

WARREN FARM RADIO FLYERS

JANUARY AT RECTORY PARK

FRED DUNCKLEY MBE DL

It is with great sadness that we open this newsletter with the passing of the man who made Warren Farm Radio Flyers possible.

Fred Dunckley served as an Ealing councillor from 1982 to 2002, and was Mayor of the borough in 1988 – 1989. He was awarded an MBE in 2002, and was appointed Deputy Lieutenant to The Queen in 2002.

In 1982 he was instrumental in helping Bob Howard, Trevor Slater and John Stevens to set up Ealing & District MFC, with the aim of flying on a site near Horsenden Hill. This project lasted until 1988, but came to an end as a result of a combination of factors beyond the control of the club.

When Warren Farm Sports Centre was bought by the London Borough of Ealing, following the dissolution of the GLC and ILEA, Bob, Trevor & Mike Sullivan quickly enlisted Fred's help. Fred helped to guide the newly formed Warren Farm Radio Flyers through the minefield of problems presented to us by LBE. Without Fred's help, this would all have been in vain.

In later years Fred's health limited his ability to visit our flying sessions, but following the unexpected departure of Mike Sullivan in 2009 he volunteered to fill the vacant position of WFRF Licence Holder to enable the club to continue operation.

Fred's other interests included Bee-keeping and St. Johns Ambulance.

Fred passed away on 29th November. Our sincere condolences go to Winnie, and to Fred's family of six children, fourteen grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Many thanks to all of you who have renewed promptly. Your WFRF cards and BMFA receipts are in the post. The BMFA membership card and insurance certificate will follow in a few weeks.

If you have not yet renewed via WFRF, please renew your BMFA by contacting their membership secretary on 0116 244 0028. You can pay by card or cheque.

We also have vacancies for new members, so if you know of anyone who would like to join please put them in touch with us.

FIELD CONDITION

The area mown for us by LBE contractors is still in very poor condition, having been flooded in the recent wet weather, so we recommend flying hand-launch models only for the time being. It will not therefore be possible to carry out any training, as the club trainers are not suitable for hand launch operation.

We will be monitoring the condition of the field, and as soon as it improves we will let members know.

CLUB RULES

Following our relocation to Rectory Park, we have been reviewing the club rules to suit the more restrictive flying conditions.

It is also normal procedure to review the rules whenever technological developments result in the introduction of an activity not covered by existing rules. An example of this was the restriction on high-speed models, resulting from the development of very fast electric models powered by motors running at very high RPM.

WFRF has always been a “Fixed Wing Only” club, apart from a short time when a helicopter section was formed. It quickly became clear that fixed wing and helicopters do not mix well – a view confirmed by the rules under which many other clubs operate.

A recent development has been the rapid expansion of “Drones” or “Quadcopters”. We have had a number of enquiries about the use of these machines at Rectory Park.

The section of the rules concerning model types has been clarified to confirm that these machines are considered to be helicopters, and are therefore not permitted under our rules. The reasons for this decision are as follows :-

1. Most drones are used primarily for aerial photography. This has generated a lot of antipathy towards them, with the result that many TV and newspaper items have expressed concern about the growth of their use. We are anxious to avoid this rubbing off on our activities.
2. LBE have advised us that they are not happy about the idea of aerial photography in public parks.
3. We still hope to return to Warren Farm when QPR finish their redevelopment works. One of their plans is to erect a 8 foot high opaque fence around the site to prevent photos being taken of their players/apprentices. They would presumably take a dim view of aerial photography bypassing this precaution. We cannot stop people using drones for this purpose if flown from outside Warren Farm, but we need to make it clear to QPR that they are not connected in any way with our activities.

WFRF MAKES THE PRESS

Regular flyers may recall a visit to Rectory Park in June from Robert Berger, a skilled Paralympic Target Shooter from New Zealand.

Robert returned home to Auckland soon after his visit, and has now joined his local flying club. The “Fly Electric” column in the December issue of RCM&E contained an article about Robert, and mentioned how the “Stick Time” he had enjoyed with us at Rectory Park had encouraged him to take up our sport, and how he was now building his first model from an RCM&E plan.

WFRF came in for some very kind comments from Nigel Hawes, author of the column.

We wish Robert every success in his new activity.



AND FINALLY

We wish you all a Happy & Prosperous 2015, with plenty of flying. We hope to see you all at Rectory Park very soon.