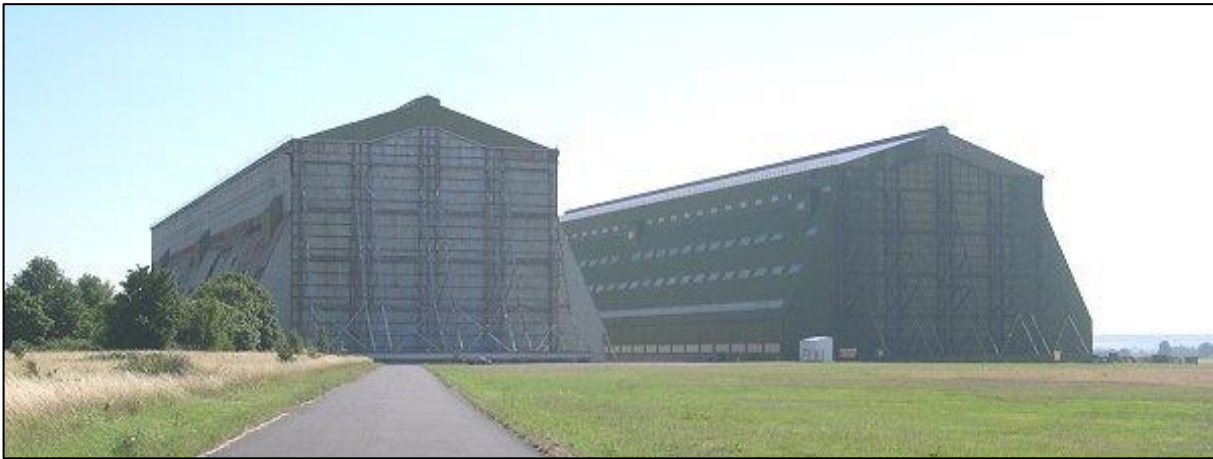


Great Indoor Duration flying sites.



Cardington near Bedford, UK Shed 1 – the home of British duration flying?

Ceiling Height 150 feet, length 800ft, width (flyable) 150ft.

Short (!) History.

The first hangar (Shed 1) was built in 1915 by Short Brothers, slightly smaller than it is now, to accommodate the building of 2 airships the R31 and R32. In 1919 it became the Royal Airship Works.

The second hangar was moved to the site from Norfolk (must have been fun!) in 1928.

The ill fated R101 was built at Cardington but its crash near Paris in 1930 with much loss of life brought about the end of the airship era in Britain. Barrage balloons were manufactured there from 1936 for use in the 2nd world war and the site was later used to manufacture Hydrogen and supplied all gasses used by the RAF until 2000. It was also used as an initial training facility for paratroopers.

More recently Shed 2 housed building and fire research facilities and has latterly been leased to film studios for such productions as Batman and Inception although it earlier provided some of the scenes in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang in 1968.

Shed 1 is currently being renovated (now fully restored July 2020) and its likely future use is being touted as being in the film production, storage or airship industries. There is much more information available on-line via your usual search engine.

Cardington has been host to several Indoor Duration World Championships, including the first ever held in 1961, as well as many British National Championships and general sport flying. We last had use of it in 2009 – the year I started indoor flying - but don't think it was anything I said! For the greater part of this time continued access was via the good offices - and deep pocket - of the late Laurie Barr, who also on occasions actually repaired the external fabric of the building so that flying might continue.

