

No: 10/87

Ref: 1c

Aircraft type and registration: DHC-1 Chipmunk 22 G-BDBP

No & Type of engines: 1 De Havilland Gypsy Major piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1952

Date and time (UTC): 23 August 1987 at 1215 hrs

Location: Nottingham Airport, Tollerton, Notts

Type of flight: Private (Display)

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — None

Injuries: Crew — None Passengers — N/A

Nature of damage: Aircraft nose cowl and propeller damage. Offside rear quarter of the car damaged

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 60 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 4808 hours (of which 507 were on type)

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

Outside the hanger, in front of which several display aircraft had been parked on the grass, the apron and taxiway was being used as an entry route for airshow spectators and their vehicles. The Chipmunk was parked beside, and facing, the taxiway along which it would have to travel in order to reach the runway.

Prior to starting-up the aircraft for take-off, the pilot made every effort to persuade the show organisers to marshal the cars, people and dogs away from his intended, and necessary, route towards the take-off point. On receipt of taxi clearance, he moved the aircraft forward, manoeuvring between other aircraft and weaving the nose in the manner approved to ensure forward vision.

As the aircraft turned onto the taxiway, a car drove past the nose and parked a few metres further on, on the taxiway centreline. The speed at which the car was travelling exactly coincided with the rate of the aircraft's turn, thus remaining in the pilot's blind spot, directly ahead of the aircraft. As the aircraft reached the taxiway centreline, and before the pilot could re-establish the weaving motion, he felt a "bump" and immediately applied the brakes and shut down the engine.

Upon leaving the aircraft, the pilot saw a car, with its boot lid open, under the nose of the aircraft and a man who had clearly been injured in the collision. The man, who received minor cuts and bruises to his back, later stated in a TV interview, that he had driven in front of the Chipmunk with its engine running, and had drawn his children's attention to it.