

WARREN FARM RADIO FLYERS

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“Even nostalgia isn’t what it used to be” – Tom Thomas’ carries out a low-level fly-by with his electric Super 60

OCTOBER AT RECTORY PARK

RECTORY PARK FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT

Many of you will recall that, nearly four years ago, we learned by chance of the impending redevelopment of Warren Farm Sports Centre. Although Ealing Council had been discussing this for some time, there had apparently been no intention for us, as tenants of the site, to be kept informed other than through the local press.

It appears that they have followed the same policy of secrecy with the impending works at Rectory Park. It was with great shock that we learned of this only because Ken Stanbury happened to pass the field when test drilling works were taking place.

The only information available was in the form of a press release from the Middlesex Football Association (MFA). The artists impression, which you will all have seen, clearly showed that there would be no room for us to fly, and we feared for the future of our club.

Following representations made by Bob Howard at a recent LBE Cabinet Meeting, we have now had a fruitful site meeting with Stuart Allen, the development manager of MFA. As a result, we are now much happier that flying at Rectory Park will be able to continue.

The current plans differ from the original artists impression, in that the Astro-Turf style training pitch will now be much further to the east. Stuart will be asking the designers to see if it is possible to move it even further away, thus ensuring that we can land from that direction without overflying the pitch, which is expected to be in use all day at weekends.

The plans will also include on-site parking, toilets (much closer than the existing ones), and a cafe, all of which Stuart assures us will be available for us to use.

He has promised to send us a copy of the latest drawings in the next few days, and we will then have a better idea of what is in store for us.

The most positive note in all of this is the very different approach to our plight shown by MFA. Since we first heard of the QPR proposals at Warren Farm, nobody from QPR has been willing to spend time at the field with us to find out what we do, how we do it or what our needs are.

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Within days of us learning of the MFA proposals for Rectory Park, Stuart spent a morning with us, tried his hand on the Buddy-Box trainer (and flew better than some of the beginners that have passed through our hands), and was clearly keen to make us an integral part of the project.

Hopefully, we can look forward not only to continued flying, but perhaps a better overall club environment which will enable us to attract new members, and perhaps even renew our acquaintance with former members.

We expect further details in a few days.

WARREN FARM LATEST

The planning application for the Warren Farm Redevelopment was approved on Wednesday 16th September in the Council Chamber at Ealing Town Hall. There are, however, further challenges pending.

FIELD CONDITION & AVAILABILITY

The grass has become long and wet, however it has been reported that the football area was being mown as we go to press, and we hope that our flying area will have been mown by the weekend.

It is doubtful whether the tractor-drawn gang-mower will be able to be used again until the spring, however we will make enquiries to find out whether the LBE contractors would be able /willing to cut a strip for us using a smaller machine.

NEW BLOOD

We are very happy to welcome Blake Guyan to the club.

Blake has been flying for some years, but has only recently become aware of our club. Although he has a few ARTF and foam models, he is also a builder, so we hope to see a few interesting new shapes in the air in the future.

The most impressive model he has so far flown at Rectory Park is a Parkzone T-28 Trojan, a model of the US training aircraft developed to supersede the legendary Harvard. However, another interesting sight was his discus-launch glider, requiring Blake to spin like a whirling dervish whilst holding on to the wingtip to achieve a powerful launch.



AND FINALLY

We still have vacancies for more new members. If you know of anybody wishing to join WFRF, please put them in touch, or invite them to come to the park on any Saturday morning.