Yorkshire Coach & Mentor of the Year 2023: Kevin Kerley

Bethebestyoucanbe Ltd was founded by Kevin Kerley, who was recently recognised within the Chairperson Awards 2023. BTBYCB specialises in coaching and mentoring CEO's and business leaders through individualised meetings, senior team, and board strategy retreats that help accelerate their growth and business growth.

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Within the hospitality industry and over two decades of entrepreneurial experience founding and growing a multimillion-pound facilities company that he exited through sale in 2019.

Kevin explains, "Entrepreneur led businesses are a speciality ranging from £2m to £280m including PLC's, working on threeto-five-year strategy, scale-up, team building, exit strategy, succession planning, personal development and inner work." As Kevin moved through promotion to new businesses and roles every two years during his corporate career, he gained valuable experience regarding a wide range of business topics and acquired strong financial acumen.

Founding his own business, Kevin enjoyed the rapid growth that eventually led to employing over 500 staff. He was the architect of the unique quality control systems, management structure and exit strategy and finally was put in place as CEO and stepped up to company chairman.

Ten years ago, Kevin became Chairman of the Academy for Chief Executives, where he ran two peer-to-peer groups of CEOs and business leaders and started coaching and mentoring. Trained as a Master NLP practitioner, Kevin is consistently embarking on personal development and working with a range of mentors to increase his skill set, self-awareness, and perspectives.

Kevin states, "The coaching success is largely down to the chemistry between the coach and the coached. Once an enquiry is received, an initial complimentary oneto-one is set up. Thus, establishing the outcomes that the client was looking for and allowed the parties to discuss if the chemistry and fit are right."

Once the terms, chemistry and fit are agreed upon, the coaching process will begin monthly for as long as there is a requirement, ranging anywhere between 12 months to 3 years and beyond.

Regarding his leadership approach, Kevin explains, "I am a firm believer of constant positive reinforcement. I encourage team members to step outside their comfort zone, offering motivation, empowerment and regular reviews of improvement and the learning taken along the way. Moreover, team members are boosted to set goals by visualising techniques to focus the mind and exceed targets."

Overall, the coaching industry has transformed because of Covid-19 and with the popularity of Zoom, Teams, Skype, and other platforms, much of the coaching has moved online. Kevin explains, "This has enabled worldwide coaching, increasing the geographical area that you can operate in, which has resulted in new clients from as far afield as Canada."

However, for Kevin, the biggest challenge faced while running BTBYCB has been the 2008 recession and its economic downturn. Kevin states, "Managing a company and continuing the scale-up objectives and ensuring security for all employees and successfully managing not to have to make redundancies was difficult, hugely challenging but ultimately very satisfying."

With Kevin living a two-centred life with a second home in Spain, he has hosted leadership summits twice a year in Spain, starting in May 2022. These are be run in collaboration with expert leaders over two days. Being in the fortunate position of having enjoyed an interesting and fulfilled career to date, Kevin wishes to continue to be of service to CEOs and business leaders through coaching and nonexecutive roles.

Kevin explains, "Helping a business to thrive and leaders to develop is hugely satisfying and personally rewarding." Furthermore, Kevin is also exploring work with the homeless alongside a local organisation specialising in taking people with multicomplex needs off the streets and reintegrating them into communities.

Kevin has now completed over 2600 hours of 121 coaching of CEOs and Executives, and has even written a digital marketing book, Essential Digital Marketing for SMEs, which can be downloaded for free from his website. The future looks incredibly bright for Kevin, his team, and his clients.

For Kevin and his team members at BTBYCB, the philosophy is simple, "Great leaders make other great leaders and empower people to achieve greatness beyond their beliefs. The key to success is a lifelong investment in the personal development of self and others." All of which can be taught, discussed, and achieved by choosing BTBYCB and all its services.