

Mum-of-three taking on Chicago Marathon for children's lip cleft cause Smile Train

Most marathon runners will tell you that when taking on the challenge, one of the last things you want to think about is the wind.

Therefore, it takes a particularly brave individual to attempt the feat in a place nicknamed the Windy City.

However, this is exactly what mum-of-three Nicola Hill will do in October, when she flies to the United States for the Chicago Marathon.

It is part of a lifetime ambition to complete courses in six of the world's biggest cities.

She will be raising money for an international charity called Smile Train, which helps children who suffer from cleft lips - a condition affecting one in every 700 children.

The 42-year-old said: "I've always loved running and it's even more fulfilling when you are raising money at the same time.

"It's my third of hopefully six marathons - the majors - London, New York, Chicago, Boston, Tokyo and Berlin. Like a

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challenge, but six feels achievable.

"I'm known for being a really positive person, always with a big smile on my face and so it just felt right to raise money for a charity called Smile Train.

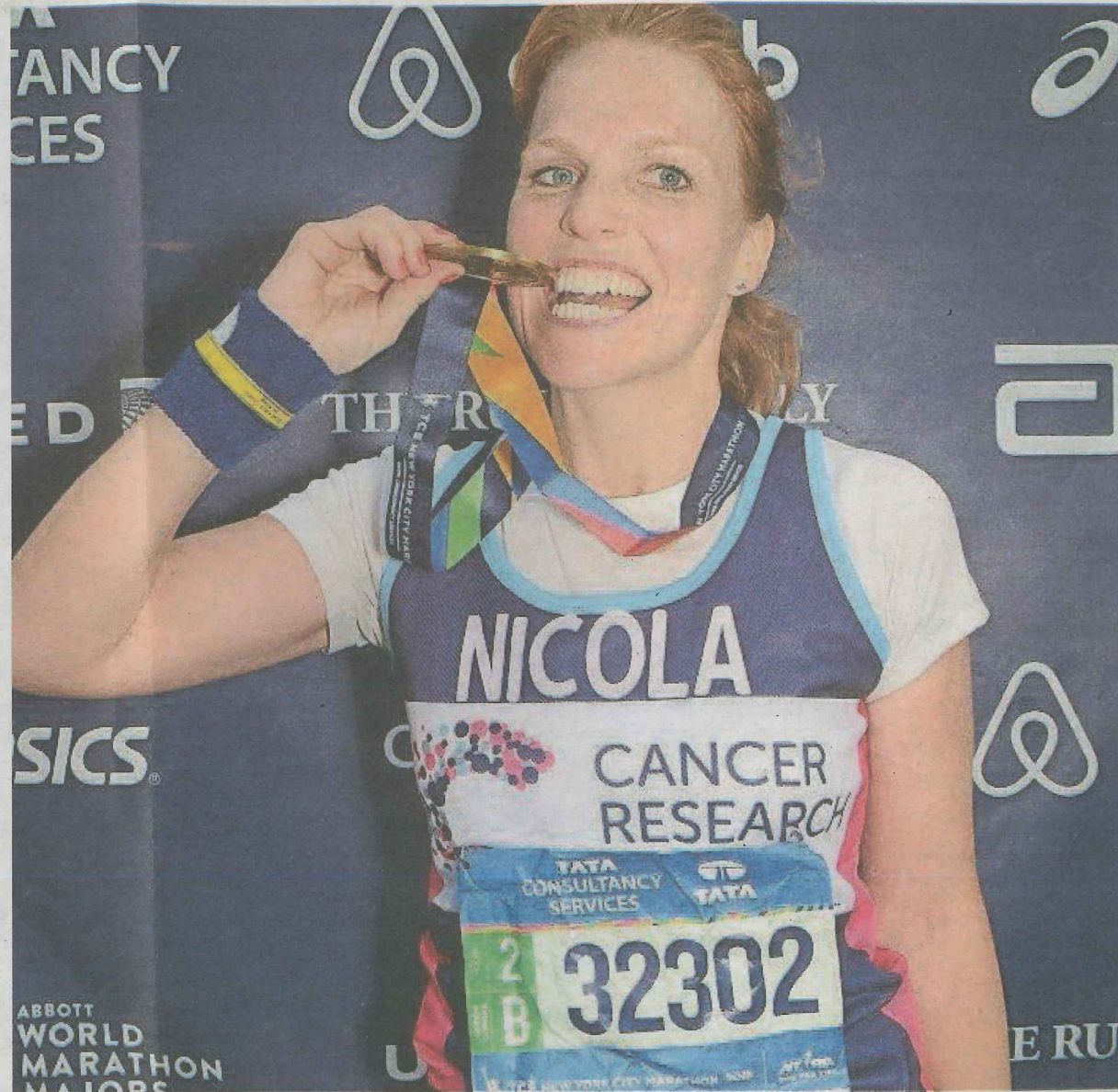
"I like to make other people smile and also being a teacher it feels good to be able to raise money for young children and their families."

She was inspired to choose this charity after being told of the possibility of a cleft lip while pregnant with twins.

"When we were at one of our scans for our twins, a cleft lip was mentioned as a possible concern for one of them.

"This heightened our awareness of it and makes me feel even more passionate to run for such a worthwhile cause."

So far, the maths teacher from Norwich has raised £657 towards her overall target of £2,000



Nicola Hill, who is taking on the Chicago Marathon.

Picture: COURTESY OF PHA MEDIA

If she achieves this goal, it will be enough to fund 24 cleft repair surgeries - creating two dozen more smiles for children

As well as providing care for children suffering from cleft lips, the charity also funds surgery for those with palate in developing

countries across the world.

A Just Giving page has been set up for her campaign. Search "Nicola Hill Smile Train".