

No: 11/83

Ref: EW/G83/08/07

Aircraft type and registration:	Topsy Nipper Mk III G-BRIK (light single engine fixed wing aircraft)	
Year of manufacture:	1972	
Date and time (GMT):	2 August 1983 at 1350 hrs	
Location:	New Wimpole, Cambs	
Type of flight:	Private (Pleasure)	
Persons on board:	Crew – 1	Passengers – Nil
Injuries:	Crew – 1 (minor)	Passengers – Nil
Nature of damage:	Canopy broken, propeller, wings, fuselage and fin slightly damaged	
Commander's Licence:	Airline Transport Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	37 years	
Commander's total flying experience:	Over 6000 hours (1.05 hours on type)	

The pilot was performing aerobatics at an altitude of about 3500 ft when, during a rolling manoeuvre, the engine stopped. Since the aircraft was not fitted with an internally operated starter and the airflow over the propeller would not turn the engine, the pilot was unable to re-start.

The first field that the pilot selected for a forced landing was found on approach to have wires across it, and the pilot was just unable to stretch the glide to the next field. The undercarriage caught in the fence and the aircraft turned over.

This aircraft type, in standard form, does not have a fuel system capable of sustained inverted flight, nor does it have any internal means of starting the engine. It is known that it is difficult to re-start, particularly the larger engined variants, by diving the aircraft. With the engine stopped the gliding angle of this type is steeper than for most types of aircraft.