

## **The Club That Pete Glavin Built**

No fanfare or frills. No budget or benefactors. No pretense or pandering.

Just Pete and his vision of running forever.

That's why he did it, I think. He needed to run forever.

So he loaded some orange cones and stanchions, flags on strings, a few gallons of apple cider and a bag or two of bagels into the trunk of his car and humbly challenged anyone interested in meeting him at the park for a race.

And they did.

At first, his invitation fell only upon the ears of those hard-core crazies desperate to renew that irreplaceable feeling of all-out careening through the woods and fields. He designed to fill a void created in them by graduation from scholastic competition, a continuation of the perennial ritual known as Cross-Country by which hard-bitten runners set their internal clocks. His was an irresistible bugle trill heard by the harrier's heart, beckoning it to the starting line from which all good things flow.

And off they charged, over the hills, through the trees, along the river flats, in the mud, cursing, breath visible, resolve unfolding, the race taking shape in the cold air, a misting rain. All concluded in the embrace of his make-shift chute quietly strung for them before they arrived, a white finish line painted haphazardly on the muddy grass his precious gift to each who achieved its fulfillment. Joy and rest, laughter, cider and bagels became communion. He held aloft a magic mirror so we could all see ourselves in it: The Club that Pete Glavin built.

And, because it is good, word spread.

He saw himself among the fanatical membership but others types would begin to recognize the call. From far afield they would arrive. Some came out of curiosity and stayed. Some found awakening and redemption. Some simply loved what he and his friends had devised and chose to celebrate it with them. Every week. Every month. Every year. A man for others. And so it goes.

He runs with us forever.

Leo Finucane  
President Emeritus  
Genesee Valley Harriers