



The Pennant

IN FOCUS



BOWLS
ACT



2023 Preview

Welcome to the first edition of *The Pennant* for 2023. Much has changed since the previous edition, including the author! Thanks to Ciaran for his work to inform all members and clubs of the happenings in 2022 and for leaving me his big shoes in 2023.

Bowls ACT members can find all the results on [BowlsLink](#) in 2023. I ask that clubs get the results in promptly after each game for the benefit of all members.

So without further ado, let's take a look at each grade for 2023. Good luck and good bowling to everyone!!

Nick Hind – Bowls ACT Executive Officer

Grade 1

The hangover for last years party would have been epic, but a premiersip hangover is something Belconnen can ill-afford have gone from hunters to the hunted this year. 2022 Runners-up Tuggeranong will be looking to go one better while the stacked Canberra BC are always likely to finish at the pointy end. Weston Creek have plenty of pedigree in this competition while 2021 winners Queanbeyan RSL Memorial will be prepared for a big campaign and have long shown class in the top competition as their neighbours at Queanbeyan Bowls Club are putting together a roster with rightful aspirations at the title. I'm not brave enough to tip a winner in any grade, but this race looks especially tight in 2023

Grade 2

Expanded to eight teams in two playing pools might see some unexpected outcomes in 2023. Canberra BC might start as favourites after saluting in 2022, but must expect stiff competition with Canberra North looking to make a statement in the grade. Goulburn Railway continue to be ultra-competitive and will be looking for some inspiration for Goulburn Golden Girl Ellen Ryan to claim the title. Yass are rebuilding well and look to have some talent while Crookwell have risen through the ACT grades quickly, and are excited to be tested at this level. Queanbeyan, Belconnen & Weston Creek were all fighting for the last spot in the 2022 finals and I would expect all three to be in contention again in 2023.

Grade 3

With significant turnover with teams it makes a form line hard to judge in this grade. Yowani have their top side in Grade 3 and have plenty of experienced campaigners as well as some youth coming through their systems who might be tested in this grade. Canberra North, Tuggeranong and Canberra BC have experience at this level and will be ready to improve on 2022 while Queanbeyan RSL Memorial and Queanbeyan Bowls Club are new into the grade for 2023 and can never be discounted after finishing at the pointy end of Grade 4 in 2022.



Grade 4

Another tricky grade with last years winners moving up. Yass could be the favourites given the 2022 results, but it's a new season and new players will have new scores to settle. Crookwell have moved into the grade and can be expected to be strong. Tuggeranong, Yowani & Belconnen will be looking to improve on the 2022 results, while Weston Creek feel this will be a good test after a challenging season in Grade 3 in 2022.

Grade 5

2022 saw an anomaly with Goulburn winning the most games, but not topping the ladder, showing the importance of the big-board needs to be balanced with rink wins. I would expect Railway to go close in another grade with significant turnover, as we welcome the first of **two** Bungendore teams in 2023, the great little club will be looking to prove themselves in the higher grade after claiming grade 6 in 2022. Belconnen are likely to be seeing some of their newer members from the highly successful Night Owls given some experience while Canberra are the other newbies in this grade after a big season in Grade 6 and will benefit from the experience. Queanbeyan snuck into the finals last year and with Vikings will be looking to be better for the experience of the 2022 season.

Grade 6

Expect the unexpected in this grade in 2023! As a low grade battler myself I'm fully aware of the remarkable shots which get pulled out and with all the teams represented having access to quality facilities and coaching, I expect the 'bombs' to be played with a greater frequency as the season progresses. Vikings are the only team to remain in this grade from 2022 so it could be a photo finish between them and the field of Yass, Queanbeyan RSL Memorial, Weston Creek, Canberra North & Queanbeyan.

Grade 7

Everything said above can be doubly true in Grade 7. There is going to be a bit of travel in this grade but is a great opportunity for clubs to build connections and see new players enter the sport. Congratulations must go to Bungendore for fielding two teams, as a member of a one green club I appreciate how challenging this can be. Best of luck to them as well as Yass, Yowani, Crookwell, Tuggeranong and Goulburn Railway.

If you have any photos or stories to share from the weekends games send them through to exec@bowlsact.org.au and I'll be sure to give you a shoutout!!

Best wishes and great bowls!!

