

AAIB Bulletin No: 3/96

Ref: EW/G96/02/01

Category: 2.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Montgomerie-Bensen B8MR, G-BTTD

No & Type of Engines: 1 Rotax 582 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1991

Date & Time (UTC): 4 February 1996 at 1515 hrs

Location: Leicester Airport

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Rotor and propeller damaged beyond repair, and damage to rotor head, fairings and wheel spats

Commander's Licence: FAA Commercial (Rotorcraft/Gyroplane) (USA)

Commander's Age: 56 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 1,973 hours (of which 7 were on type)
Last 90 days - 7 hours
Last 28 days - 1 hour

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot was attempting to takeoff from the asphalt Runway 10 at Leicester in calm wind conditions. He reported that the pre-rotator was not used to spin up the main rotor prior to the commencement of the take-off run. He was of the opinion that the rotor would achieve sufficient rotation speed within the take-off run available, but this proved not to be the case. The aircraft ran off the end of the runway onto the grass and into a shallow drain crossing the extended centreline, where it rolled over onto its left side. The pilot was wearing a safety helmet and was uninjured. He was able to crawl clear after he had shut down the engine.

An observer noted that the take-off roll was commenced with the rotor stationary, without the benefit of being spun by hand.