

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF 'ANDERCLAN' (WORKING TITLE), THE GERRY ANDERSON APPRECIATION SOCIETY WHICH TOOK PLACE AT PINWOOD STUDIOS ON 20th AUGUST 1981, FROM 10.30a.m.

PRESENT	Mr Gerry Anderson	Mr Mark Jones
	Mr Keith Shackleton	Mr Chris Leach
	Ms. Pam Barnes	Mr Philip Rae
	Ms. Barbara Kitson	Mr David Nightingale
	Mr John Williams	Mr Brendan Sheehan (arrived late)

Mr Anderson took the Chair of the Meeting until such time as a Chairman was duly elected.

Ms. Kitson, as the only person who could take shorthand, agreed to act as Secretary, until such person be duly elected, and take the minutes.

Mr Anderson emphasised that the meeting was to be considered informal, with the Agenda previously drawn up acting only as a guide.

Mr Anderson introduced Mr Philip Rae to the attendees. He had asked him to come along and be involved with the Society because he is a great follower of Anderson productions, has much material on this theme, and would be a valuable person to have involved. The attendees agreed, and welcomed Mr Rae into their midst.

Having come together to form the structure of a Gerry Anderson Appreciation Society, the discussion turned to that subject.

Keith Shackleton, present as an observer and advisor, is connected with the ABBA Fan Club. He pointed out that a most important point to decide would be where the Fannish/Commercial interests meet. The Society would have no definite Commercial bias as it would have to be run on a non-profit basis. Any profits made would be ploughed back into the Society.

What sort of structure do we want for the Society? Do we want a formal Committee? ITC Entertainment own the copyright on all Anderson productions to date: any interest we create will be to their advantage. They are offering their support re: photos, etc., however, and they would probably feel happier with a few names which they could approach to discover what the club is doing, i.e., a Committee. We could, it was suggested, build along the lines of '6 of 1' (The Prisoner Appreciation Society) which is also backed by ITC Entertainment, although we would not be able to structure ourselves exactly the same. We also have to consider some kind of Club Newsletter or Magazine: 'S.I.G.' produced by David Nightingale and Brendan Sheehan seems ideal for this - perhaps they could supply copies to the Society at cost price, with the rest of the print run being sold 'off-the-shelves' as at present.

It was then decided, therefore, that a formal Committee should be elected. Results of the election were as follows:

Chairman	Pam Barnes	- proposed by Barbara Kitson, seconded by David Nightingale. No other nominations. Carried unanimously and accepted.
Treasurer	Mark Jones	- proposed by David Nightingale, seconded by Pam Barnes. No other nominations. Carried unanimously and accepted. Mark did state that he has no accounting experience and may need experienced help as the club grows.
Secretary	Barbara Kitson	- proposed by Chris Leach, seconded by Keith Shackleton. No other nominations. Carried unanimously and accepted.

This election having formally taken place, Mr Anderson gave up his seat as Acting Chairman, and Pam Barnes took the Chair of the Meeting.

The problem of a name for the Society was discussed, with various names being suggested (Anderclan, Anderfan, Anderfans Unlimited, The Gerry Anderson Appreciation Society). No decision was made at this point in time as attendees felt it would be better to consider the matter for a while. Therefore, the matter was deferred until after lunch.

The question of 'fan' mail was discussed. At present, this is going mainly to the T.V. stations who are showing Anderson productions. Does the Society want to take this over? It was suggested that a letter be drafted to go to the T.V. stations to the effect that the Society would undertake to answer letters, provided that the mail was forwarded with x-pence per letter for the reply. If the station's policy is to answer all mail, then we could legitimately ask for a contribution towards postage. If they only answer letters which include an sae, then we will have postage already and will have to use discretion on whether or not to answer letters without an sae. Stress to the stations that each letter will get a personal reply, not just a copied sheet of information, plus Society information, etc..

Club Newsletter/Magazine - 'S.I.G.' seems to be the logical choice, but would the name have to be changed? David Nightingale pointed out that he and Brendan Sheehan had been considering a name change as 'Supermarionation is Go' does not cover the live-action series and will not connect with any new Anderson productions. It was decided that it was a good idea to let the title run for Issues 3 and 4. Issue 3 is due in October/November, with Anderpup 4 also due then. SIG4 is due in the new year. David Nightingale said they had considered calling the 'zine 'Anderfan is Go'. Perhaps if the club can be launched in January 82, any changes can be made then?

General concensus of opinion is that SIG should stay as is contents-wise. Perhaps we could add 'The Official Gerry Anderson Fan Club Magazine' to the front page.

