

Cessna 152, G-BPTF

AAIB Bulletin No: 3/2001

Ref: EW/G2000/12/10 - Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Cessna 152, G-BPTF

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-235-L2C piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1978

Date & Time (UTC): 29 December 2000 at 1430 hrs

Location: Deanland Airfield, Sussex.

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Minor damage to wingtip and aileron

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 66 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 790 hours (of which 700 were on type)

Last 90 days - 40 hours

Last 28 days - 2 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft had been parked in the open and subject to adverse weather conditions for approximately six weeks. On the day of the flight the weather was fine with calm winds, good visibility, clear skies and a surface temperature of 0°C. On arrival at the aircraft the pilot found that he had to remove ice from the wings, ailerons, flaps, elevators, tailplane, rear fuselage and the engine cowling. After starting the engine it was run for approximately seven minutes and all the pre-flight checks were carried out satisfactorily. The aircraft was lined up for departure from grass Runway 06 (500 metres long by 27 metres wide) and with the brakes released full power was applied. Acceleration was normal but after lift off the pilot reported that the aircraft was reluctant to climb. He therefore manoeuvred the aircraft to the left of the runway towards an adjacent field and carried out a successful landing resulting in only minor damage to a wing tip and aileron.

The pilot assessed the cause of the poor performance as being due to the soft ground, calm wind conditions and possible increased aircraft weight due to frozen moisture within the airframe.

The CAA publish a series of General Aviation Safety Sense Leaflets covering most aspects of general aviation operations. Leaflet 3B details all the safety aspects of 'winter flying' and Leaflet 12B titled 'Strip Sense' covers amongst other aspects operations from grass airstrips.