

## Team Minimax 91, G-MYYR

**AAIB Bulletin No: 9/98 Ref: EW/G98/07/07      Category: 1.3**

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** Team Minimax 91, G-MYYR

**No & Type of Engines:** 1 Rotax 447 piston engine

**Year of Manufacture:** 1996

**Date & Time (UTC):** 5 July 1998 at 1410 hrs

**Location:** Cranfield Airport, Bedfordshire

**Type of Flight:** Private

**Persons on Board:** Crew - 1 - Passengers - None

**Injuries:** Crew - Minor - Passengers - N/A

**Nature of Damage:** Substantial to right wing, undercarriage, engine bay and canopy

**Commander's Licence:** Private Pilot's Licence

**Commander's Age:** 69 years

**Commander's Flying Experience:** 135 hours (of which 70 were on type)  
Last 90 days - 8 hours  
Last 28 days - 3 hours

**Information Source:** Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The Minimax is a microlight aircraft with a maximum take-off weight of 560 lb and is operated on a Permit to Fly. On the day of the accident, the pilot had been attending the Popular Flying Association Rally at Cranfield. He obtained a meteorological forecast that indicated that the surface wind would be from 130° and gusting to 30 kt. The aircraft took off from the grass Runway 22 using a rotation speed of 65 kt and climbed to about 100 feet. Witnesses on the ground stated that the aircraft appeared to be in a near stalled condition with the wings rocking from side to side. The pilot stated that at about 100 feet, a gust of wind rolled the aircraft 90° to the right accompanied by a loss of airspeed. He attempted to steer the aircraft away from the spectators on his right but the right wing stalled and the aircraft impacted the runway at about 30 mph. The pilot received only minor injuries and was helped from the aircraft by spectators and the Airfield Fire Service.

The pilot considered that the cause of the accident was a strong gust of wind that exceeded the capabilities of his aircraft and that with hindsight he should not have attempted to take off in the prevailing conditions.