

Pioneer 300, I-6173

AAIB Bulletin No: 10/2003	Ref: EW/G2003/08/18	Category: 1.4
Aircraft Type and Registration:	Pioneer 300, I-6173	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Rotax 912S piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	2000	
Date & Time (UTC):	9 August 2003 at 1955 hrs	
Location:	A field near the Horse & Jockey Pub, near Raglan, Gwent	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Damage to fuselage and propeller	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	59 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	708 hours (of which 36 were on type)	
	Last 90 days - 56 hours	
	Last 28 days - 20 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

Prior to the intended local flight, the aircraft was refuelled with 15 litres of unleaded motor fuel that was in a metal container and stored in a hangar. Following the pre-flight checks the engine was started and the aircraft taxied to the grass strip. Engine power checks and the pretake-off checks were then carried out with no apparent problems and, following the subsequently successful takeoff, the landing gear and flaps were retracted. At about 180 feet above the ground the engine stopped. The pilot carried out a forced landing straight ahead, and managed to avoid straw bails that were located in the recently harvested field, but the aircraft suffered minor damage to the underside of the fuselage and the propeller. The pilot and passenger, who were uninjured, exited the aircraft unaided.

The pilot in his assessment of the cause of the accident attributed the engine stoppage to fuel starvation. This was possibly as a result of a vapour lock, due to the high air temperature, which was reported to have been about 32°C, and the use of unleaded motor fuel. This is more volatile than AVGAS and may have already achieved a heated state during its storage in the metal container.