round 6 – Canberra North Bowling Club 41 – 58 Yass Bowling Club

Semi Final 1 – Canberra North Bowling Club 37 – 70 Yass Bowling Club



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0499 587 783
admin@bowlsact.org.au

The Final Dance – Yass Bowling Club v Canberra North Bowling Club

Norths definitely didn't show up last week against Yass at home when they were dismantled by Yass to the tune of 43 shots. This wasn't the case through the season though as they went one for one with the home team struggling on both occasions and going down. So, we don't have a clear picture looking into the history if we put that Semi Final down to a blip on the radar.

Norths have been a surprise packet throughout the season managing to hold themselves out on top of the table into the finals series. They finished even on wins with Yass, but managed to find some extra points in the season despite some really tumultuous rounds. Up and down through the season Norths really weren't up for it on Saturday, but they managed to find their feet and not fall out in straight sets in the Prelim. I'd say that was what they need and they'll be back up for it.

Yass have been up and down through the season as well though, taking big wins and big losses along the way in what is an absolute picture of Grade 7 bowls. You get that happening sometimes where people move up a grade to fill the hole and wreck the form of the lower grades. They really showed what they can do on their day though when they played Norths last week in putting up massive shots to flex their muscles.

It'll all come down to Saturday for both of these sides as they look to put it together at the right time. Results have ebbed and flowed for both clubs and they've shown that they can really play well, or be dismal. That's the great part of the finals series though, you need to be at your best at the right time of the year and that's where we find ourselves right now. Yass have the form on paper, but Norths found themselves again the next day to give it another crack. I'm tipping Norths to come back in a big way this Saturday and to take it out over Yass. It'd be a sight to see, but they'll have the whole club riding along on the journey as they go to give them the extra push they need.



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