



Round 5 – Half season review

The weather has been kind, the competition has been fierce and we can now look back at the half-way point of the season and see how some pre-season predictions are tracking as well as look at what each club needs to do in the back half of the 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

Only two games completed with Australian duties for James Reynolds giving CBC and Weston Creek the weekend off with the game to be played following Multi-Nations. QRSL and QBC had a battle worthy of the local derby with both clubs claiming a strong rink win each with Scott Dagwells rink holding their nerve claiming a close result over Wade Turner to claim the master board. Belconnen looked in ominous form in their Grand Final rematch against Vikings with two rinks getting up and only a fine performance from the Glenn Morton rink blotting the copybook for Belco.

Weston Creek have their destiny in their own hands in Grade 1, with 41 out of a possible 48 points so far. The rest of the clubs are hard to get a read on with all clubs very evenly matched. I'm expecting the battle for the top four to come down to the last weekend with the double header looming as being massively important.

Grade 2

My prediction last week for game of the round did not disappoint! Goulburn Railway have held onto top spot but faced their biggest test against local rivals Crookwell claiming one rink with only eight shots separating the sides. Yass took a stumble against Canberra after their big win last week and will need to find some more consistency with both sides sitting mid table. Queanbeyan claimed a good win over Weston Creek who haven't been able to capture the same magic as their grade 1 side as yet while Norths got over the line against Belco on the back of a big with to the Nathan Savino rink.

It looks to be Goulburn Railway then any of the the next five in Grade two with Weston Creek and Belco really going to have to get going in the second half if they are going to be in the mix for finals.



Grade 3

Remarkably QBC are atop the ladder with only a +4 shot differential with Norths in third only +8. Canberra BC are getting closer to getting their first win in the grade in 2023, down by 9 shots to a QRSL team that seems to be finding some form, moving into second overall. Yowani got a good win over Vikings as did Queanbeyan over Norths giving the top four a bit of a break over Vikings and CBC.

Queanbeyan RSL look to be hitting their straps and will take on QBC next week for the top spot.

Grade 4

Grade four is starting to take shape with the top four getting a bit of a break over the trailing Vikings and Belconnen though neither side has been disgraced this week, Belco falling narrowly on all rinks to Yowani while a good win to Kevin Antione's team was the difference as Weston Creek defeated Vikings two rinks to one. Yass came back into form with a big win over Crookwell, moving back into second spot just behind Weston Creek.

With the top four looking reasonably settled it will take some big efforts from Vikings and Belconnen to get a finals berth, while for the top four there will likely be plenty of jostling for position and the important top two finish.

Grade 5

We've had to wait until round five but the big clash between Goulburn Railway and Bungendore came down to just one shot!! Bungendore claiming the big board, the battle, but not the war! Railway still in first after their hot start has claimed enough rinks to overcome a big board defeat. The rest of the field looks to be fairly evenly matched, Belconnen knocking off Canberra by just two shots while Queanbeyan fell to Vikings to give the Tuggeranong side their first win of the season.

I'm declaring Railway & Bungendore will be in the finals, for the other sides consistency will be the key with the first side to win a couple in a row likely to get there safely and not have to worry about results going their way.

Grade 6

The local derby between RSL and QBC was another great game in the rivalry. One rink each and a draw meant a tight finish, QBC claiming the win by 7 shots on the master board. Yass & Vikings had another tremendous game with only 5 shots the margin, pushing Yass into second place. Weston Creek played their most complete game of the season, claiming two





comfortable rinks over Norths, but missing out on the sweep thanks to a one shot win by Denise Seaton.

QRSL will need to have a lot break their way to make the finals here while the other five sides look pretty well matched.

Grade 7

Vikings are heating up, claiming their second win in a row by a good margin, this time over Crookwell by 37 shots, improving their margin and moving the side into third overall. Yass gave the undefeated Goulburn Railway a good tussle, but not to be as Railway continue undefeated in the grade. Mick Argent doing the damage for Goulburn as Yass claimed one rink and drew the other. Bungendore are starting to show some improvement, taking a rink off the second place Yowani in a narrow defeat by just 8 shots.

Goulburn look the team to beat in this grade but Yowani and Vikings are both close enough if good enough. It will be an intriguing second half of the season for those clubs and for the final spot in the post-season.

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!!



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