The club magazine/newsletter should appear four times a year; it was asked if SIG 4 appearing in January 82 is going to be SIG4, SIG(Gerry Anderson Fan Club)4, or take its new name and start from issue 1 again.

Another problem is that people have subscribed for issues of SIG. General opinion is to give subscribers a choice - offer them the club package at a reduced rate, or offer them a straight refund.

It was generally agreed that it would be a good thing to launch the club and have the first club zine/newsletter issued in Jan 82. David Nightingale did say that the first issue being printed and available in Feb 82 would give himself and Brendan more breathing space. Perhaps we could include a photo-list with this first issue - photos by kind courtesy of ITC Entertainment: note that this would only go in club copies and not in those for 'off-the-shelf' sales.

We should give the club members some kind of package on joining - membership card, club badge (exclusive design - ? club logo?), club magazine/newsletter, etc. Must stress that all club offers are exclusive to members, and membership number must be quoted on orders.

Perhaps SIG could contain a couple of 'club pages' in each issue, drawn up by a club news editor - Chris Leach and Pam Barnes volunteered to co-edit. Barbara Kitson offered to help with typing. The pages should be prepared separately and sent up to David Nightingale to be included in SIG (say, centre pages, or pages 5/6?). Perhaps done on A3 reduced to A4? Should they, in fact, be inserted as separate sheets? May cost more to do, and may make the zine look cheap - the pages may appear to be an afterthought. Perhaps the front cover should read 'The Magazine for Gerry Anderson Fans' rather than referring to the club directly. General concensus is that the pages should be included as part of SIG and not separate.

There now followed a break for lunch (quote Mr Anderson - 'the fish and chip shop is to your left as you go out of the studio ...')

Issue 3 of SIG will go to the printers some time in October (hopefully!). Something should be put into it about the club, so we need to discuss further details - fee, address for membership/information on membership etc, if membership is to start from January 82.

Century 21 Appreciation Society - it would probably be better for this to be not exactly disbanded but for its membership to be incorporated into the Society, with John Williams acting as a co-ordinator for the changeover, and later as an area co-ordinator for Wales. John stressed that he didn't want his members to feel that they had had a raw deal, or that he himself had let them down. It is highly possible that ITC Entertainment will not licence two clubs; also, the clubs would compete for membership (albeit inadvertently) as people would probably not be able to afford to join both. It was suggested that a proposal be worked out and put to C.21 members - give them the following option: this is the club package the Society can offer, please take it or, if you are not happy, we will immediately refund your money.

It was suggested at this point that the item in SIG3 should include something along the following lines: "At a meeting at Pinewood on 20/8, at which were present, Anderpup and C.21 became contributing parts of(whatever we decide to call the new Society) ..."

Club membership package - badge, card plus possibly free photo? Need to decide on membership fee per year. Also need a club logo - perhaps this could be built around the club name. It would be preferable if the logo was not taken from any of the old series, so can be connected with new series also. Perhaps take the style of lettering used for 'Supermarionation'.

Club name was discussed again - FANDERSON was suggested, and unanimously approved as this said exactly what and who the club was for; proposed Philip Rae, 2nd Mark Jones.

Therefore, the Society will be known as 'FANDERSON - The Official Gerry Anderson Appreciation Society'.

The club badge will have 'FANDERSON is GO' on it, as per the lettering style below* together with an explosion 'effect' (by special request of Gerry Anderson).

The logo consists of the word 'FANDERSON' in a bold, hand-drawn, slightly irregular font. Above the letters 'A', 'N', and 'D' are three sets of three short, slanted lines radiating upwards, resembling an explosion. Below the letters 'A', 'N', and 'D' are three sets of three short, slanted lines radiating downwards, also resembling an explosion.

*Apologies for the artwork -
I'm a Secretary, not an Artist.

Brendan Sheehan agreed to approach Graham Bleatham with regard to doing the artwork for the logo.

If we are to call the club FANDERSON, some kind of decision must be made with regard to the proprietary rights, to ensure that no-one else can claim it. Perhaps some arrangement could be made whereby the Committee paid a pepper-corn rent of, say, one bottle of red wine on 20/8 each year, to Gerry Anderson for the use of the name. This was suggested by Keith Shackleton, and agreed by the Committee.

The membership card should have a number on it, but this should be played down and not placed in a prominent position. Card should have: name, address, membership no., membership dates, club logo on it - perhaps a list of series in chronological order on the back. John Williams offered to look into the printing costs of cards.

Package to members could include a photo of Gerry Anderson, signed. Gerry is willing to sign each one individually (to from). A great deal of work but Gerry is most willing to do it. However, after discussion, it was decided that a note should be included saying to the effect that if you want your photo signed personally by Gerry, send it with an sae to (address to be worked out) and he will sign and return it. Allow 28 days for return.

