Danny Baker - Manifesto

My name is Danny and it would be an honour to be considered for a role on the Dons Trust Board.

I have been a womble since the age of 6 and have walked the long and winding road to Plough Lane, Selhurst Park, Kingsmeadow and now to the new Plough Lane with my dad. We have always stood behind the goal together, cheering on whichever incarnation of our beloved football club, hoping, sometimes praying, but mostly feeling like for some reason- our acts and support makes a difference.

I am not here to promise a solution, suggest wholesale changes or explain how the next year or two will pan out.

I am humbly putting my hand up to represent you and for you to know that me being in a room means that you are in the room too. That a question, request or situation that you are in, or feel that we are in- matters to me too. Events of late both on and off the pitch have shown the beauty of our club and the richness of its fanbase. It has, however, shown that we are coming up to a crossroads that we must face together and feel that understanding, compassion and clear and concise information are the key names on our matchday teamsheet.

I happen to be a co-host of a Wimbledon based podcast for the past 6 years and many of you have agreed, disagreed or even challenged my thoughts and opinions on all aspects of life at AFC Wimbledon. Whichever side of the divide you are on- I feel that anybody who has engaged and listened will testify that here is a person who cares, who can hold a conversation and is not afraid to tell it how it is.

The things I can assure you I will do are:

LISTEN- To you, to the board, to my conscience and to that little lad watching Marcus Gayle and Neal Ardley and think ‘what is the best thing to do here’?

ASK QUESTIONS- I am going to challenge us to think differently, to maybe do things differently and maybe see how we can stay amazing- but in ways we haven’t done before.

LEARN- I am a teacher at a national award winning school and specialise in educating people and being educated in the needs of people. I will learn what I can and relay what I know in a way that is palatable and appropriate for every fan to engage with on their terms.

FEEDBACK- I am going to talk to you and tell you what I can. I am going to act in our best interests and there are going to be times that we might not agree, but you are going to need to trust me. I need to earn that trust and over time- I will..

ACT- I am not here to make up the numbers. I am Vinnie Jones, I am Jake Reeves, I am at my best doing what I can with passion and commitment and have that in spades.

I may not have all the answers for what we need to do next and right now, I am not sure anybody has all of them. But I am a historian of our club, a stalwart of our values and am aspiring to be a custodian of the future and would love nothing more than for you to give me the chance to lead us now like so many amazing people have done before.