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To all members

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From the Chairman

Once again as we race towards Christmas and the New Year another year has flown by, and another busy year for the Club: Boot Sales, Have a Go sessions, Beginners courses, not to mention the tournaments, and it is to this end that I would like to say a Very Big Thank You to all of you who have put in the time and effort to make these events a success. Without you the Club would struggle, these events generate much needed cash to help improve the Club's equipment, and build the capital which will be needed for the new indoor centre next year.

I look forward to joining many of you at the Christmas Meal at the Farmhouse this weekend with your families, and it was good to see Members and their families joining in and having fun at the barbeques during the year. A Club should bring Members and their families together, and we should encourage those we don't see so much to come and join in.

All that remains is for me to wish you and your families a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Tony

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Indoor Shooting

Indoor shooting on Wednesday and Thursday of this week (16th and 17th December) will be run as Christmas fun shoots. These will be the last indoor sessions at the Gym this year

Indoor shooting resumes at Gym 2 after Christmas with the first session on Monday 4 January.

There are some dates that the Gym is not available and there will be no indoor shooting: those dates that we've been advised of so far are 20th and 21st January.

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DCAS Postal Leagues

After the first month, November, in the Portsmouth League Exmouth was top of Recurve Division 1, top of Compound Division 1, and top of Junior Division 1!!! And in the Frostbite League Exmouth A was top of Division 1, Exmouth B was top of Division 3, and Exmouth was top of Junior Division 1!!!! So a cracking start.

But although the scores submitted were good, there weren't many scores submitted and December was even tighter. Please don't be put off submitting a League score just because you don't think you're good enough - if we don't have enough people shooting to put in a full team then the team score will be much worse than if we had a modest score submitted. Your score could be the difference between Exmouth winning or losing.

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Christmas Events

A reminder of a couple of Christmas events:

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Exeter Company of Archers Christmas Clout shoot will happen on Sunday 27 December starting at mid-day. A good contingent of Exmouth Archers always join Exeter for this (free) event, which is always good fun. Clout flags will be put out at 80yds, 120yds and 160yds and you shoot at the flag that your bow will reach, so new archers using Club bows can easily take part.

For a breath of fresh air after Christmas we will again be holding our Christmas Stafford shoot on Sunday 3 January starting at 10am. Hot soup and rolls will be provided.

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Club Indoor Championships

The Club Indoor Championships will take place on 6 January (for Juniors and new archers) and 7 January (for established adults). A Portsmouth round will be shot, except for new archers for whom a three-dozen round on a Portsmouth target will be available. The Championships will be run on a handicap basis: meaning that everybody will have an equal chance of winning, whether new archer or GB Squad member: the winner will be whoever shoots well (for them) on the day.

The scores submitted at the Club Championships will be used for the DCAS Portsmouth League. The DCAS Frostbite League will be shot on Saturday or Sunday 30/31 January.

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English Archery Federation

EAF are looking to fill two voluntary positions: Administrator of the EAF Cross scheme, and a Director on the GNAS Board to represent England. If anybody is interested in applying I have the job descriptions which I'd be happy to pass on.

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Club Christmas Dinner

To avoid hassle on the night, and if you've not already done so, please get your full payment for the dinner to Sarah at Indoor Shooting on Wednesday or Thursday this week!

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Juniors Bowling

On Wednesday 20 January (when the Gym is not available for indoor shooting) we're taking the Juniors 10-pin bowling instead, followed by a burger at MacDonalds. The Club will be paying, and further details, particularly time, will be given closer to the date when we've got it booked.

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Handicap Improvement Medals

The GNAS Handicap Improvement Medals, awarded annually to the Club members making the best improvement in their handicap over the outdoor shooting season, have been earned this year by, senior, Steve Glover who improved his handicap by 6 and, junior, Ryan Oliver who improved his handicap by 12. Well done guys!

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Achievements

At the Junior National Indoor Championships at Lilleshall on 5/6 December Ben Glover came second in the Under 18 Compound, and Maddie Meatyard came second in the Under 18 Ladies Recurve. Very well done to them both!

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Future of the Field Course

Gerry Lavell, who has put a huge amount of work into developing our Field Course over the last couple of years, has notified his intention of standing down from his Committee post of Field Officer in the New Year. This decision has highlighted the amount of work that is needed to maintain the Field Course, and the relatively little use by members that it gets in return. The Committee needs to think seriously about a few questions that arise from this: Is the Field Course more effort than it's worth? Can the popularity of the Field Course be improved, so that it gets more use from members? Have we run too far ahead of our initial intentions, to develop a modest field course for fun, and would it be more manageable to scale back?

We would like to get the widest possible views from members - and in particular those who've put the work in, and those who regularly use the Course - before taking any decisions here. The Future of the Field Course will be discussed at the next Committee meeting to be held on Tuesday 12 January at the Clubhouse at 7.30. To allow all members to give their views, this will be the first item on the agenda and all members are invited to attend.

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John Russell
Secretary