

WARREN FARM RADIO FLYERS

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Ready for launch – Paul Notley's new Westwings Orion-E electric-launch glider

APRIL AT WARREN FARM

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

In the light of our impending relocation to Rectory park, we have now been in contact with the Air Traffic Control Unit at RAF Northolt to seek a “Memorandum of Understanding” (MoU) to enable us to fly at the park. This has, of course, arisen from new SAA/DfT regulations intended to prevent the irresponsible use of drones.

Until such time as the MoU is agreed, we cannot fly at Rectory Park. The MoU will apply only to members of WFRF, however our contact at RAF Northolt tells us that they have received other MoU requests, and will be discussing them all in due course. Whether these requests are for other sites, or are from other groups wishing to use Rectory Park, has not been disclosed.

We will, of course, remain at Warren Farm until such time as we are required to vacate by the QPR redevelopment, however unless one of the alternatives being pursued by both Bob Howard and Chris Bunting comes to fruition, we will then be unable to fly until the agreement is signed.

FIELD CONDITION

The grass appears to be on steroids! Amey arranged for mowing only a few weeks ago, but it then shot up alarmingly, so much so that even Paul's E-Star managed to trip over it's own (extra large) nosewheel. Amey have now very kindly mown the runway again at very short notice, so a full programme of flying can continue.

Many thanks to the Amey team of John, Matt & Jess for keeping our landing strip in such great condition.

A SHOCK FOR ANOTHER CLUB!

Our old friends at West London MAC had a shock last week. A crash at their field on the borders of Harefield and Rickmansworth!

No, it was not one of their large scale models that bit the dust. It was a full-size Paraglider – basically, a parachute with an engine strapped to the pilot's back!

The crash resulted in a visit from the air ambulance, which landed on the Astro-Turf runway. Initial reports suggest that the pilot is OK, which is more than can be said for his machine.

A NEW SHAPE AT THE FIELD

Paul Notley appeared at the field recently with his latest masterpiece – a Westwings Orion-E electric launch glider.

The 1.5m span model is a traditional build with a fully built up wing and simple box fuselage. The wing is covered Polyspan polyester tissue - a fairly new material combining the translucent appearance and benefits of tissue covering with the damage resistance of a modern film covering.

The wing is firstly treated with BalsaLoc. The Polyspan is then ironed on and heat shrunk just like a film covering, and then given a coat of well-thinned clear cellulose dope. Although BalsaLoc is now becoming scarce, thinned PVA white wood glue can also be used as an alternative



On Paul's model, coloured Japanese tissue has been doped onto the PolySpan wingtips, and has also been used for the sheeted fuselage. Artists inks can also be used for decoration, thinned with water to preserve the translucent appearance.

AND FINALLY

Another great shot of Guy's Red-Backed Sea Eagle. So realistic in flight, it even fooled your editor, who pointed it out to a dog walker as the real thing, before the penny finally dropped.

