

AAIB Bulletin No: 6/94

Ref: EW/G94/04/08

Category: 1.3

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

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

Year of Manufacture: 1971

Date & Time (UTC): 10 April 1994 at 1320 hrs

Location: Ronaldsway Airport, Isle of Man

Type of Flight: Private (Training)

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Nose landing gear collapsed, bent propeller, shock-loaded engine and collateral damage to cowlings and engine bearers

Commander's Licence: Student pilot

Commander's Age: 38 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 32 hours (all on type)
Last 90 days - 3 hours
Last 28 days - 2 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

During solo circuit flying practice on Runway 03 with a surface wind of 360°/06 kt, the aircraft touched down on its mainwheels near the runway centreline. When the nosewheel was lowered onto the runway, the aircraft veered violently to the left. The student pilot was unable to maintain directional control and the aircraft ran off the tarmac runway onto grass just to the north of the intersection of Runways 03 and 35. The left turn continued and the nosewheel struck the tarmac lip of Runway 35 at an oblique angle causing the nose gear to collapse.

The student pilot's instructor observed the landing and agreed that it appeared normal until the nosewheel was lowered to the runway. The student was unsure whether or not he had left rudder applied prior to touchdown.