

WARREN FARM RADIO FLYERS



Back to regular flying – but now with social distancing in the pits area

MAY AT WARREN FARM

WE HAVE RESTARTED FLYING

Members have restarted regular flying sessions, but with social distancing in the pits, and other precautions as listed in the April newsletter.

One noticeable change is the number of walkers, both with and without dogs, making use of Warren Farm. Please be aware that they are probably unaware of our licence to fly there, and of the need to avoid loitering on or near the runway.

The notice advising people of our activities was recently vandalised again, however it has now been restored and returned to its rightful place.

FIELD CONDITION

As reported last month, the first runway mowing was carried out using a rotary mower, which left a rough surface unsuitable for models with small wheels.

We have spoken to the mowing team, and they have now re-mown the runway with a cylinder mower, which has done a truly superb job! Many thanks to John and the team at Greener Ealing.

POACHERS AT THE SITE

We have received information about a couple of non-members making unauthorised use of the site.

The resident of one of the houses near the entrance has spotted them parking near the tall gate, and walking to the flying area. They claimed to be new members who had not yet been issued with a key, however no new members have been admitted without a key.

They are described as English, one of them driving a Range Rover. To the best of our knowledge, none of our members drives a Range Rover.

They have now been identified, and warned not to fly at Warren Farm again. We have also reported this to Ealing Council for action, including car registration numbers. If anyone finds any unauthorised flyers on the site, please remind them that they will be reported to LBE for breaking the local bye-law.

FLYING ETIQUETTE

We have now been flying at Warren Farm for 25 years (albeit with a brief interlude at Rectory Park), and have never given our landlords (LBE), local residents or other site users cause for complaint.

Having said that, it is wise to remember that the nature of the site has changed radically in the last 12 months. We need to ensure that our “No Complaints” record is maintained. The site was formally a community sports facility, however it is now in the middle of a potential “Local Nature Reserve”, and our activities need to be adapted to suit such a facility.

We have no wish to ban the type of models which we have flown for all of our tenure at Warren Farm, however it is essential that we operate with respect for the new nature of the site and its users.

In the case of I/C models, please ensure that the appropriate propeller and silencer are fitted. A larger propeller will reduce both the RPM and noise levels.

With all high-revving motors (I/C, EDF and even some propeller driven electric models), tearing around at constant full throttle can be very annoying. Proper throttle control can result in a more satisfying flight, and will reduce noise levels.

Please be aware of other site users. If there are walkers present, please try to avoid overflying them at low altitude. It is a legal requirement to maintain a 15m separation from them when landing, and 30m at all other times.

NEW MEMBER

We are happy to welcome Tomasz Skora to the club. We first met Tomasz during our time at Rectory Park.

STOP PRESS – PROPOSED CHANGES TO WARREN FARM

We learned purely by chance that one of the groups involved in the bid to turn Warren Farm into a formally recognised nature reserve had issued a map of their planned changes. Unfortunately, this described our runway as a “Mowed patch, place to sit”. They have been asked to amend this to advise users of the site that this is our runway.

They have also installed a rope barrier along the runway to keep people away from the Skylark nesting area, however we have asked for this to be moved, as it will obstruct landings across the runway if the wind is from a South-Westerly direction. There is also a rope obstruction along the pavilion end of the runway.

More helpfully, another of the organisations (Warren Farm Nature Reserve) has published a Blog, which clearly indicates that this is our runway, and that we have priority use of the area.

Their blog can be found at <https://www.warrenfarmnaturereserve.co.uk/blog>.