

WARREN FARM RADIO FLYERS

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Rick Smith at Warren Farm.

JULY AT RECTORY PARK

RICK SMITH

It is with profound sadness that we have to report the death of Rick Smith, who passed away on Friday 24th June after a long illness.

Rick had been a stalwart of Warren Farm Radio Flyers since becoming a club member 16 years ago. He originally joined us after spotting us flying whilst delivering books to the Pride & Joy Day Nursery, and has since flown with us at every opportunity.

Having been taught to fly by the WFRF instructors, Rick soon progressed to becoming an instructor himself, where his calm and patient personality quickly put beginners at their ease. He became one of the "Summer Wine" group of retired members who regularly flew at Warren Farm nearly every morning, weather permitting, progressing from sports/trainer models to scale and aerobatics.

He also introduced his grandson to model flying, usually whilst flying from his favourite beach site at an estuary in North Wales.

Away from model flying, Rick was very much an "Outdoor Type", with interests in both Football and Golf. He was, at one time, Captain of his golf club.

Rick was a wonderful asset to our club, and he will be sorely missed. Our condolences go to his wife Ann, and to the family to which he was devoted.

FIELD CONDITION AND AVAILABILITY

The field is now in reasonable condition, despite the recent heavy rain. Strangely, the cricket circle is the only area which was not mown last week, however it is still usable as a take-off and landing area.

The Saturday morning casual footballers are still present, but are staying well out of our way to our right.

In the last few weeks, the cricketers have been turning up early, but staying out of our way until we finish flying at about 12.30. We assume that they have been spoken to by the Sports Bookings Office, in which case our grateful thanks go to Lynne Claydon and her colleagues.

We anticipate having to move to the northern half of the park in due course. Several of our members have been trying out the area from time to time, and they report that it is usable, but with limitations due to the confined nature of the area. This should improve if Ealing Council honour their commitment to remove two of the trees which are obstructing the site.

3D PRINTING – AGAIN

There has always been an issue with how to hold the joysticks on a transmitter. Some people prefer to hold the sticks between their thumb and forefinger, claiming that this gives very precise control. Others prefer a more relaxed approach, flying with just their thumbs resting on the top of the sticks.

Our 3D Printing expert Blake Guyan prefers the latter method, and has come up with a solution which gives a much improved level of control. He has produced a pair of 3D printed pads which screw onto the top of the stick in place of the knurled finials.

This is not only more comfortable to use, but also gives far greater security, with less chance of his thumbs slipping off the sticks.

Blake assures us that he will keep us updated on any future model-flying projects emerging from his printer.



Happy memories of days gone by - Rick Smith with the "Summer Wine" brigade at Warren Farm.