LEAD STORIES

4 50 YEARS AT MDC: HANS JÖRG BRUDERMANN

6 70 YEARS SC LANGENTHAL: HELDER DUARTE PLAYS HIS PART

14 FOR SWISSTEC IN LAGOS: MANISH LOKHANDE

LIFE.
THE INHOUSE MAGAZINE
CONTINUOUS FURTHER DEVELOPMENT.

50 years ago, Hans Jörg Brudermann started his professional career at Daetwyler as an apprentice mechanic. 71 years ago, the foundation stone of SC Langenthal was laid for its sporting success. 74 years ago, the Daetwyler Group project was started by Max Daetwyler.

When Hansjörg Brudermann, SC Langenthal and the Daetwyler Group look back over past decades, they can recount any number of highs and lows (some of which you can read about in this issue). During this time, however, they have all constantly evolved: Hans Jörg Brudermann from being an apprentice to managing director of SwissTec and member of group management, SC Langenthal from being an amateur sports club to a professional ice hockey club and the Daetwyler Group from being a local, individual enterprise to a globally active SME.

Making this happen requires characteristics such as farsightedness, solution orientation, endurance, determination and the right amount of courage to tackle new developments if developments are to be advanced continuously and setbacks are to be overcome. I am impressed by these three examples, and I enjoy being inspired by them in my day-to-day work – what about you?

Simon Gantner
Group CFO
Also under continuous development:
Bleienbach airfield around 1935
ALLOW YOURSELF TO BE GUIDED BY EXPERIENCE.

When the editorial staff of Daetwyler LIFE asked me to write an article on my 50th anniversary, I felt honored to record my career in what was previously known as Max Daetwyler & Co. and, today, MDC.

Confronted by the option of going to high school or vocational school in 1967, I decided to go to vocational school because I wanted to learn to fly as quickly as possible. And that was what the company known at that time as Max Daetwyler offered me. In 1967, I began my traineeship as a trainee fitter at MDC. At that time, there were just 30 employees!

During my traineeship, I spent most of my time working in aircraft construction doing Piper assembly work. We also repaired and serviced Pipers for the armed forces and I was one of those involved in the development of the Swiss trainer aircraft from the very beginning.

At the age of 17, I obtained my sailplane license followed by my license for motorized aircraft and was a proud employee of MDC.

After commercial further training, I did stints in all the departments and was also allowed to develop my own sales distribution (export). When Daetwyler began to produce and distribute doctor blades in 1972, I was at the forefront. As everyone knows, Daetwyler’s doctor blades are a unique success story.

In 1956, Lilly Schneeberger and Max Daetwyler founded Daetwyler Co. as it was called then. She also managed the finance department then, which I took over from her when she left for the USA.

In 1980, I was appointed Managing Director of MDC St. Gallen, which had been acquired at that time and I became the director responsible for the machine tool factory Reiden AG in 1989. I was already a member of the Board of Directors and Head of the finance department of the MDC plants at Bleienbach, St. Gallen and Ursenbach.

In the meantime, MDC had over 800 employees!

« I can look back on a rich and fulfilling career in which I enjoyed a lot of trust. »
By 2007, I was in charge of developing Daetwyler SwissTec while at the same time I took over its management. I had always had a weak spot for doctor blades and the research and development of new products was and is still very dear to me today. I am filled with great pride when I see what Daetwyler SwissTec has become today. On January 1, 2014, I handed over a successful Daetwyler SwissTec to my successor, Thomas Rother. At that time, I was CEO of Daetwyler SwissTec, but still remained in charge of research and development, which I passed on to Michael Reinert at the beginning of this year. Since then, I have been active in research and development at SwissTec, deputizing for both Thomas Rother in the Division as well as for Michael Reinert.

When my time for regular retirement was approaching, Peter Daetwyler asked me if I would be willing to help make a success of MDC Ursenbach and Estonia. Both my loyalty to the company and the Daetwyler family, as well as the opportunity to make a difference were reasons for my not having to think long. After a short consultation with my partner, I decided to devote myself to making a success of Ursenbach although I have reached pensionable age. I ran a similar company with large-scale processing machines and over 130 employees at a young age in St. Gallen.

