

Welcome to Warren Farm Radio Flyers

We hope that this presentation will give a flavour of who we are and what we do.

Warren Farm Radio Flyers has been operating at Warren Farm Sports Centre since we were granted a licence by Ealing Council in February 1997. However, this was not the start of the story. The first attempts to secure a model flying site in the Borough of Ealing go back as far as 1982.

Throughout our tenure, there has never been a single complaint by residents, council officers or other site users about any aspect of our activities. Despite this, the proposed deal between Ealing Council and Queens Park Rangers FC threatened to bring flying at Warren Farm to a close.

Fortunately, the decision by QPR to abandon these plans has provided the club with a reprieve, although we are still to learn what scheme is planned for the site, and how it will affect us.

Both the community area proposed by the QPR plans, and the remaining area of our alternative location at Rectory Park following the development of the new soccer academy, are too restrictive to permit anything but small slow flying models, flown only by highly experienced model pilots. Many of our existing fleet of valuable models would be unsuitable for the restricted flying areas, and would probably need to be scrapped.

This would prohibit the training of new pilots, which is an essential part of club activities.

All of our instructors are unpaid volunteers, having passed the BMFA examination for their Instructors Certificate.

WFRF is affiliated to the British Model Flying Association (BMFA) which provides all members with £25,000,000 Third Party Insurance, as well as other insurance benefits.



Paul Notley launches his hand-built, electric power-assisted glider



Ken Stanbury's P51 Mustang is finished in the colours of the 332nd Fighter Group , Known as the “Tuskegee Airmen”, or more simply the “Red Tails” - the first USAAF squadron comprised solely of African-American personnel.

When on bomber escort duty, they reputedly never lost a single bomber to enemy fighter action – a feat achieved by no other fighter squadron.



The Super 60, built by Tom Thomas, is an all-time classic! Originally designed in 1959 by E.J.Webster, it was kitted for many years by Kiel Kraft Ltd, and has been in production as a builders kit ever since, most recently by Ben Buckle Vintage Kits. Many have also been scratch built from plans.

The design was originally intended for free-flight, but has been updated for modern radio control, and is powered by an electric motor with a rechargeable battery.



The introduction of reliable electric power has made multi-engine models a safe option.

With the older models powered by internal combustion engines, loss of power on one engine could make the model difficult to handle.



Pauls experimental own-design twin.



The famous B-17 "Flying Fortress", flown by Ken Stanbury



The Hawk 70, built and flown by Bob Howard, is one of the few models at our club powered by a piston engine. The Laser 70 4-stroke is British made, as also is the kit from which the model was built.

Is it a bird?

Is it a plane?

No! It's SuperGuy's creation.

Guy Lee-Emery specialises in realistic-looking birds, flying dinosaurs and even a flying man.







Guy's Pelican is powered by a single electric motor, in the head.





Guy's electric-powered replica of an Australian Red-Backed Sea Eagle has attracted the attention of the local Red Kite population.

On several occasions, one or more has been seen circling in close formation with the model. They show no sign of fear or aggression, only curiosity.

This photo has been seen by a volunteer from the RSPB, who came to the same conclusion as us.

Red Kites often use thermals (rising warm air currents) to gain lift. As thermals always rotate clockwise, they see the Eagle circling, assume it is in a thermal, and try to take advantage of the lift.

They cannot work out why the Eagle is climbing (they know nothing of propellers) and wonder why the Eagle is not flapping its wings, whilst they have to flap like mad just to keep up.



During our brief transfer to Rectory Park, Northolt, we met Robert, a Paralympic Target Shooter from New Zealand who was in the UK to visit his family.

Seeking new challenges, he showed an interest in our activities, and had several lessons on the club trainer, a model equipped with a “Buddy Box” dual control system. After the first lesson, he was hooked!

Returning home, he promptly joined his local model flying club, learned to fly solo, and was last heard of editing their club newsletter.

Another success for Warren Farm Radio Flyers.



The club trainer lands safely after another training sortie.

The present club trainer is the third since 1997, and is the club's first electric powered trainer, the previous ones being powered by small 2 stroke engines. All have been equipped with a "Buddy Box" dual control system to enable the instructor to take control quickly.

The previous models were each retired after about 7 years continual use, but are in storage awaiting possible refurbishment.



Instructor Paul Perkins puts Mal Purba through his paces on the Buddy-Box dual control training system...



.....With great success, as Mal progresses to “Flogging the Circuit”, as per full-size training practice.



Trainee pilots of all ages are welcome. Junior members are required to be accompanied by a parent or guardian.



Tom Thomas (Centre) beams from ear to ear after being awarded his BMFA “B” Advanced Achievement Certificate from Examiners Peter Vidgeon (left) and Bob Howard (right).

Tom has now also achieved his BMFA Qualified Instructor Certificate.



Club Member Steve Hyde (Right) is presented with his BMFA “A” Achievement Certificate by Tom Thomas (left), one of our team of volunteer BMFA Qualified Instructors.



Last of the summer wine – memories of happier days

Our retired members were often to be found on a beautiful summer day flying, drinking tea and chewing the fat.

From left to right, Rick Smith (sadly no longer with us, and very much missed), Bob Howard (Chairman/Secretary), Ken Stanbury (Co-Founder of the club) and Eagle Builder Guy Lee-Emery