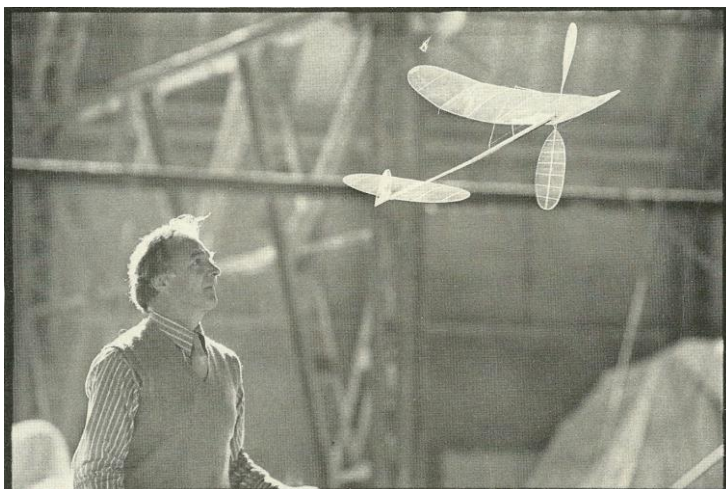
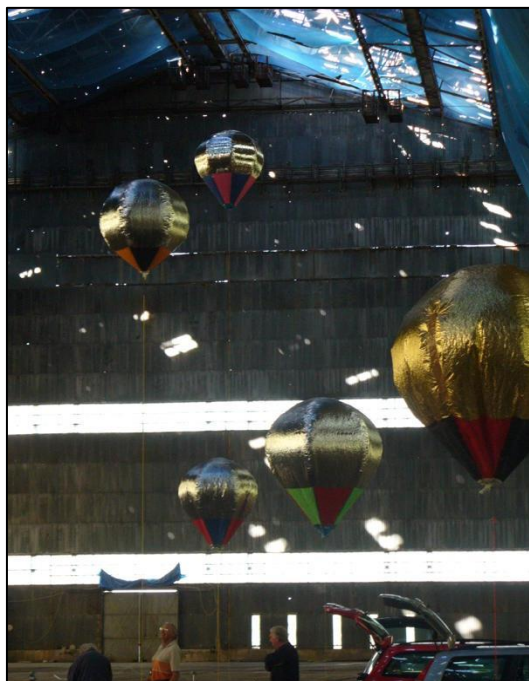
Will we ever get to use it again? I'm afraid only time will tell, there is still some contact with the current owners but of course this time round commercial considerations will apply.

World Champs held in 1961(USA), 1962(GER), 1972(CS), 1976(USA), 1978(GBR), 1986(USA).

Records posted:-

Helium steering balloons – around 2008

Reg Parham launches in 1976



AERO MODELLER September, 1954

INDOOR NATIONALS AT CARDINGTON

17

16

16. Pandora's box of Parham record breakers uses specially built for the successful Cardington meeting by Reg, who is assembling the 21:12 model.

18

17. Ray Monks flies this simple design for two new records, H.L. and R.O.G., with only a second difference between them. 18. Reg Parham and one of his smaller featherweights.

Indoor Nationals

Age:	Flights:				Total
R. Copland	Northern Heights	19:00	19:58	19:59x	58:57
P. Reid	Birmingham	17:16	17:44	21:09x	56:09
R. Parham	Worcester	19:19x	16:32	16:38	52:29
R. Monks	Birmingham	16:36	18:03x	17:41	52:20

x Denotes best individual contest flight.

Other best Flights: Robson 14:19; Poole 14:13; Muxlow 13:32; Young 13:06; Chamberlain 9:18

NEW RECORDS:
 H.L. Stick: R. Parham 21:12. ROG. Stick: R. Copland 14:22.
 H.L. Fuselage: R. Monks 10:36. ROG. Fuselage: R. Monks 10:37.

AERO MODELLER November, 1954

Record Flights at Cardington

Records again tumbled in rapid succession at the third Cardington Meeting beginning with Bob Copland raising his R.O.G. record to 15:22 on half turns. Fanning out the prop to bigger pitch he made 17:47 on full turns and then further improved to 19:29 with finer pitch.

The new Stick R.O.G. record goes, however, to Ray Monks for a 20:30 flight and the honour of first flight to the 180 feet high ceiling to Phil Reid—also of the Birmingham Club on what would surely have been a new hand launched duration record.

Ray Monks also managed 4:13 with a new tailless design and Reg Parham from Malvern—13:16 for a new figure with his hand launched fuselage model. Reg still retains the Stick duration record at 21:12, the scale drawing for his model being reproduced below.

INDOOR STICK TRACTOR
 H.L. 21 mins, 12 secs. on 1900 turns
 R. T. PARHAM—MALVERN

0 3 6 9 12
SCALE: INCHES