It would take too long to relate the countless, very special and wonderful moments and events that I have experienced at MDC in the past 50 years, but believe me, there were a lot of them. The anecdotes about the various business trips alone would probably fill pages.

I look back proudly at 50 eventful years. Of course, there were not always successes to report, even difficult times full of effort and conviction to get things right had to be addressed, overcome and solutions found.

However, when I look back over my wealth of Daetwyler experience, I know that in 1967 I made the right decision to start a professional traineeship at Max Daetwyler. I look back on a richly fulfilled professional life, in which trust and great responsibility were conferred on me. From the very beginning, I was allowed to manage the areas entrusted to me, both under Max Daetwyler and later, under Peter Daetwyler, by myself.

I am very pleased and it is still great fun to continue to work for MDC. Forgive me if I have to smile here or there or think I know better - but being part of MDC for 50 years and being responsible for MDC’s success from the outset - have shaped me, which is why I sometimes allow myself to be guided by my experience.

I wish us all continuing success at MDC.

Hans Jörg Brudermann

SwissTec 2015 management team (from the left): Dr. Sibylle Stiltz, Martin Michel, Konrad Stalder, Olaf Segbert, Ruedi Fankhauser, Andreas Hügli, Marlies Zaugg, Thomas Rother, Hans Jörg Brudermann
The past four years, in the course of which I had the opportunity to do a sports commercial traineeship* here at Daetwyler’s, were inspirational. This training was enormously important for me, because I was able to learn a lot and now I am ready for greater challenges in life.

It all started in 2013 (how quickly time passes ...), when I applied to several companies for a sports commercial traineeship. It soon became clear that Daetwyler AG would be the best employer for me. In this way, ice-hockey was not very far from my workplace, from school or even from home.

The question most frequently asked during this time was how it is actually possible to combine sports, work, school and private life? At first, it was difficult because of the wealth of information I was given from all areas and due to the new experiences everywhere. I can still clearly remember a few moments like my first working day, my first training session with the first team or even my first school day. It was important for me to plan everything very well from the start and to always think ahead. By this, I mean that in school I often finished my homework during lessons or was already learning for the next test. At work, I wrote down the processes so I could repeat them. (In ice hockey, too, I always want to be a step ahead of my opponent.)

At the company, I found the changes involved in working in the different departments to be very interesting. This is the only way to get to know the connections, which is very useful.

* A sports commercial traineeship lasts four years. Schooling is completed in three years in the same way as at a «normal» commercial college. The number of working hours missing at work due to sport are made up for during the fourth year as are the tests at work.
The positive working atmosphere here at Daetwyler fascinated me right from the start. People are very open-minded, friendly and always helpful when you need something. Alongside the many good moments as well as the - sometimes - long nights (assignments), too, what troubled me most was the pressure. This came from all sides. Either from school, from work or from sport. I had to perform as expected or to produce top performances or results everywhere. But since I always work myself hard and never lose sight of my goal, I can deal with this pressure now.

I am a very positive person. Over the past four years, I have faced new challenges, but I have managed them quite well. In terms of personal changes, I think differently today from the way I did before and know that there is a solution to every problem.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the persons who have made it possible for me to complete a sports commercial traineeship and who have always supported me. I dedicate my biggest «thank you» to my parents who have always been at my side. Without them, I could never have got so far.

My future still lies in the stars. For example, I dislike talking about where I will be in five years’ time. My focus is on the present. One day at a time. Step by step. That is why I try to get as much out of my life as possible. In August, I will be starting my sports vocational diploma and I will, of course, continue to hit a puck around the rink.

Helder Duarte
Commercial trainee
The origins of SC Langenthal go back to three ponds (the Bleienbacher Moosseeli, the Sängeliweiher and the Eisweiher in the Steckholz woods) in the 1930s. Where the Baumberger brewery once produced ice, enthusiasm for the fight for the puck grew among the ice-hockey youth of the region.

In the winter of 1945/46, the Langenthaler ice-hockey players saw their dreams fulfilled. The Rumimatte, where the swimming pool was located, became the first real natural ice rink. The first official match against EHC Rohrbach took place in January. It ended up a draw: 4:4.

