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# NEWS FROM THE COLONY

## A DOCTORATE FOR "THE MAN WHO GAVE HIS COMPANY AWAY"

In July Birmingham University is to confer an honorary degree (D.Soc.Sc.) on Mr. Ernest Bader (born 1890 in Switzerland), founder of the Scott Bader co-ownership firm at Wollaston, Northamptonshire.

Ernest Bader is a successful industrialist and holder of the Queen's Award to Industry for Technological Innovation.

After working in the silk business in Zürich, Ernest Bader came to England in 1912 and married an English girl, Dora Scott. In 1920 he founded Scott Bader & Co. to develop the growing market for celluloid. Since then he has constantly been in the forefront in applying new materials, from polyester resins and polymer emulsions to glass reinforced plastics in the lacquer and surface coatings industry.



In 1944 he became a Quaker and at the end of World War II he founded the Scott Bader Fellowship in pursuit of his ideas for a Christian social structure in industry.

In 1951 he founded the Scott Bader Commonwealth and after the passing of the Industrial Common Ownership Act in 1976 this company received Certificate No. 1 under the Act. The Scott Bader Commonwealth is managed by a

"community council", presided over since 1971 by Godric Bader, Ernest Bader's son. The Bader family has made over 90 per cent of the company shares to their employees (420 in 1978).

In a wider field Ernest Bader advanced his ideas by founding the Society for Democratic Integration in Industry and then, after ten years of travel in India and the Third World, he founded his Society for Training Rural Industries and Village Enterprise.

In 1971 he established the annual Ernest Bader Common Ownership Lectures.

Some of Ernest Bader's ideas have had their critics and some of his concepts proved impracticable, but the success of the Scott Bader Commonwealth does seem to have its roots in the decisive character of its founder who has been described by his biographer Susanna Hoe as a "dictatorial democrat".

Birmingham University honours the work of an outstanding entrepreneur, a prophet of the present conflicts in industry and of a man who has had the courage to test new models of co-operative decision making.

We offer Ernest Bader our congratulations.

mhm

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

Daniel Roger SUESS, born in Lausanne 17th April, 1958, has been awarded the Duke of Edinburgh's gold award. This is essentially a scheme for British and Commonwealth youngsters and Daniel Suess is believed to be one of the very few Swiss to achieve this high distinction.

Daniel came to Britain with his father in June, 1961, and attended school at Thamesmead Secondary Modern, and sixth form college at Sunbury, where he passed three "A" levels. He is currently at Bath University and is reading economics in his final year. Immediately after he graduates this month Daniel is off to Switzerland to do his basic military training — he has applied for parachute training but is not yet sure whether he will be accepted as he may not be able to return to Switzerland for all the necessary recalls. He feels that this military training will be for him an expression of the regard he feels for his homeland. Daniel regrets that he has not been able to spend as much time as he would have liked in Switzerland, but he hopes that his military service will enable him to meet more people and take an active

part in what must rank as the most traditional Swiss male activity. He also looks forward to his first real break in his 16-year school and academic career.

Daniel has a keen interest in sports: He has been a basketball player since the age of 14 — he is a qualified coach and is currently coaching and refereeing his university side. He also referees football matches.



Having been a scout since the age of 11, he was presented last April with his Queen's Scout badge and still plays an active part in scouting activities.

His big love is free-fall parachuting — when the weather is good enough — hence his wish to join the Swiss paras.

W.G.S.

## SWISS CLUB BOURNEMOUTH

On Saturday, 3rd March 41 members of the newly formed Swiss Club Bournemouth gathered at the Commodore Hotel for their first social evening and dinner.

The reception room was well decorated with Swiss flags and very colourful. The organiser Mr. Rudy Müller-Deplessis, with his charming wife Julia, welcomed all members and in turn, he invited all to say a few words. This made it very amusing to hear Schwizerdütsch, French and Italian spoken. It was a most pleasant evening and it was hoped by all present, that it was the first of many such gatherings.

Many thanks are due to the efforts of Mr. Müller, who made all the contacts in getting so many Swiss Nationals together.

Dante Luminati



*From left to right: Dante Luminati, Mrs. Luminati, R. Müller, Gerald Luminati, Mrs. J. Müller, Mrs. G. Luminati.*

*Swiss Club, Bournemouth.*

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