

Piper PA-38-112, G-EORG

AAIB Bulletin No: 12/98 **Ref:** EW/G98/06/13 **Category:** 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper PA-38-112, G-EORG

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-235-L2C piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1978

Date & Time (UTC): 2 June 1998 at 1445 hrs

Location: Wycombe Air Park, Buckinghamshire

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Substantial to nose landing gear

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 59 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 58 hours (of which 54 were on type)

Last 90 days - 7 hours

Last 28 days - 7 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The inexperienced pilot was returning from a local flight. The runway in use was 25 and the reported surface wind was 210°/20 kt. On his first approach, a gust of wind caught the aircraft in the flare and the pilot executed a satisfactory go-around. On his second approach, the surface wind had changed to 220°/20 kt and the pilot set the aircraft up for a crosswind landing. The approach was satisfactory with the flare being commenced on the runway centreline. However, the aircraft was again caught by a gust during the flare and, before the pilot could take any corrective action, the right mainwheel contacted the runway followed immediately by the nosewheel. The landing-roll was completed without incident, but subsequent inspection revealed damage to the nose landing gear.

The pilot attributed the cause of the accident to his initiating the flare too early in an attempt to protect the nose landing gear during a crosswind landing.