

LONELY LEADERS NOV/DEC 2025

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - JAMES STEVENTON

20 Nov 2025



RECORDING -



KEY INSIGHTS

- **Endurance as a Core Philosophy:** James's leadership is shaped by a lifelong focus on endurance, rooted in his upbringing in Corby, a town that faced economic collapse. He applies this mindset to both his art and his leadership.
- **Radical Empathy Tested:** A leadership crisis—a colleague's hostile resignation after James shared news of a friend's death—severely tested his compassionate approach, causing him to question its validity.
- **Trauma's Physical Toll:** The stress of the crisis manifested physically as a herniated disc and persistent pain, breaking his primary coping mechanism (running) and forcing him to confront the trauma's impact on his body.
- **Rebuilding with Humility:** James is now rebuilding his physical and mental endurance, using his son's artistic confidence and his organization's mission ("support life through art") as anchors for his renewed purpose.
- MARK ROWLAND - RUNNING WITH THE PACK

"When I run, I know what is important in life - although for many years I did not know that I knew this. This is not so much knowledge newly acquired as knowledge reclaimed. When I was a boy, I also knew what was important in life. I suspect we all did, although we did not know that we knew it. But this is something I forgot when I began the great game of growing up and becoming someone. Indeed, it is something I had to forget in order to play this game at all. It is one of life's great ironies that those least in need of understanding its meaning are those who most naturally and effortlessly understand it. On the long run, I can hear the whispers of a childhood I can never reclaim, and of a home to which I can never return. In these whispers, in the rumours and mutterings of the long run, there are moments when I understand again what it was I once knew."

