



Nikita Parks, DTM, EH4, EC4, DL4

Candidate for District 71 Club Growth Director

My Toastmaster Experience

Presently VP Education at Elvet Speakers (D71, N15), Sergeant at Arms at both Milton Park Toastmasters (D91, J22) and Online Uncensored Comedians & Humourists (D72, J4). Prior multiple memberships of 6 other clubs since 2015.

Education: DTM, EH4, EC4, DL4. Triple Crown – 2021/22, 2020/21, 2019/20 & 2017/18.

D71 Division N Director 2021/22 (Select Distinguished Division, 9/21 Distinguished Clubs, plus 1 new club, year to date)

D91 Division J Director 2019/20 (23/28 Distinguished Clubs, plus 3 new clubs)

Coach at Milton Park Toastmasters 2020/21 (President's Distinguished, revived former corporate club as community club, from 0 to 12 members, 7/7 officers trained, 100% Pathways enrolment.)

Coach & VP Education at Camberley Speakers 2019/20 (President's Distinguished, net growth of 12 members, 7/7 officers trained, from 0% to 100% Pathways enrolment)

Sponsor of Didcot Speakers 2019/20 (Chartered 31/3/2020 with 27 members, Select Distinguished)

D91 Area J22 Director 2018/19 (Distinguished Area, 2/4 Distinguished Clubs)

President Ascot Speakers 2018/19 (President's Distinguished)

Experience outside Toastmasters

I have worked in the ITC industry since 1984, mostly in sales roles after 1995, primarily selling into the financial services, e-commerce, and digital marketing sectors. Extensive PR and marketing experience gained running my own Internet business from 1996 to 2003. I also served as a Parish Councillor for 10 years including as Chair of Planning, working with many stakeholders.

What makes me the ideal candidate for the role?

As a successful club coach and club sponsor leading to distinguished clubs, I know what it takes to build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence. I have helped 3 other clubs to charter and am assisting several pre-charter clubs. I want to share these skills with you.

Expanding the geographical reach of Toastmasters and growing strong sustainable clubs is my passion. As a team player who enjoys building strong teams and recruiting the best people for roles, for me Toastmasters is about creating opportunities for others to grow. I thrive on change due to overcoming adversity in both my life and my career, which has made me determined, tenacious, and resilient. In March 2022 I received life threatening injuries and within a week of leaving intensive care, I was ready to leave hospital and travel home by train across Europe in a

wheelchair. I am grateful for my accident because it crystalised what matters most to me in life and revealed my strength, passion and joy for life to me unambiguously. My powerful positive energy, enthusiasm and passion is here to serve you all to shake off the lethargy left by the pandemic and propel our District's growth trajectory to new heights in the coming years.

Why do I want the role?

I am committed and enthusiastic to serve you. When I joined Toastmasters to recover and develop my confidence and public speaking skills, I did not expect to develop leadership skills too. These are precious and integral to becoming the best person I can be following my extraordinarily challenging life and eventual gender transition. I am deeply grateful to and passionate about Toastmasters where I have received almost total acceptance in stark contrast to the adversity I experienced at work and rejection by close relatives. Toastmasters has been and remains extremely empowering to me and I am determined to serve to give back through sharing and by enabling others to learn and grow in turn. Together we can continue to deliver on the promise "Where leaders are made".

Toastmasters were surprised when I did not stand for Club Growth Director 2 years ago in District 91 after a successful term as Division J Director, as they did not know I was relocating to Cumbria. I am now serving a second successful term as Division N Director in District 71 and trust that my strengths and determination are now self-evident, recognised and appreciated in District 71 too. I would like to keep on stretching and developing my leadership skills by taking on new challenges, maintaining my high motivation, enthusiasm and passion for Toastmasters.

If you were elected, what would be your key actions in the role?

As your Club Growth Director, I would be your District-wide VP Membership, responsible for our key metrics of paid-up clubs in good standing and our number of membership payments. Our goal to achieve Smedley Distinguished status in both measures is unambiguous. This year's ambitious growth plans proved premature as the pandemic tightened its grip again, however, some clubs, Areas and Divisions are doing rather better in the second half of this year than the first. The pandemic tide has now turned, and we will go with the flow next year and return our District to sustainable growth. I will work tirelessly to raise the profile of Toastmasters across our District, strengthening existing clubs where they are still below 20 members, and extending our geographical reach with new clubs where our existing clubs are already strong. Experience has shown our members grow most if they stay for several years and take full advantage of all that our fantastic organisation has to offer by participating beyond their home club. Success would entail our members visiting other clubs and participating in Area, Division and District activities by default, then seeking election to our highly rewarding District Officer roles.

District leadership is a broad team activity, not only striving for excellence with the core District Leadership Team, but especially listening to, supporting and encouraging Division and Area Directors and Club Officers to excel. We have ample opportunities in our District for all to grow, achieve their objectives and develop their skills further.

I hope my enthusiasm is infectious and that you will share my vision for Club Growth Director. Please vote for me at our online District Council.

<http://tiny.cc/Nikita4D71>