

WARREN FARM RADIO FLYERS



MARCH AT RECTORY PARK

FIELD CONDITION AND AVAILABILITY

Ken Stanbury visited Rectory Park a few days ago, and he has reported that parts of the park still have standing water. It is therefore unlikely that any mowing will take place for several weeks. The grass is now so long that only lightweight hand launch models (e.g. foam flying wings) can safely be flown.

THE FUTURE OF RECTORY PARK AND OUR CLUB

Following the news last month that we have now signed a licence agreement to fly at Rectory Park until the end of January 2017, we anticipate that this will be our last season at the present location.

During our discussions with London Borough of Ealing and Middlesex Football Association, we were assured that we would be able to continue flying close to our present location, but would need to fly diagonally across the park to avoid the fenced-in Astroturf football pitches.

LBE and MFA have now reneged on that position. Apparently, residents of the flats to the east of Rectory Park have, quite understandably, objected to the proposal of floodlit football pitches so close to their homes, so these pitches are now to be moved 30mts further east. Curiously, this is exactly where the original diagram showed the pitches to be, and this was the reason why we objected to those proposals. Whether there was any genuine wish by LBE and MFA to accommodate us is a matter for conjecture, however the football community do not have a very good history of cooperating with model flyers, as members of Hanworth Airpark MFC will probably testify.

Bob Howard and Paul Perkins have had a meeting with Chris Bunting, from LBE, to discuss an alternative venue for our activities. There are 5 options, none of which look very satisfactory.

We could possibly move to the northern half of Rectory Park, however this area is presently obstructed by trees in the middle of the area. This area is also a long way from the parking area and toilets, but Mr. Bunting has offered to make provision for transporting club members with limited mobility.

Another possibility, Gunnersbury Park, is probably suitable at the moment, but is due to fall victim to the LBE obsession with football academies in the near future.

Two of the sites, Perivale Park and Ealing Central Sports Ground, are closely hemmed in by housing. Since our meeting, we have also learned that the A40 Western Avenue, which is very close to both sites, is listed on CAA charts as a helicopter route into and out of London, and to fly so close to a helicopter route would not be ideal.

The final suggestion is Lord Halsbury Memorial Playing Fields, in Northolt. There are concerns here about the proximity of RAF Northolt, as their approach path is less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from what would be our take-off point. Mr. Bunting has agreed to discuss this with RAF Northolt on our behalf.

Finally, Mr. Bunting has offered to waive our licence fee for the next 5 years “*to enable monies to be used for club development opportunities*”, although what development opportunities there can be for a club with no adequate flying facilities is unclear.