Perhaps we could also include a photo from the series - ask people which is their favourite and send that, or could we do a montage of something from each programme?

ITC Entertainment have apparently offered to do some photographs free of charge - we should take them up on their kind offer. Philip Rae offered to put together the montage. Perhaps we can arrange to have FANDERSON logo and 'by kind courtesy of ITC Entertainment' on each? Or would it be better to get some artwork made into a montage (like the painting Alan Vince did for Gerry). This photo would only be to go in club package on joining.

Have to query with ITC Entertainment if we can have Overseas members and, if so, can they have the same things as the U.K. members?

Club membership will entitle you to: 4 issues SIG per year, club badge, membership card plus two photos, ? FANDERSON pen?

Costs: Magazine, 30p; Pen, 15p; Badge, 25p; Membership card, 20p; GA photo, 20p; Montage, 50p = £1.60 + 90p for other 3 issues of Magazine = £2.50, plus £1.00 to cover cost of postage and packing = £3.50 (rough costings only!!)

Reasonable membership fee would be about £5.00p.a. for which we should just about break even - the extra £1.50 would provide for official club paper, envelopes, stamps (for queries without sae, etc).

To bring fee down, we could ask for four large saes, or stamps - with saes have a storage problem, however. Also have to consider making some kind of provision for VAT.

Membership should run from when joined for one year (four issues of SIG). Who should take care of this?

Address should be a Box No. rather than a home address - people have a habit of turning up on your doorstep!! Chris Leach offered to take Box No. to receive enquiries etc.

Bank Account - will have to be in club's name and opened in Treasurer's area (which is Amersham). Two signatories out of four - Chairman, Treasurer, John Williams and Philip Rae.

The Club Magazine was discussed again. It was decided that there should be some kind of agreement between SuperM Productions (who produce SIG) and FANDERSON. Also a problem to overcome is what happens to any profit made from 'off-the-shelf' sales of SIG - if ITC Entertainment will still permit these sales - hopefully, yes, as a large print run is the only way to keep printing standards as at present without making the 'zine horrendously expensive. As the club grows, however, a large print run will be even more necessary. Perhaps all SIG profits (if there are any!) go into a special FANDERSON SIG Production Account, to be ploughed back into the 'zine?

A simple agreement between FANDERSON and SuperM is needed, to the effect of SuperM giving FANDERSON 6 months notice if they intend to stop publishing SIG.

It was decided that David Nightingale and Brendan Sheehan continue to be responsible for the publication of SIG, with direct responsibility to ITC Entertainment with regard to copyright, etc. David stressed that records as to the financial situation of SIG will be available at any time to anyone who wished to see them.

All correspondence for the club should go to one central address (less confusing), and then be distributed from there as appropriate. It was suggested that a list of 'experts' on each show should be drawn up, people who would be willing to answer questions on their particular field of expertise. Replies should be monitored (not read, just check that they do not have a backlog they need help with). We need as many people as possible who are prepared to spend time answering queries and letters: stress that each must have a proper reply. Perhaps we could have copied sheets drawn up, one for each show, with basic details of the show and a space for answering the letter/specific query. Stress that sae should be included with any query/letter.

Responsibilities of FANDERSON Committee:


Magazine	-	David Nightingale and Brendan Sheehan
Box No./Post distribution	-	Chris Leach
Subscriptions	-	Mark Jones
Printing	-	John Williams
Montage photo	-	Philip Rae
Logo Artwork	-	Brendan Sheehan to approach G. Bleatham
Gerry's photo	-	Gerry Anderson to provide original
Club Badges	-	Keith Shackleton suggested Baynham & Standfield Pam Barnes to check this and other suppliers.
Meeting Minutes/ Official Correspondence	-	Barbara Kitson
General Bullying	-	Pam Barnes

The final item for discussion was the proposal of Gerry Anderson as Honorary President of FANDERSON. Proposed by David Nightingale, seconded by Pam Barnes. Carried unanimously, and accepted.

No date was made for the next meeting of the FANDERSON Committee, as it was thought best that we should wait to hear from ITC Entertainment first.

Therefore, the meeting was declared closed.

These minutes were taken by Barbara Kitson in her capacity as acting Secretary and Secretary to FANDERSON, the Official Gerry Anderson Appreciation Society, and are declared by her to be a true and accurate representation of the discussions and decisions taken at the first meeting of FANDERSON on 20th August 1981, at Pinewood Studios, between the hours of 10.30a.m. and 6.30p.m.


25/8/81
