

Cessna 177RG, G-BBHI

AAIB Bulletin No: 1/99 Ref: EW/G98/10/24 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Cessna 177RG, G-BBHI

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming IO-360-A1B6 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1972

Date & Time (UTC): 31 October 1998 at 1806 hrs

Location: Newtonards Airport, Ireland

Type of Flight: Private (Training)

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Minor to propeller tips and underside of fuselage

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence with IMC and Night Rating

Commander's Age: 55 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 672 hours (of which 515 were on type)
Last 90 days - 21 hours
Last 28 days - 2 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot was undertaking a flight for the renewal of his night rating. Four landings were completed without incident but on the fifth, he did not lower the landing gear. He had been distracted at the point where he normally did his first check of the landing gear and only realised that the gear was retracted on his second check just before touchdown. He immediately commenced a go-around but was unable to arrest the rate of descent in time to prevent the propeller tips from striking the runway. The subsequent circuit and landing were flown without incident and there was no vibration from the damaged propeller.

The pilot considered that his failure to carry out his first check of the landing gear may have been due to some firework displays in the vicinity of the airfield.