Founding date
The actual date on which SCL was formed is not known. It is only known that Dr. Hans Kläy was elected SCL’s first chairman in Möhr’s tea room. Owing to the weather, the playing season was limited to no more than a few weeks each year. There was no point in thinking about training in the modern sense of the word. Players were all the more eager to show their skills in the games. And these could be a real challenge. For example, Sunday afternoon saw a game on the Rumimatte against Huttwil and the return match was already taking place in Huttwil that same evening.

The battle for an ice-rink
SCL’s first application for a natural ice-rink at the Ischlagwald on the Shorener Allmend was rejected by the town council. At the end of 1950, however, there were 1,200 signatures for an ice rink initiative, which convinced the community of Schoren to make land available for an ice-rink from 1951 on.

An artificial ice-rink with a sequel (both positive and negative)
It was the artificial ice-rink that helped SCL to its next sporting milestone. On March 5, 1961, the project for the urgently needed artificial ice-rink was approved by Langenthal’s voters. Nine months later and at a cost of 887,700 Swiss francs, it was inaugurated on 16 December.

Re-evaluated on thin ice
Despite their relegation to the first league in 1969, the team largely remained together, aiming for promotion that was finally achieved in the 1973/74 season.
Back in the NLB
SCL’s sporting development into a top team in the 1st league began in the 1991/92 season under its new coach Ueli Schwarz, who came from Thun to Langenthal. Under his coaching, SCL was promoted to the National B League.

SCL finally triumphant: Championship title!
The 2011/12 season was the most successful in the club’s history. SCL had the best defense, the best power play, the second-best box play and the best attack line, the «Trio Infernale», consisting of the two Canadians Brent Kelly and Jeff Campbell as well as the Swiss Stefan Tschannen. At 10:41 that evening, Stefan Tschannen brandished the Championship Cup to the fans. Johann Schneider-Ammann, the first Federal Counsellor from Langenthal, presented the gold medals. After numerous laps of honor by the players, the spectators stormed onto the ice to celebrate with «their» team.

Daetwyler and SCL
When you read SCL’s success story, it is not surprising that there are also some loyal fans at Daetwyler. Daetwyler has supported SCL since 2005. The first advertising contract was signed at that time, which brought the benefits offered by perimeter advertising, season tickets, tickets and fan tickets, etc. All employees and guests who are interested in ice hockey and, in particular, in SCL can profit from this.

It should be pointed out that sponsoring is divided between the first team and the juniors. There are also various campaigns with SCL, such as the match between the new SCL players and our trainees.

Since 2016, Daetwyler has also been a core SCL shareholder. In addition, Peter Daetwyler has been Helder Duarte’s patron since the 2015/16 season. A propos: Dario Kummer, who is now again strongly involved in SCL’s first team, is also doing a sports traineeship as a logistics specialist at Daetwyler.

We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank our employer for involving us more closely with this sporting experience and allowing us to enjoy a free game from time to time.

Jeannette Dietz
Executive Assistant
SECURING THE FUTURE AND KEEPING AHEAD OF THE TIMES

INVESTING IN NEW DEVELOPMENTS.

As a medium-sized, Swiss company, we also secure the future by means of technical advances. The acceptance of challenges in the production of parts with the highest demands in new developments (EV) is a successful example of this.

With ever-increasing frequency, we come across contributions in newspapers and on television on the rapid development of electric vehicles. Companies such as Tesla, which is already well advanced, are looking for production solutions to reduce noise emissions. Other companies are engaged in developing planetary gears for such applications. In many of these applications, we are at the forefront of the possibilities offered by the newly developed HGP and can help to shape the manufacture of prototypes.

First of all, it is important to understand which advantages of the gearing honing system are the drivers.

The typical surface structure resulting from the honing process as well as the high surface quality has a positive effect on noise behavior.

Benefit: noise reduction.

The honing process permits the machining of components with narrow interfering contours, which cannot be produced in the grinding process.

Benefit: compact design

The residual compressive stress introduced by the honing process considerably improves the wear behavior of the tooth flanks and prevents the formation of pitting.

