

Piper PA-28-140, G-BBEF

AAIB Bulletin No: 9/2002	Ref: EW/G2002/07/09	Category: 1.3
Aircraft Type and Registration:	Piper PA-28-140, G-BBEF	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-320-E3D piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1973	
Date & Time (UTC):	7 July 2002 at 1750 hrs	
Location:	Caernarfon Aerodrome, Wales	
Type of Flight:	Training	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Propeller, nose gear and engine frame	
Commander's Licence:	Student Pilot	
Commander's Age:	41 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	41 hours (all on type)	
	Last 90 days - 8 hours	
	Last 28 days - 2 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

At the end of a flight from Hawarden Aerodrome, the pilot could not establish radio contact with either RAF Valley ATC or Caernarfon Radio. He joined overhead Caernarfon Aerodrome at 1,300 feet agl and flew two circuits to determine the wind direction and strength from the windsock. This was later reported as 250°/12 kt, and he positioned G-BBEF for a circuit on Runway 26.

His next two circuits at 800 feet agl resulted in two voluntary go-arounds, due to a vehicle crossing the runway and an indicated change of surface wind, respectively. On his subsequent circuit, the pilot set himself up for a short field landing on Runway 26 with full flap selected. The wind was straight down the runway and the pilot considered that his approach was stable. However, as he retarded the throttle over the threshold, the aircraft suddenly dropped onto the runway. G-BBEF appeared to touch down on the main gear and then bounced back into the air. As the pilot went to apply power for a go-around, the aircraft touched down again, probably nose gear first, and the

nose gear collapsed. The aircraft slid to a halt along the runway and, after securing the engine, fuel and electrics, the pilot evacuated the aircraft.