

**No: 1/88**

**Ref: 1c**

**Aircraft type and registration:** MS 892A-150 Rallye Commodore G-ATWZ

**No & Type of engines:** 1 Lycoming 0-320-E2A piston engine

**Year of Manufacture:** 1966

**Date and time (UTC):** 4 October 1987 at 1700 hrs

**Location:** Westbury sub Mendip, Somerset

**Type of flight:** Private (pleasure)

**Persons on board:** Crew — 1                      Passengers — 2

**Injuries:** Crew — None                      Passengers — None

**Nature of damage:** Aircraft damaged beyond economical repair

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

**Commander's Age:** 40 years

**Commander's Total Flying Experience:** 85 hours (of which 6 were on type)

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

The aircraft was taking off from a private grass airstrip which runs along a disused railway embankment. The chosen runway was 29 and the wind was generally across the runway from the left. The pilot later obtained wind data from Bristol/Lulsgate airport of 150° at 4 to 10 knots. As the aircraft accelerated for take-off, it veered to the left and the pilot was unable to bring it back onto the runway centreline. It continued, displaced to the left, and the pilot decided to abandon the take-off and attempted to stop the aircraft. However, the left wing tip struck some small bushes on the edge of the strip and the aircraft was swung sideways down an embankment where it came to rest. The pilot considers that the combination of a castoring nosewheel, narrow runway and cross wind contributed to his inability to maintain the runway centreline.