

# THE MIGHTY DEMONS OF 56

TREVOR JOHNSON "THE PHANTOM"

This was a team of destiny, inducted to The Hall of Fame, and in the record book  
From bottom of the VFL Ladder to top, just 3 short years was all they took.  
These were the invincible Demons, thrilling to watch and awesome in full flight  
Opponents had no answer, the Demons were full of fight

Twelve clubs in the VFL then, but it was those mighty Demons the fans came and saw  
Spectators flocked to see these mighty Demons, it mattered not, win lose or draw  
The crowds of 56 remember immortal games for this was the time of the Demons reign  
Ninety nine thousand to see the Magpies plucked again. Not bad for just a Monday game

From backline to forward, not a weakness to be found in this great side  
No Demon ever stepped aside, they hit the ball hard and never shortened stride  
A blend of rugged experience, of youth and brilliance and guts  
Winning was their aim without thought of loss, rather death by a thousand cuts

This was a champion team, no place for selfish lairs. Always hard to pick best player  
Every line had strength and skill, with this combined add the stamina of the stayer  
Great leaders Cordner, McMahan, Beckwith and Barassi, never was there time for rest  
Week in and week out opponents had one goal. Beat the mighty Demons was the test

Famous for football since 1858 was our MCG, much rich history and tradition to tell  
The reek of history. The smell of old leather. Roaring crowds like a storm on the swell  
Birthplace of Aussie rules. This massive stadium and home to the old Grey Smith stand  
Home to the Demons is the mighty MCG. Home to the oldest football club in the land

Individual players it was hard to select. All joined by a special bond was Smithy's team  
Several have left us, Norm, Dennis, Big Bob and Don. Not forgotten, but now not seen.  
Team mates in Webby, Yachty, Keith, Laurie, Becky & Jimmy & Tiger & Terry were some  
Then Noel, Trunky, Ken, Stewie & Barass. Clydie, Dicko, Bluey & the Phantom

Norm Smith was the coach, not for you or me was he, only for the team was he  
No man crossed Smithy's domain, lest he entered hell. Those who did were quick to see  
In training as in match, Smithy's standards were tough, for his was the final test  
Let no one forget Smithy and his Norm Smith Grand Final Medal. He was the very best

The 56 team joined together with a single goal, even though they came from far and wide  
Signed by Cardwell and Carlon on spec, champions in the making for this great side  
From Manangatang, Ormond and Epping they came, and some from Tasmania too  
Forged by the master Smith, honed and tempered in battle. A great team loyal and true.

Of Demons dedicated by blood sweat and tears, joined in brave tradition fine  
What measure skill and courage, as history moves on, for that special place in time  
History will compare those mighty Demons of 56. Never to be equalled is what they say  
And never to repeat that day in September 56. The Demons Premiership Day.