

Martin Pert, Red Arrows' previous "Red One" Squadron Leader - Aviation Career Journey



I started working at Elstree Aerodrome as a completely plane-mad 16-year-old Saturday boy. From weekend work to summer holidays spent pumping fuel and pulling aircraft out of the hangar, I would gladly eschew the pocket money wages to accept offers from kind aircraft owners to join them flying.

With its location so close to London that you could see it almost immediately after take-off, to sky-ogling my parents' house in Abbots Langley, my formative years of aviation were firmly moulded at Elstree.

Learning to fly with the eponymous Tony Ryan, my enthusiasm for all things aviation grew exponentially and I followed through on its draw by joining the Royal Air Force.

Imagine my delight 20 years later, having flown some of the world's highest-performance fighter aircraft in the interim, when I was able to lead the Red Arrows over Elstree during a routine transit sortie back to our operating base of RAF Scampton, Lincolnshire. The very same feeling of familiarity, friendliness and nostalgia hit me as I caught sight of the glinting hangars and tarmac runway. Elstree will forever hold a fond place in my aviation memories.

Martin Pert, Red Arrows' previous "Red One" Squadron Leader who grew up in Abbots Langley and learned to fly at Elstree Aerodrome

LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/in/martin-pert/>