

Piper PA-28-140, G-BXPL

AAIB Bulletin No: 10/99 **Ref:** EW/G99/07/29 **Category:** 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper PA-28-140, G-BXPL

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming IO-320-E2A piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1968

Date & Time (UTC): 22 July 1999 at 1732 hrs

Location: Bournemouth International Airport

Type of Flight: Private (Training)

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Substantial to left main landing gear, propeller and engine cowling

Commander's Licence: Student Pilot

Commander's Age: 20 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 21 hours (all on type)
Last 90 days - 21 hours
Last 28 days - 21 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was refuelled to full tanks with 40 gallons of fuel on the morning of the accident and had flown for 2.6 hours before being flown by the student pilot on a solo circuit detail. He had been airborne for some 45 minutes and was downwind for Runway 35 when he noticed a loss in engine RPM. He turned towards the airfield feeling sure that he could land on the runway. On short finals however it became apparent that the aircraft would not clear the boundary road or hedge. He therefore decided to turn and land in a field parallel to the road. On landing the left main landing gear collapsed, the aircraft veered to the left and collided with a post and wire fence. The pilot, who was wearing a lap and diagonal seat belt, vacated the aircraft without injury.

After the accident the airfield operations director and the CFI examined the aircraft fuel tanks. There was no fuel in the right tank and a substantial amount of fuel in the left tank. The fuel selector was selected to the right tank.