Benefit: excellent wear properties.

The challenge lies in manufacturing a small number of parts effectively and efficiently in the shortest possible time as this is the prototype phase. Although gear honing was previously not economically feasible for small and medium batches, this is now possible with HGP-400.
HGP was specifically developed for machining small batches. Using this method, which we have developed and patented, it is now possible to produce parts with the highest quality of honing and extremely short throughput times by means of a completely new technological approach without the use of diamond-coated dressing tools. At the same time, the process also allows these small batches to be processed economically.

It was and still is important to be involved from the start of the project to the completion of the parts. Through our sales department, we are very close to the customer at the customer’s premises and, with the support of the application team, who can respond to any questions that may arise and analyze and process them, offering competent solutions and solutions possibilities.

Implementation itself is a challenge every time since—while recognizing the solution—the path often has to be defined by assumptions. The individual projects are often exciting (more exciting than expected) and are demanding.

One successful implementation of projects like these is, for example, the development project with the Christen company in Herzogenbuchsee. Together, we succeeded in convincing a well-known, international company in the field of intralogistics to develop its new gearbox by honing to very close dimensions and to entrust Christen and ourselves with the production of the prototypes.

Another project even induced us to change Murphy’s Law into Divgi’s Law. And yet, it is precisely these procedures and the courage to accept and solve the challenge that ensure close contact with the market and give us the advantage over the competition, so that we can stay ahead in future.

Roman Minas
Sales
It used to be less built up: an aerial view of Bleienbach airfield and MDC Max Daetwyler AG

The day of the "Pilots' fair": even in those days, people used to meet up at events at Bleienbach airfield
I have been working for Daetwyler SwissTec since May 2015. It is a great honor and gives me a great deal of enjoyment. I was born and grew up in India where I was also trained and I have been living and working in Lagos, Nigeria since 2013.

Working in Nigeria
My job for Daetwyler is to travel round East and West Africa and develop doctor blade business. I am supported by Markus Resing, Deputy Head of Marketing & Sales, who visits Africa on a regular basis. I visit our headquarters in Switzerland at least once a year for technical training and commercial discussions.

Africa’s economy is growing strongly and has great economic potential, especially West Africa and Nigeria in particular. The printing and packaging industry has been developing rapidly in recent years and demands on quality are constantly increasing. Customers are increasingly attracted to our quality products and our on-site, technical advice.

Life in Nigeria
Lagos has a huge and prosperous Indian community, which performs numerous important functions for its compatriots. The Indian school, multi-religious societies and numerous social contacts give you the feeling of being at home. In addition, all of India’s food, fruits and vegetables are available. Indian restaurants are everywhere in the city. However, the cost of living is quite high since all Indian food has to be imported and is therefore up to six times more expensive than in India. What I miss most is the freedom of movement. For safety reasons, you cannot move freely around the country and you are always dependent on a car with a driver since the crime rate is quite high. Nevertheless, I feel at home in Nigeria. It is like any other country in the world: you have to respect and adapt to its people and the environment.

My family
I was 25 years old and single when I moved to Africa in 2013. I am very happy that I met and married my Indian wife Nilima last year.
What I miss most is freedom of movement. You cannot move freely in Africa.

Our marriage was arranged by our families, which is still a widespread custom in India. Many people in India are still convinced that arranged marriages are better because the whole family fits together - a basic prerequisite for a successful marriage. This is why Nilima and I only met and got to know each other shortly before the planned wedding. You may now be wondering if an arranged marriage can work out. My wife and I had the same concerns. Would my partner be right for me? Marriage out of love or an arranged marriage? In India, all these questions went through my head repeatedly while I was waiting to meet Nilima at the coffee house for the first time. Before that, we had only been in telephone contact for one and a half months. After our conversations on the phone, I was keen to meet Nilima and ask for her hand in marriage. As she told me later, she felt this clearly.

When she came to the cafe, I suddenly thought: How great are the chances that she will accept my proposal on our first meeting? Then I couldn’t help smiling because the answer suddenly seemed quite clear to me.

