

AAIB Bulletin No: 3/93

Ref: EW/G93/02/03

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper PA-28-180 Cherokee, G-BASJ

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-360-A4A piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1972

Date & Time (UTC): 6 February 1993 at 1306 hrs

Location: Bristol Airport, Avon

Type of Flight: Private (training)

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Right main landing gear bent back 30° and wheel spat and fairing destroyed. Severe damage to right wing flap and fuel tank. Skin damage to stabilator and tab.

Commander's Licence: Student Pilot

Commander's Age: 37 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 26 hours (of which 24 were on type)
Last 90 days - 4 hours
Last 28 days - 2 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The student pilot had completed a dual instruction flight during which his flying instructor reports he carried out 5 circuits and landings on runway 27 at Bristol Airport and achieved a high standard. He was therefore authorised for a further solo flight of circuits and landings. The student reports that his first circuit and landing were normal, however, when he applied engine power for the touch and go he lost directional control and the aircraft veered off the runway to the left. Shortly afterwards the aircraft's right main landing gear struck a VASI installation and the landing gear partially collapsed whereupon the aircraft slewed to a halt on the grass. The pilot was uninjured and vacated the aircraft without assistance.

Examination of the runway surface revealed two long skid marks which originated close to the centre line and ran to the left edge of the asphalt surface close to the point where the aircraft crossed onto the grass. The skid marks were such as could only have been made by an aircraft that was being retarded by the application of the left brake only. The weather at the time of the accident was partly cloudy with a surface wind of 240°/06 kt.