

**AAIB Bulletin No: 3/96**

**Ref: EW/G96/01/05**

**Category: 1.3**

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** Piper PA-28R-200 Cherokee Arrow II, G-BTLG

**No & Type of Engines:** 1 Lycoming IO-360-C1C piston engine

**Year of Manufacture:** 1970

**Date & Time (UTC):** 26 January 1996 at 1750 hrs

**Location:** Blackpool Airport, Lancashire

**Type of Flight:** Private

**Persons on Board:** Crew - 1                      Passengers - 2

**Injuries:** Crew - None                      Passengers - None

**Nature of Damage:** Propeller bent and minor damage to lower engine cowling

**Commander's Licence:** Private Pilot's Licence with IMC and Night Ratings

**Commander's Age:** 63 years

**Commander's Flying Experience:** 285 hours (of which 180 were on type)  
Last 90 days - 6 hours  
Last 28 days - 2 hours

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

After takeoff, the pilot turned as instructed into a right-hand circuit. Just after he called "downwind", he heard a helicopter calling "left downwind" at the same height. Thereafter, he acknowledged that he was distracted with acquiring and maintaining visual contact with the helicopter, and failed to complete his pre-landing checks. On finals, after he retarded the throttle and flared for a landing on Runway 10, he was aware of the gear warning horn sounding; the aircraft touched down before the pilot could commence a go-around.