

Piper PA-28-181, G-BTYI

AAIB Bulletin No: 6/2002	Ref: EW/G2002/04/05	Category: 1.3
Aircraft Type and Registration:	Piper PA-28-181, G-BTYI	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-360-A4M piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1981	
Date & Time (UTC):	10 April 2002 at 1500 hrs	
Location:	Fenland Airfield, Lincolnshire	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 2
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Nosewheel broken off and damaged propeller.	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilots Licence	
Commander's Age:	53 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	272 hours (of which 125 were on type)	
	Last 90 days - 6 hours	
	Last 28 days - 5 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

The aircraft was returning to Fenland Airfield from a pleasure flight for a landing on Runway 36. The wind was reported to be from 040° at 17 kt gusting to 20 kt. These wind conditions would have created a crosswind component of 11 to 12 kt and a headwind component of 13 to 15 kt. The pilot stated that it was very gusty and that the airflow over the touchdown area was downstream of a set of hangars on the north-east side of the airfield. As the pilot began to flare the aircraft for landing, it was hit by a strong gust that lifted the right wing. As he tried to recover the situation, the wind subsided and the aircraft dropped quickly to the ground. The aircraft bounced and although the pilot pulled back on the controls, the second touchdown was hard and the nosewheel broke off. The aircraft then slewed around and stopped very quickly. The pilot and passengers evacuated the aircraft through the exit door and a fire/rescue vehicle arrived within one minute.

The pilot has since stated that he was 'caught off guard' by the sudden strong gust of wind and his reaction to the bounce was incorrect. With the benefit of hindsight, he realised that he should have initiated a go-around.