No: 9/85 **Ref: EW/G85/08/10**

Aircraft type and registration:	Pitts S2A G-FREE (light single engine fixed wing biplane)
Year of Manufacture:	1979
Date and time (GMT):	31 August 1985 at 1600 hrs
Location:	Little Snoring Airfield nr Fakenham, Norfolk
Type of flight:	Private (pleasure)
Persons on board:	Crew — 1 Passengers — 1
Injuries:	Crew — None Passengers — None
Nature of damage:	Damage to propeller, wheel fairings and upper left wing leading edge. Engine possibly shock loaded
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence
Commander's Age:	38 years
Commander's total flying experience:	410 hours (of which 65 were on type)
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by pilot.

Although the surface wind was reported as 230°/10—15 knots, the pilot elected to take-off from the perimeter track (magnetic heading 280°) adjacent to the clubhouse and hangar rather than to taxi to runway 25 since this would have involved taxying over rough surfaces. She had taken off from the perimeter track earlier in the day and had experienced no problems.

After the application of full throttle, the aircraft swung initially to the right, this swing was corrected and then the aircraft began to swing uncontrollably to the left. It ran off the perimeter track and tipped on its nose in a stubble field. The pilot believes that the aircraft was initially shielded from the wind by the hangar and that the application of left rudder to correct the first swing took effect just as the aircraft became exposed to the cross-wind.

The pilot also reports that it proved difficult to open the cockpit canopy by either the normal or emergency method but believes both she and the passenger were opposing each others' actions. The canopy was released without difficulty from the outside by an observer of the accident.