

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Piper PA-38-112 Tomahawk, G-BODS	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-235-L2C piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1979 (Serial no: 38-79A0410)	
Date & Time (UTC):	5 June 2014 at 1205 hrs	
Location:	Hinton-in-the-Hedges Airfield, Northamptonshire	
Type of Flight:	Training	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 2	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Propeller, engine mounting frame, nose leg and wing leading edge damaged.	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	50 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	383 hours (of which 9 were on type) Last 90 days - 1 hour Last 28 days - 1 hour	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

Synopsis

Following a heavy landing the instructor instigated a go-around. However the aircraft drifted to the left of the runway and struck a hedge situated along the boundary of the airfield.

History of the flight

The instructor had recently received his instructor rating and on the morning of the accident attended an interview and undertook a check flight in a PA-38 for a position as a flying instructor with the flying school. The instructor was offered, and accepted, the position and was asked to fly with a student in the afternoon.

The instructor reported that there was a crosswind of 10 kt from approximately 10° to 15° to the right of the runway heading. The first circuit was uneventful, but during the second circuit the student had difficulty in maintaining the approach speed of 65 kt. As the aircraft passed over the numbers identifying Runway 24, the engine power was reduced to idle and the flare was carried out slightly high. The airspeed decayed very rapidly and the aircraft made a hard touchdown before bouncing into the air and drifting to the left of the runway. The instructor took control, applied full power and attempted a go-around while trying to correct the drift to the left. The instructor stated that, despite checking that the carburettor heat control was fully in and applying right aileron and rudder, he could not correct the drift or gain sufficient airspeed to enable the aircraft to climb out of ground effect. The aircraft

eventually stuck a hedge on the airfield boundary that ran along the side of the runway. Both the instructor and student were uninjured.

The nose landing gear leg was forced backwards during the impact, damaging the engine mounting frame. The propeller and leading edge of the wing were also damaged.