



Mark Pollock

Mark Pollock is a globally recognised explorer and speaker whose powerful story of resilience and innovation inspires audiences to embrace adversity, optimise performance and collaborate for impact.

KEY TOPICS

- Unbreakable: Overcoming Adversity to Lead Through Change
- Achieving the Impossible Through Collaboration
- Innovation at the Edge: Where Humans and Technology Collide
- Building Resilience in Uncertain Times
- The Leadership Mindset: Making It Happen Against the Odds

BIOGRAPHY

Introduction

Mark Pollock is an internationally renowned speaker, explorer and collaboration catalyst who helps leaders and teams adapt, innovate, and thrive in the face of challenge. Known for being the first blind person to race to the South Pole, Mark combines extraordinary lived experience with cutting-edge work in science and technology to inspire transformation.

Professional Background & Credentials

After losing his sight in 1998, Mark went on to become a decorated adventure athlete, winning silver and bronze in rowing at the Commonwealth Games and competing in ultra-endurance races across some of the world's harshest terrains. In 2010, a fall left him paralysed from the waist down, prompting a new chapter in his journey: exploring the frontiers of recovery from spinal cord injury. Mark is the founder of the global running movement Run in the Dark and Chairman of Collaborative Cures, through which he has catalysed over \$100 million in international collaborations to accelerate progress in curing paralysis. He has served on advisory boards including the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation (USA), the Global Futures Council on Human Enhancement, and Cybathlon. Recognised as a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum, Mark continues to lead in both innovation and advocacy. He holds degrees from Trinity College Dublin, UCD Smurfit Graduate Business School, and a diploma in Global Leadership and Public Policy from Harvard University. He is currently pursuing a Professional Doctorate in Elite Performance (Sport) at Dublin City University.

Speaking Style & Audience Value

Mark delivers high-impact keynote speeches that are honest, moving, and deeply motivational. His talks explore the boundaries of resilience, performance, and collaboration, tailored to resonate with leadership teams and organisations navigating uncertainty or change. Whether on stage at global conferences or addressing executive audiences, his message endures well beyond the event itself, sparking action and transformation.

Awards and Recognition

- Honorary doctorates from Queen's University Belfast and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
- Selected as a World Economic Forum Young Global Leader
- Featured in acclaimed documentaries: Unbreakable – The Mark Pollock Story and Blind Man Walking
- Author of Making It Happen, a powerful guide to action, team building and mindset

Books or Publications

- Making It Happen – A practical and inspiring insight into resilience and leadership based on personal experience

High-Profile Clients and Collaborations

Mark has delivered impactful talks and collaborated with a wide range of global organisations across multiple industries. His high-profile clients include Accenture, Allianz, Google, KPMG, Vodafone, Roche, PwC, Salesforce, the United Nations, and Harvard University. These partnerships reflect his broad appeal and the universal relevance of his insights on resilience, innovation, and performance.

Social Impact Projects

Through the Mark Pollock Trust and Collaborative Cures, Mark leads international efforts to fast-track scientific breakthroughs for paralysis. His use of robotic legs and pioneering neurological technologies places him at the forefront of human enhancement and innovation. [Contact us now](#) for more information on how Mark can empower your team to build resilience, embrace challenge, and drive meaningful progress through collaboration and innovation.

WHAT PEOPLE SAY

""Mark held a room of over 400 people and you could not hear a pin drop – his messages on continuously reinventing yourself and using challenges to define your future was done in an engaging, perceptive, inquisitive and humorous way.""

— Board Member, Bayer

""Mark's ability to link his personal story to people's everyday life and work challenges was excellent. The session was not just about listening to an incredible story, it was a chance for everyone to really think about themselves. There is something in this talk for everyone.""

— Senior Director EMEA, Twitter

""Mark's message of resilience, leadership and collaboration really resonated with our dynamic, international team. And, his ability to balance both the darker and lighter sides of his life experiences prompted us to think about how we approach our challenges.""

— Director, EMEA Emerging Markets, Google