





Finals recap – Week 1

We are down to the last weekend of the season and the final two in each grade will take to the greens at **Queanbeyan RSL Memorial Bowling Club** this weekend to determine our champions. Bowls ACT wish to congratulate all the clubs, members, volunteers and supporters for their efforts in making the 2023 season a great one! I look forward to seeing everyone across the weekend and see some great bowls played.

After my mixed bag with the tipping there will be no predictions today, instead a quick recap as we review finals week one with another edition out later in the week previewing the Grand Finals in each grade.

Nick Hind – Bowls ACT Executive Officer

Grade 1

We said farewell to Queanbeyan on Saturday, the club has had a fine season but were always going to be closely matched by Canberra BC, with the Cobras claiming a narrow victory to progress to Sunday's preliminary final against Belconnen. The 2022 Champions had to go the long way, but are back in the winner's circle with their win over Canberra and will be looking to go back-to-back in 2023. Peter Watts had a huge weekend, nearly dragging Belconnen over the line on Saturday before being the difference in a lop-sided result against Canberra on Sunday. Belconnen will play Weston Creek in the Grand Final. The Creekers got Sunday off after claiming victory over Belco in the major semi on Saturday, but it was never easy, just six shots the margin. Weston Creek are now 2/1 up in the head to head in 2023, but no game is more important than the Grade 1 final this Sunday between the two best sides all year.

Grade 2

This is why tipping is a mugs game. I was 0/2 in this grade with third place and defending champions Canberra knocked off by one shot by Crookwell! Peter Hammond continuing his good form to lead the way for the NSW club into a prelim final clash against Goulburn Railway. Yass got the win on the road at Goulburn on Saturday to move straight into the Grand Final, with Marg Bacchettos rink putting in an imperious performance. They will meet Goulburn again, who got home over a gallant Crookwell side by five shots in the prelim final.

Yass and Goulburn finished first and second on the ladder and have played twice this year for one win each, with the away side claiming victory on both occasions. Extra ends this weekend anyone??



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[Grade 3](#)

Canberra North won the battle of Northbourne Avenue on Saturday claiming victory over Yowani by a narrow eight shots to progress through to Sunday's prelim final where they would meet a Queanbeyan side smarting after defeat at the hands of Vikings on Saturday. Norths good enough to take a rink, but the overall honours went to QBC by 11 shots. Three grades down and three finals between the top two sides on the year.

[Grade 4](#)

Crookwell were able to make light work of Vikings on Saturday in the Minor Semi-Final, accounting for a Vikings side that can be proud of their efforts this season. In the Major Semi-Final the Hogan rink for Weston Creek again performed well, but Yass were too good overall, claiming the other two rinks to book their spot in the Grand Final and sending Weston Creek into Sunday's prelim final against Crookwell. The Creekers must have had an 'honesty' session on Saturday night because they came out and played great bowls to claim victory on Sunday, winning all rinks and sending the club into the Grand Final against Yass.

[Grade 5](#)

Minor premiers Bungendore tasted defeat for only the second time all year on Saturday, falling to a very motivated Goulburn Railway, who progressed into the 2023 Grade 5 Grand Final. The minor semi-final saw a very close encounter between Canberra and Vikings, the Tuggeranong side prevailing in a game that could have gone either way. Bungendore then hosting Vikings on Sunday for a spot in the Grade Final with the home club showing why they led the ladder all year, running out comfortable victors. Bungendore to play Goulburn Railway in the grand final.



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[Grade 6](#)

Queanbeyan RSL Memorial were able to account for Vikings on Saturday to advance to the preliminary final and end the Tuggeranong clubs season, there they would meet a Yass side looking to improve after tasting defeat in the Major Semi-Final against Queanbeyan. Yass did just that, winning comfortably to send the club into the Grand Final and looking for redemption against the Queanbeyan side which has been the benchmark in the grade all season.

[Grade 7](#)

Yass claimed the win on Saturday in the Minor Semi-Final, eliminating a Tuggeranong side which was valiant all season but the Carina Martin rink was superb for Yass to get the victory. Goulburn Railway made light work of Crookwell in the Major Semi-Final to book their place in the big dance and having Crookwell needing to win Sundays prelim final against a fired up Yass side to make their way into the Grand Final. Crookwell hosted and played it tough, but Yass were too good on the day claiming a seven shot win to move into next weekend's Grand Final

If you have any photos or stories to share from the weekend's 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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