After long discussions about our families, our personal beliefs and our interests as well as my working and living situation, Nilima asked me, «Why do you want to marry me?» I gave her the following answer: «I have always believed that somewhere in the world there was someone like you just waiting for someone like me. So I decided to be this someone for you. That means someone who can meet your needs. Now I am this someone. I have a good position, a stable situation, and now, in you, I have also met my dream wife.» Nilima looked at me wide-eyed. I explained to her that I had taken many important decisions in my life for which I am grateful today. She beamed at me with a charming smile.

On our wedding day, Nilima asked me, «Are we right for each other?» I replied, «Well, it’s too late for us to go into that now...» We both laughed with relief, deeply convinced that we were making the right decision.

Honeymoon in Switzerland
My wife and I share many interests. We love music and movies, we enjoy traveling and love exploring new things. We now had a chance to fulfill one of those dreams when planning our honeymoon - a trip to Switzerland. The trip was a memorable experience. Our honeymoon week of was one of the coldest weeks in Switzerland for a long time. Not only the mountains, but the whole country was buried in snow with icy, below-zero temperatures prevailing. We traveled on the amazing Glacier Express, rode the cable cars and went on boat trips, visited the Jungfraujoch and the old part of Zurich - all wonderful and unforgettable experiences. The «picture-postcard landscape» made an enormous impression on us.

I am grateful to be part of the Daetwyler family. Part of a company that looks after its employees so well and offers them an opportunity to develop further. I look forward to many more years at Daetwyler and would like to thank the whole Daetwyler team for their trust and constant support.

Manish Lokhande
Technical Sales Manager | Lagos, Nigeria
SwissTec’s winter sports’ days took place this year for the third time. In January, twelve people traveled together to Lenk for skiing, sledding or hiking. We enjoyed three days of superb weather in the snow and were spoiled each evening by the local restaurants. Our accommodations at the Mountain Lodge with its beautiful dormitories and twin rooms were perfect. But see for yourself - a picture says more than a thousand words.

The winter sports’ days for 2018 are already booked for the weekend of January 19th - 21st and our accommodations are reserved - we look forward to receiving your applications!

Fredy Baier
Electroplating group leader

In February, Andrin spent a day working with us at the lab. He attends eighth class in Düdingen, so it is time to start thinking about a career. The school launched the «Career Choice» project with a visit to the START job fair in Freiburg in early February. Since Andrin does not have a specific career plan yet, he looked at a variety of professions at the trade fair. As he told us, he is particularly interested in science subjects. Then the students were given a day off school to look around.

Andrin’s mother Renate has worked as a laboratory assistant at SwissTec for many years - a great opportunity for a student to look more closely at this area of work in everyday life. For a whole day, he was allowed to accompany his mother. Just as with the incoming inspection process, he embedded, polished and ground a sample steel strip. He measured its hardness and then he checked its purity and microstructure with a microscope. Its composition was determined using spectroscopy. As a task for the school, Andrin then drew up a plan of the laboratory. His conclusion: the insight he gained into the work done by his mother was interesting. He finds our equipment fascinating and also enjoyed working at a computer.

We would like to thank Andrin for his interest and wish him every success with his vocational training.

Karin Ammann
Executive Assistant
ICE Europe is the leading trade fair for the converting industry worldwide. It provides a comprehensive overview of technical innovations and manufacturing trends in the finishing and processing of flexible web-type materials such as paper, film, foil and nonwovens.

The trade fair takes place every two years and celebrated its tenth anniversary from March 21 to 23, 2017 at the Munich Trade Fair Center. The international branch meeting of the converting industry is the ideal place to find technological innovations and intelligent production trends. More than 420 exhibitors from 26 countries presented the latest machines, technologies, production solutions and application systems as well as materials, accessories and services on around 11,000 m². The focus of ICE Europe 2017 was the diversification of converting techniques - against a background of the influence of automation and digitization - as well as the efficient, sustainable processing of high-quality and flexible materials.

For the second time, Daetwyler SwissTec was represented there with its own stand. Once again, it was shown that the name Daetwyler is very well-known all over the world and customers appreciate their closeness to the company. We welcomed and advised numerous customers from the USA, China, Russia, Thailand, South Africa and, of course, from Europe.

