



Peter Holmes 1985-2009

Desperately sad news reached the club this week with the untimely death of Pete Holmes at the young age of 24. Although he only ran a few times for Cirencester, he was very well known to many through his links with Tetbury Royals with whom the club has strong links and many mutual members. One of those members, Chris Riches, who used to babysit a young Pete, writes below about his friend:

"There are many, many tributes to Pete on the eightlane website: <http://www.eightlane.com/indexforum.php?framepage=forum.php%3Ffreq%3Dthread%26postid%3D56576> today. It shows just how much he had achieved in his short life and how many people respected him and loved him. Pete was only 24. We shared the same birthday.

Sadly, he died in very tragic circumstances. He was snowshoeing with two friends on Goat Mountain in North Vancouver when he slipped below the summit falling 400m into Lake Kennedy. The other two were rescued by helicopter. This information is a report from someone on the eightlane forum. There is no more information than that. Such a tragic end to a young life.

For those that didn't know Pete very well, he started running with The Royals when he was only in his teens, probably around 2001, although I'm not completely sure. Pete was never short of enthusiasm. He was one of our most enthusiastic Royals and seemed very happy to be running with a load of old blokes. His Mum and his Dad, Ian, would drop him off at the arboretum religiously each week whilst they would walk the dog and Pete would run with us. He gave us the impression it was the highlight of his week! Pete spent a few years around 2003-4 with Ciren AC proudly wearing the vest and taking part in XC races. Occasionally, we would take him to races and listen to his prep and his diet and all things that made Pete the person he was.

Whilst at Loughborough Uni he moved onto Cheltenham Harriers. He maintained a tenuous link with Tetbury over the years; either through emails or the very occasional training run. His family home is Springfields in Tetbury.

His first job after leaving Uni was with the British Triathlon Association and he then graduated more recently to The Communications Manager of the International Triathlon Union (ITU). He was, obviously, in the early stages of a very successful career. He always kept us updated on his movements. The new office was based in Vancouver, Canada and he travelled the world with work, the perfect job.

Pete worked hard as an athlete. His blog www.pistolruns.blogspot.com and the eightlane forum will be a lasting legacy, keeping everyone informed of his latest training run; distance, splits etc. He recorded some good times: 5k 15m 30s; 10k 32m 51s; Half marathon 1hr 14m which he recorded at Stroud in 2008.

Reading the eightlane forum website you will see just how many tributes there have been to Pete. Even those that only knew him through his blog but had never met him have contributed. He was known as Pistol Pete on the forum and to us all when he signed off his emails. His email address was 'accept_no_compromise' which probably explains his attitude to life, in a nutshell.

The tributes on eight lane are worth a read and include some great photos."

Although currently in Japan, Paul Barlow has also sent through a touching piece on Pete:

"What terrible news, absolute nightmare. Pete was such a thoughtful, intelligent chap and such a dedicated athlete. I am devastated by such tragic news. I only found out this evening (we are nine hours ahead in Japan), my mind is racing with memories about training sessions and races with Pete. I know we all liked to take the piss out of his eccentricities, he had a lot, but his dedication to the sport we love was amazing. I used to find his training when injured hilarious, am 0 miles, pm 0miles etc., he just couldn't forget or be out of running even when he had to have an enforced 3 month rest. When I overtook him at London in 2006 he was broken and going backwards, I said nothing to him because I didn't want to rub it in but he shouted "congratulations Paul on a great race", what a gent!!! Also when I overtook him at Plock Court in the inter-counties trial in the last 100yards he actually shook my hand, I'll never forget those moments. Recently though he was much improved and starting to get noticed, what a shame that he never got the chance to show everybody what he could have done. I cannot believe the bad news recently regarding the Royals, 2009 has been a shockingly bad year, John (Campbell) and Pete didn't deserve this. Lets hope 2010 brings us all lots of happiness and a summer full of magnolia blossoms in the arboretum!!!!"

As a lasting tribute to Pete, members of Cirencester AC, Tetbury Royals, Cheltenham Harriers and Stroud AC, as well as other local clubs, are being encouraged to run in a race on Boxing Day at Cheltenham Racecourse starting at 10:30. This is an existing charity fun run over either two or four miles with a mince pie for every finisher; Pete won the race last year. For more details see www.boxingdaychallenge.com Let's get a big crowd out there in celebration of a great character who was taken from us far too early.