

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Cessna A150L Aerobat, G-BOYU	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Continental Motors Corp O-200-A piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1974	
Date & Time (UTC):	15 September 2007 at 1732 hrs	
Location:	Runway 27L at Barton (Manchester) Airfield	
Type of Flight:	Training	
Persons on Board:	Crew -1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Damage to nosewheel assembly	
Commander's Licence:	Student	
Commander's Age:	42 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	105 hours (of which 105 were on type) Last 90 days - 14 hours Last 28 days - 4 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

Synopsis

Whilst attempting to land with the sun directly in his eyes the student pilot's seat moved back slightly and he inadvertently applied excessive aft elevator. During the ensuing bounce, he attempted to level the aircraft but had difficulty in assessing the aircraft pitch attitude. The aircraft nose landing gear struck the ground and collapsed.

History of the flight

The student flew the aircraft back to Barton, Manchester, at the end of his qualifying solo navigation exercise, and completed an overhead join for Runway 27L. The surface wind was from 270° at 7 kt. The student reports that the approach was normal, but the sun was low on the horizon and the aircraft had no sun visor. As the

student commenced the flare for landing the seat moved back slightly. The student was still holding the control yoke and so applied excessive aft elevator, which in turn caused the aircraft to bounce. The student attempted to level the aircraft by moving the control yoke forward, but with the sun in his eyes he had difficulty in assessing the aircraft pitch attitude. The aircraft nose landing gear struck the ground and collapsed. The student switched off the fuel and electrics and vacated the aircraft normally.

Comment

At Barton there are several runways that would have had been acceptable in the prevailing wind conditions. With the sun causing the student such problems

with visibility he could have asked for one of these alternative runways. This accident also highlights the need to ensure that all seats are securely locked in place during all stages of flight.