

Manningham Leader

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The delight of flight flips from a firm base



HOW do you experience the thrill of stunt flying while still having your feet planted firmly on the ground?

Templestowe's Cliff McIvor knows. He regularly demonstrates the tricks and stunts his radio-controlled planes can do.

Along with his fellow pilots at the Doncaster Aeromodellers Club, Mr McIvor takes to the sky with his aircraft each week.

He said the hobby combined technical and artistic skills as pilots had to build and paint their planes, and then learn to fly them.

There are even competitions to test radio-controlled pilots' skill. See reports Pages 8 and 9.

Anchored adventures: Cliff McIvor, of Doncaster Aeromodellers Club, guides his radio-controlled model.

Picture: MICHELLE KELCEY, N03D1164

Sports, Scouts and Scrabble – Manningham seems to have a club to celebrate any hobby or interest. Reporter Belinda Mackowski talked to members from three clubs about their passion.



“ One manoeuvre might be (for the plane) to climb for 10 seconds and cut the power and glide. The person who achieves the longest time in the air is the most successful. ”

Stay calm: Richard Page and one of his planes.
Picture: MICHELLE KELCEY.
N0301104

Ageless flyover fervour



WHO says toys are only for children? Members of the Doncaster Aeromodellers Club certainly do not agree.

Club secretary Richard Page said the older members were just as passionate about flying their radio-controlled planes as the young pilots.

The difference is these toys don't come cheaply. A radio-controlled plane can set you back anywhere between \$500 and \$3000.

The model planes can have either rechargeable electric motors or internal combustion engines that run on methanol.

Mr Page said the club had about 70 members who had the opportunity to fly their craft at the club's Bulleen Park headquarters on Wednesday afternoons and Sundays.

He said qualified instructors were available at the club to teach beginners how to fly and help the more

experienced radio-controlled pilots master the stunts and tricks.

Mr Page said acrobatic competitions were one part of the discipline.

Radio-controlled planes can do the same stunts as aeroplanes, such as loop-the-loops and flying upside-down.

Mr Page said "fun fly" competitions tested radio-controlled pilots on skills such as speed and manoeuvring.

"One manoeuvre might be (for the plane) to climb for 10 seconds and cut the power and glide," he said. "The person who achieves the longest time in the air is the most successful."

Mr Page said good flyers needed the ability to keep calm and not panic and follow the set procedures to minimise the impact of a heavy landing for their planes.

For more information about the club, call Mr Page on 9882 3008.



Stunts: Cliff Melvor watches his plane in flight; far left, lined up ready to go.