



Words // David Prentice

# SPACE ODDITY SILENCES Z-CARS

**Around 32 years after Everton's now-traditional Z-Cars anthem was first aired at Goodison Park, it was silenced.**

There was no explanation. No prior warning. Just a series of baffled looks as Everton ran out to face Aston Villa on the opening day of the 1994/95 season to the theme to the movie, *2001: A Space Odyssey*!

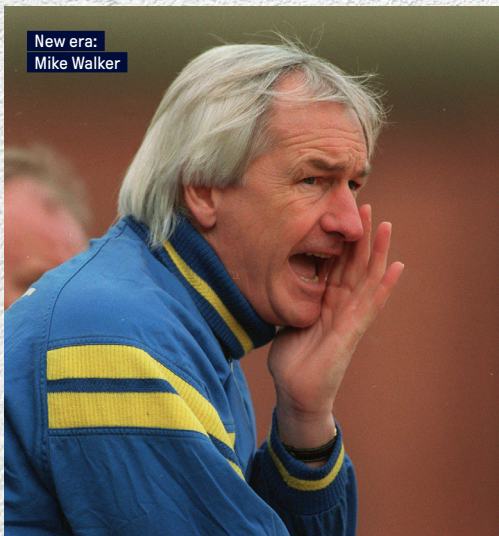
Z-Cars had been played regularly at Goodison since the 1962/63 season.

But in 1994, with a new owner – Peter Johnson, a new manager – Mike Walker, and a new Park End Stand in place, the Everton hierarchy decided other changes may be welcomed.

They demanded a “more rousing” anthem which supporters could join in with and contacted the *Liverpool Echo* to ask them to conduct a poll amongst their readers to decide which piece of music should be used to welcome the players onto the pitch.

More than a thousand Blues fans responded – and the verdict was overwhelming.

Retain the Z-Cars theme.



New era:  
Mike Walker

A whopping 54.2 per cent of traditionalists far outweighed those who suggested *Simply The Best* (15.2 per cent), *Forever Everton* (13.1 per cent), *Here We Go* (7.2 per cent), *We Shall Not Be Moved* (5.2 per cent) and *Chariots of Fire* (5.1 per cent).

Which is why there was a sense of bewilderment when the players ran onto the pitch against Villa to the theme tune to *2001: A Space Odyssey*.

There was no announcement, nor an explanation in the matchday programme.

Just a series of baffled looks amongst supporters followed by angry letters to the *Liverpool Echo* the following week!

The backlash was ignored.

A month later, when QPR were the visitors and the new Park End Stand was officially opened by MP David Hunt, the *Echo* reported: “Everton don’t just want the fans to listen to the pre-match entertainment, but join in themselves. The club is still in the process of experimenting with a view to finding a new club song.

“An *Echo* poll indicated that many supporters wanted the club to retain Z-Cars as the official theme, but the Blues would prefer a song that can inspire fan participation. Two new offerings were being set before the supporters today.

“The first is an adaptation of the Creedence Clearwater Revival classic *Bad Moon Rising*.

“The Swedish branch of the Everton Supporters Club impressed club officials during a pre-season tour by writing special words to the song and singing them on the terraces prior to the games.

“This song has now been recorded by a group called ‘Lemon Tree’ and is being played at Goodison today with the words flashed up onto the main scoreboard. Will it be a hit with the Goodison faithful? Time will tell.”

Time did tell.

Z-Cars was quickly reinstated and has been played ever since. Almost.

It was silenced again on 18 September 2022 as a mark of respect to the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, but it returned the following home match against Manchester United and has been ever-present since.