



## Opening Weekend Wrap

Pennant games have returned for 2023 with a superb weekend for bowls to be played across the ACT and Capital region. Thanks to all the clubs who hosted across the weekend and to all the players, greens staff, managers and volunteers who make our sport great. I had the pleasure of watching a few games across the weekend, visiting Goulburn Railway, Yowani, Canberra North and Canberra Bowling Club to soak up the excitement of the new season.

Bowls ACT members can find all the results on [BowlsLink](#) in 2023. I congratulate all the clubs for doing their best to have results in promptly and accurately after the games.

**Nick Hind – Bowls ACT Executive Officer**

### Grade 1

I said in the preview this race looks especially tight and results from the weekend have proved that all the clubs will believe they are a chance. Lots of close games and only one side with two wins. Weston Creek top the ladder, claiming victories against Vikings and Queanbeyan RSL but it won't get any easier with a game against 2022 champions Belconnen this weekend in the match of the round.

### Grade 2

Goulburn Railway had the privilege of Ellen Ryan in attendance ahead of their games on Saturday and must have been inspired by the dual Commonwealth Games Gold Medallist, claiming two wins across the weekend to lead the ladder. The next **six** teams all have one win and one loss, making the grade finely balanced. Crookwell (2<sup>nd</sup>) and Queanbeyan (3<sup>rd</sup>) will be the match of round 3 with both sides looking to stay up the top of the ladder and put the pressure of Goulburn.

### Grade 3

Queanbeyan RSL are off to a fast start in Grade 3, claiming one big rink win to get the master board against QBC on Saturday before scoring maximum points on Sunday over Norths. A trip to Tuggeranong for QRSL looks to be the pick of the round 3 games with Vikings sitting third early and looking to go with the early front-runners.



### Grade 4

Two big wins for Yass sees the club take an early lead in Grade 4. The club has been building some good depth and was predicted by *The Pennant* to be competitive in this grade. Belconnen are off to a slower start and will be at home against Weston Creek this weekend needing a win to boost their season in what looks to be a vital early game.

### Grade 5

Amazingly grade 5 is the first grade which has two teams undefeated through the opening weekend. Goulburn Railway and Bungendore both two from two, and given they don't run into one another until round five they could be at the pointy end for a while. Canberra BC bounced back from a tough day against Railway in round one to claim a strong win against QBC in round two. The Cobras are up against Bungendore this weekend in what looks to be the pick of the games.

### Grade 6

Canberra North & Queanbeyan Bowls Club are atop the ladder after the opening weekend, with both claiming two wins on opening weekend and will be playing each other in round three! What a good bit of scheduling!! Queanbeyan might have an advantage on their home greens but Norths have shown to be very consistent across the rinks and will take some beating.

### Grade 7

It's been a tough start for the second Bungendore team, but they can be encouraged by heading home this weekend for round three. The club must be applauded for bringing so many new players in to the sport and I've no doubt they will get better as the season progresses. The top of the ladder has Goulburn Railway & Yowani undefeated and I've picked out the local derby between Railway and Crookwell, first v third, as a potential match of the round for grade 7 this weekend.

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

Best wishes and great bowls!!

