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Subject: FW: deck the halls with Hassy Holy
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Ginger tells me the report needs to be out for Mr Hanky time, so as certain Hassy 3 players are serving up regular helpings of that (namely me), it is without further ado I give you the last report of the year

A tough first half, a different first half, an opportunity first half. Hopefully we have learnt some lessons, and we welcome the new players into the fold, a lot of new players indeed, which is a good thing

Happy Christmas and a huge thanks from the Club Captains for turning out week after week, and best of all having a lot of fun and frolics on the way

I think we have a great spirit and wonder why we come across some proper Ebenezer's along the way, pretty sure the Ginger Elf on the shelf will slip in an editorial about hereish

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(It seems that no ginger editorial was available by the time we went to press - Ed)

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Hassy I v Rochdale away match report **lost 4-1**

I had parents evening so landed late but their team arrived at the same time as me, so late but relaxed start.

Mr Latham up first losing 3-0 but could have easily been 3-0 up.

Tan next - surely after last week's performance it's in the bag. Not tonight. Great start but just couldn't settle and play his stuff losing 3-0.

Me next to keep us in the running scrapping 3-2 win - game on, and Gordon on next but was out rallied by a very fit Darren Ogden losing 3-0 so up to John claw back some points against their strongest player 1-1 at one point.

John fought right to the very end but losing 3-1 .Great crack, lots of banter, no injuries happy days. Gonna thank everyone who's played for the first team and wish everyone connected to Haslingden a great Christmas and New year.

Cheers guys try and keep fit - see you 3rd Jan

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H2 v St Peters Burnley. (Lost 4-1)

Simon B v josh

Our very own safety officer Mr B, complete with hi viz and he really did dazzle to start with getting a 9-5 lead but then went and lost 10-12 (wtf) c'mon Si get one for the team !! Plenty of huffing and puffing but in fairness needed reversing sensors with how many times he was going backwards !! Unlucky Simon not to be 0-3

Andy v Jonny "Russ runner" Lee

So how would Andy fair against our old compadres Jonny legs Lee ! Unfortunately not too well ! Jonny was nothing special but flip me he runs & runs & runs. Even when Andy created an opening Jonny flipping retrieved it ! So 0-3 not a perfect start for the boys :-(

Chris v Steve

Played him last time lost 2-3, so could it sweet revenge or no cigar ! Steve had turned up with a plan this time and royally took the first two games - but then something magical

happened - I stopped hitting the tin OMG we have a point the board, gasps of amazement from the Gallery, cone back on the cards was it chuff - lost 1-3 gutted - not single match win in the first half this season - joint match W !!!

Simon W v Martin

Our little pocket rocket - hair in place, snowy at home - we're off !! However this is not out Little boy blue - more little RED riding hood. Toys well and truly out of pram - tonight's official match W !! (baynesy will be well pleased !!)

Ben v rob

Well two noisy ones here - will the rackets survive was the first thought !! Ben our there like a raging bull - but with no real plan. First game down 0-1. Little Simon went down fir the team talk - and I'm sure I heard him say "please be match W Ben" and so out came the other Ben full of running, great shots and not asking for every flipping shot like his opponent!! Officially game of our team to our Beno - take a bow 3-1 get in !!

Team 3 report - Barn Door - Cow's arse - Banjo

Well half way through and life is hard.

Khalid v me

Played an on call dentist and to be fare it was like pulling teeth ☹. I was crap ☹. Not much more to say really.

3-0

Alistair v Miles

Debutant miles got his first taste of the Thursday cauldron that is team squash and put up a valiant display. Unfortunately came up against an opponent who knew a bit more of the finer arts of how to win.

3-0

Al v Bruce

Captain underpants complete with shorts has let another one slip. First game was well contested and should of been his. Then the England batting collapse and it's all going Pete tong. I think his y fronts are a bit tight ☹.

3-0

Andy v John

Thought SB was on court as Andy basically never shuts up. All good natured though. Good game to watch and Mark. John was in this at the start but I think Andy always had a bit more.

3-0

Ben v Chris

The iron man was back after his little twinge ☹.

Ben is a good player and Chris gave him a good run but he always had an answer to

everything Chris threw at him.

3-0

Well a complete shut out tonight, hopefully we have learnt a bit in the first half and can have a go in the second.

Just a note to people it would be nice if we could have a better showing for the after match pleasantries Both home and away please we all work.

Happy Christmas to all.

Haslingden 4 beat City of Manchester 5 by 18 points to 7

So, for the final match of the year before we all disappear to get fat and drunk, we are at home in the Pickup Stadia against promotion contenders City of Manchester 5, who are second in the league having lost only once to the runaway league leaders.

Not sure who's been playing for them in the matches before tonight but it can't have been this lot.

Steve R on first, which caused him some consternation, " I'm not ready, I'm too nervous, I need to warm up, I need to stretch, ". Oh shut up and get on with it! Lost the first so maybe he had a point ? Won the second and third, c'mon now we are cruising. Oooops, all went pear-shaped in the 4th. " He's limping" said someone on the balcony, " Nah, he always moves like that!". But he got ahead in the 5th and stayed there. Great win, great start to the night.

Dave C against a rather large gentleman. He could hit the ball hard, but only if you played the ball to him. Make him work we told Dave. Keep it simple we told Dave. 3 reasonably close games, but Dave did the business with a solid 3-0 win. It's good to hear that he's never happy with the way he's played even though he nearly always wins. That's the Hasi spirit!

Les, stepping in at last minute to replace our Wonderboy Fin who twisted a knee at school playing rugby. Silly boy. Squash takes priority surely? Anyway Les having driven 200 miles from the South East to be here took a while to get going , lost the first , but then came back strongly in the second. But he couldn't keep it going, ending up 1-3 down.

I quickly worked out that my opponent didn't like my deep serves, I say quickly but I mean by the end of the first game , which was closer than it should have been. Anyway after that I just kept doing the same serve (different ones on each side obviously) and he got ratty with himself when he couldn't return them. All done. 3-0. Match won.

Alan gave the performance of the night. Lost the first 2 games by some margin. In fact after the first he was having trouble with his hip and considered downing tools. He said he'd give it one more game and see how he felt. Adrenaline must have kicked in, or his dodgy hip must have clicked into place cos he was not ready to pack it in even after losing the second. It was great to see Fin down there between games giving him some advice. It clearly worked as Alan scraped the 3rd 15-13. Fin was back again to tell Alan how knackered his opponent was. He was spot on as Alan kept him moving and kept the ball high to close out the match 15-10, 15-5. A result that didn't seem on the cards after the first game, fantastic play by Alan.

All in all , a great result. Am thankful the team that got them to 2nd in the league didn't turn up tonight, but you can only beat what's in front of you.

We reach the half-way point comfortably in the top half of the league, 7 wins out of 13,

with several people having made their team debuts and a good squad to choose from. We've never really been in danger of failing to put a full team out. Roll on the second half. Let's keep the momentum going.

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