

Horsham & District Radio Control Model Club

Part ten - What Discipline?

Assuming you've followed the previous 9 sheets in this series, you'll have experienced some of the attributes associated with flying a model aircraft. Whether you enjoy the building aspect, flying, or just trying to get that motor running just right is entirely in your control. You will also have noticed by now the diversity of the disciplines within this sport. Hopefully there is something that gains your interest and one that if you specialise in it, will lead to greater things.

Of course radio controlled models don't just mean model aircraft. Boats, submarines, helicopters, cars and motorbikes are all part of the modelling fraternity. If your interest is in aircraft, they don't have to be radio controlled. Free Flight and Control Line are still very active areas of the sport. Also if you're wondering why it's refereed to as a sport, try running after a free flight model on a three-minute flight, you'll soon understand why!

If you're interested in powered flight, you still have a lot of choices between 2 stroke, 4 strokes, electric or even gas turbine engines. You could attempt steam power (yes it has been done), or even solar power. Why not rocket power, via one of the Estes model rocket range. (You'll need a light model though!)

You could of course be interested in helicopters. They are extremely sophisticated nowadays, with gyros, glass fibre weighted blades, and excellent mechanics, but you don't have to start with the top of the range. For a few hundred pounds you could get airborne, but it's worth remembering the previous sheets and get some help at the start.

Aerobatics is another area, where the aim must be to be able to perform the necessary manoeuvres, and to practice them, so that you eventually are able to compete against your peers. This can be done in most attributes of this sport; you only have to look at the BMFA competition calendar to see how popular that is.

The list of options is only limited by you're imagination. As for me, I've always wanted to build a scale Spitfire, with retracting undercarriage, and with a 'Merlin' sounding engine noise. Having practised my flying skills for almost 25 years, maybe it's time to finally make that model.

I leave you to decide which element suits you. Good Luck!