

No: 8/88

Ref: EW/G88/05/11

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper PA-32RT-300T, G-BMEV

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming TIO-540-S1AD piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1978

Date and Time (UTC): 26 May 1988 at 1820 hrs

Location: Blackpool Airport

Type of Flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Damage to right flap and aileron

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence with IMC, Night and Full Instructor's Ratings

Commander's Age: 52 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 2501 hours (of which 9 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

After a normal take-off from Goodwood, the right main landing gear down light failed to illuminate on approach to Blackpool. The pilot established that the bulb was serviceable by substitution, and tried several manoeuvres to try to get the landing gear to lock-down. Observers in the control tower who witnessed two flypasts reported that the landing gear looked to be extended normally, so the pilot decided to land the aircraft. A gentle touchdown was made on the runway alongside a fire tender vehicle, but after a ground run of approximately 50 metres, the right landing gear slowly retracted. Once the aircraft's forward speed had decayed, the right wing touched the ground and the aircraft slewed off the runway and onto the grass. There was no fire and the pilot escaped uninjured.

Examination of the right landing gear operating mechanism, by the aircraft's maintenance organisation, revealed the presence of corrosion and stiffness in some of the sidestay and downlock mechanism joints.

The last scheduled maintenance on the aircraft was the Certificate of Airworthiness renewal/"star" annual check in August 1986, since when the aircraft had been standing in the open and had done little flying. It was being ferried to Blackpool under the authority of a Fitness to Fly Certificate.