Olaf Segbert
Head of Marketing & Sales
WELCOME TO THE DAETWYLER GROUP

NEW EMPLOYEES.

NOVEMBER 2016
- Rabit Redzepi  
  Design Engineer, Application Tooling  
  Daetwyler Industries AG Zurich
- Alexander Köckenbauer  
  Service Technician  
  MDC Max Daetwyler AG

FEBRUARY 2017
- Urs Bernhardsgrütter  
  Plant Manager  
  Daetwyler Industries AG Zurich
- Markus Henss  
  CNC-Cutter  
  MDC Max Daetwyler AG Ursenbach

SINCERE THANKS FOR THE SERVICES PROVIDED

ANNIVERSARIES.

10 YEARS
- Valon Shabani  
  January 25, 2017  
  Work Scheduling, MDC Max Daetwyler AG
- Hans Schär  
  April 23, 2017  
  Production, MDC Max Daetwyler AG Ursenbach

15 YEARS
- Simona Wasserberg  
  December 1, 2016  
  Doctor Blades Production, SwissTec AG
- Arlind Zllanoga  
  December 22, 2016  
  Doctor Blades Production, SwissTec AG
- Kurt Grossenbacher  
  January 3, 2017  
  IT, Daetwyler Management AG

20 YEARS
- Sibylle Stiltz  
  December 16, 2016  
  QM, Daetwyler SwissTec AG

25 YEARS
- Arnold Giger  
  April 1, 2017  
  Infrastructures, Daetwyler Management AG

ALL THE BEST ON THE PATH YOU SHARE

WEDDINGS.
- Nilima und Manish Lokhande  
  Daetwyler SwissTec AG  
  November 11, 2016
- Nora und Valon Shabani  
  MDC Max Daetwyler AG  
  February 10, 2017

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE NEW ADDITION TO THE FAMILY

BIRTHS.
- Brigitte Frei and Thomas Dummermuth  
  MDC Max Daetwyler AG Ursenbach  
  Daughter: Ronja, November 22, 2016
ANNIVERSARIES.

30 YEARS

- Holger Pickel  
  December 1, 2016  
  Assembling, MDC Max Daetwyler AG

35 YEARS

- Erwin Kaderli  
  November 1, 2016  
  PKD-Grinding, MDC Max Daetwyler AG
- Konrad Stalder  
  November 1, 2016  
  Head of Production, Daetwyler SwissTec AG
- Hanspeter Schär  
  November 1, 2016  
  Plant Engineering & Design Projects,  
  Daetwyler SwissTec AG

40 YEARS

- Fritz Weyermann  
  December 1, 2016  
  PKD-Grinding, MDC Max Daetwyler AG
- Erich Bögli  
  April 1, 2017  
  Infrastructures, Daetwyler Management AG

50 YEARS

- Hans Jörg Brudermann  
  April 24, 2017  
  Member of the Board of Directors,  
  Daetwyler SwissTec AG

RETIREMENTS.

- Holger Pickel  
  Assembling & Logistics  
  MDC Max Daetwyler AG  
  December 2016

- Kishore Sarkar  
  Sales  
  Daetwyler SwissTec AG  
  December 2016

- Elisabeth Schütz  
  Infrastructures  
  Daetwyler Management AG  
  January 2017

- Erwin Kaderli  
  PKD-Grinding  
  MDC Max Daetwyler AG  
  April 2017

ENJOY YOUR RETIREMENT

SINCERE THANKS FOR THE SERVICES PROVIDED

THANK YOU
AGENDA

PROSPECTS, TRADE FAIRS AND UPCOMING DATES

AGENDA 2017.

May 2017
May 9 - 13, 2017
China Print 2017
Peking, China
Division SwissTec

June 2017
June 20 - 23, 2017
RosUpack
Moscow, Russia
Division SwissTec

July 2017
July 7, 2017
Summer Party in the Parking House

September 2017
September 18 - 23, 2017
EMO Hannover 2017
Messe Hannover, Germany
Fässler by Daetwyler Industries

September 2017
September 25 - 28, 2017
Label Expo Europe 2017
Brussels, Belgium
Division SwissTec