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John David Group (The) PLC
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THE JOHN DAVID GROUP PLC

CHRISTMAS TRADING STATEMENT

The John David Group Plc ("the Group"), the leading retailer of sport inspired fashion apparel and footwear, today announces an update on performance following the Christmas trading period:

The Group released an Interim Management Statement on 4 December 2007 and this reported positive Group like for like sales for the 44 weeks ended 1 December 2007 of 11.8% (12.4% Sports Fascias; 2.0% Fashion Fascias). Group like for like sales in the full eight week Christmas trading period to 5 January 2008 were pleasingly positive at 9.3% (Sports Fascias 8.8%; Fashion Fascias (excluding Bank) 16.0%). The Group's cumulative positive like for like sales after 49 weeks are at 11.4% (Sports Fascias 11.6%; Fashion Fascias (excluding Bank) 7.8%).

The Group's gross margin improved in the first half against the equivalent period last year and the level of uplift has improved further in the second half to date. We have continued to increase marketing, IT and merchandising support to achieve the current level of sales improvement. We expect the combination of continued progress on margin and like for like sales to result in final headline earnings for the year ending 2 February 2008 being ahead of the current consensus of market expectations.

The Board intends, as soon as practicable and prior to the announcement of the results for the year ending 2 February 2008, to seek a general authority from shareholders to make purchases of ordinary shares in the company. The Board will only exercise such authority to purchase shares where it believes to do so is in the best interest of shareholders generally.

The Group will make its Preliminary Results announcement for the year ending 2 February 2008 on 17 April 2008.

Peter Cowgill, Executive Chairman, commented: "The current trading period has been a very good one for the Group which has seen a further and substantial uplift in our performance as a result of both the strategy adopted by the Board following my return to the Group as Chairman in 2004, and of a lot of hard work by all our employees over the last three years."

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This information is provided by RNS
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