



BOWLS
ACT



Round 8 Review & Final Weekend Preview

We're down to the final weekend of the home & away season and remarkably all but four teams are still a chance at finals! Credit must go to all the clubs for their nominations and to the match committee for work in allocating the gradings in 2023. It is an often thankless task, but given the closeness of the competition in every grade this year I believe the committee deserve acknowledgment.

The final two rounds are likely to throw up some weird and wonderful results before finals commence with more possible permutations than my slightly COVID impacted brain can figure out. The best I can say is that it will all be clear on Monday!!

Nick Hind – Bowls ACT Executive Officer

Grade 1

Canberra got off the bottom of the ladder with a win over Queanbeyan, putting their NSW neighbours in peril of missing the top four with now only with very little separating the fifth place Cobras from the now fourth place Stingers. Vikings claimed a strong win over a recently resurgent QRSL to move into third as the Glenn Morton rink really fired, but will need to keep winning with only 10 points between third and sixth. Belconnen are getting it together at the right time claiming a two rink win over Weston Creek, despite the best efforts of the Ian Whybrow rink who helped keep it close. Belconnen take on QRSL on Saturday in a match which could define the Yass Rd clubs season as my pick for Saturday, while CBC take on Weston Creek on Sunday in my pick of the games for round 10.

Grade 2

Goulburn Railway remain in top spot but may have shown some vulnerability late in the season, falling to a Queanbeyan side desperate to make the final four. Sadly for Weston Creek their Grade 2 side will be playing for pride this weekend after a defeat to Norths has ended their finals chances, though the Turner club have finals in their sights, holding a 1 point margin to sit second overall. The topsy-turvy seasons of Crookwell and Yass have added to the drama of the finals, Yass claiming maximum points on the road to move back into finals contention and currently sit third. Canberra remain fourth but let a chance to solidify their finals berth slip with John Bice doing damage for Belconnen in 9/3 victory to the visiting team as the Belco Grade 2 side remains a chance, but will likely need to claim both master boards on the final weekend. The Crookwell v Belconnen game is my pick for Saturday while Queanbeyan take on Canberra on Sunday in what could well be for the final spot in the post-season.



Grade 3

Canberra BC are now out of contention in Grade 3, falling by a single shot to Canberra North in a wild game at Forrest. It was a valiant effort against the now top ranked Norths who will be looking to hang onto a home green for finals with two big games this weekend.

Queanbeyan RSL also have two big games coming up after falling outside the top four with a loss to Vikings who move into fourth place. Yowani are the quiet achievers in this Grade, currently sitting third after defeating Queanbeyan and play QRSL on Saturday in a crucial match for both teams. Sundays best game? Norths v QBC. First v Second. Could well be for a home semi-final or even just a second chance in the finals by claiming a top two finish.

Grade 4

Belconnen can start planning for 2023 after a tough season for their Grade 4 side, but all players will be better for the opportunity and will be proud to cheer on their club mates in the finals. Weston Creek are getting very hot! The Creekers play Yass on Saturday in a good test of the credentials of the NSW club, looking to bounce back after defeat by Vikings on the weekend. Crookwell moved up into third winning what was my pick for game of the round by a narrow 5 shots over Yowani. This will be an interesting final weekend with the teams jockeying for final spots. I can't see Weston Creek getting caught in first so the battle will be for second, between Yass & Crookwell and fourth between Vikings and Yowani. In some more brilliant & remarkable scheduling Vikings host Yowani on Saturday and Crookwell are home to Yass on Sunday!!

Grade 5

Bungendore might not be ready to play Grade 1 just yet! One of the two remaining undefeated teams has finally fallen, Canberra BC claiming the big scalp in a two rink to one victory and moving the Cobras into third at an even .500 in baseball terms. Queanbeyan gave their players and fans reason to believe, overcoming Goulburn Railway to sit 1 point outside the finals moving into the last weekend of regular competition. The final game saw Vikings have a good day and move from last to fourth courtesy of a big win to the Brendan Spaven rink. Crystal ball time and I have Bungendore finishing minor premiers and Goulburn finish second with a narrow win over the Bungendore in the final round. I'll have Canberra to finish third but then it could be any of Vikings, Belco or Queanbeyan for fourth. QBC v Vikings on Sunday could be the decider.



Grade 6

With some washout games played on Saturday and Round 8 games completed on Sunday we now have a picture on the finals that is clear as mud! Yass have won two in a row to hit the front as QBC have lost two in a row. Never a good time for that, but when you're left in second overall it's still OK. Queanbeyan falling to Norths to give the Turner club a fighting chance at finals. Canberra North are finding their way blocked however by a QRSL side that has found some serious form, accounting for Vikings in a very strong performance. Weston Creek remarkably sit last in the grade with just a -12 shot differential and they are my team to watch in both Round 9 v Vikings and Round 10 v Norths. The Creekers could yet be the Kings or merely the Kingmakers in this grade.

Grade 7

Goulburn Railway have finally been knocked off with Paul Seaman doing the damage for Crookwell in the local derby. Railway were undefeated until this weekend and have a top-two finish sewn up so only need to keep Yass at bay on Sunday to claim the minor premiership. Vikings and Yass were the two other winners on the weekend with the top four looking reasonably settled, though Yowani remain a chance, but have a nasty differential to make up.

Credit again must go to Bungendore, a tough season but I trust one which has built character, competitiveness and friendship at the club and I'm sure they will be supporting their Grade 5 team heartily in the finals.

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!!

