

Tributes for UK snowboarder killed in France

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Tributes were paid to a businessman who died after plunging 80ft down a crevasse while snowboarding in the French Alps.

Philip Tate, 32, an investment director for a private equity firm, was described by friends and colleagues as having a "passion for life that was infectious".

Tate was on holiday with his long term partner Kristine Grimshaw, who works for PricewaterhouseCoopers, and a friend when the incident happened.

The group had hired an experienced mountain guide for the day in order to tackle one of the world's most famous off-piste runs, situated in the Mont Blanc range above Chamonix.

They were three-quarters of the way down the 13-mile route when they reached a flat segment. The rest of the party were on skis and they were able to push across with their poles.

Mr Tate removed his snowboard to walk but suddenly the snow beneath him, weakened by days of high temperatures, collapsed.

A mountain rescue team was alerted but his body was buried under snow and ice blocks. It is believed Mr Tate was killed instantly by the fall. His family are treating his death as a tragic accident.

Friends said they would remember "a big-hearted young man who grasped life with both hands and lived it to the full".

The former Leeds Grammar School pupil worked at Ernst & Young and Arthur Andersen before becoming a founding member of Leeds-based private equity house Endless LLP in 2006.

Endless LLP managing partner Garry Wilson said: "Phil had a unique combination of qualities and gifts that made him stand out both in the business world and in his personal life. His talent and ability, his integrity and tenacity were always evident and remarked upon by many. He was a huge ambassador for both the city of Leeds and for Yorkshire, in which he had a deep pride.

"Phil made lasting friends wherever he worked in the world and will be sorely missed both here in Yorkshire and in Australia. This is a tragic loss on so many levels."

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