

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	DH82A Tiger Moth, G-ANFV	
No & Type of Engines:	1 De Havilland Gipsy Major 1F piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1942 (Serial no: 85904)	
Date & Time (UTC):	12 August 2012 at 1825 hrs	
Location:	Private airstrip near RAF Lossiemouth, Moray	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - 1 (Minor)	Passengers - 1 (Minor)
Nature of Damage:	Extensive damage to the aircraft and some crop damage	
Commander's Licence:	Airline Transport Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	57 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	22,100 hours (of which 13 were on type) Last 90 days - 168 hours Last 28 days - 44 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

Synopsis

The pilot initiated a go-around after a bounced landing. As the aircraft turned crosswind, it encountered an increasing tailwind and its performance deteriorated rapidly. The pilot steered the aircraft to an area of low crops with the intention of regaining lost airspeed but was unable to prevent it from striking the ground.

History of the flight

The aircraft was being flown from a private grass airstrip which was about 500 m long and orientated 16/34. A weather forecast obtained from nearby RAF Lossiemouth gave good visibility and scattered cloud, with a surface wind from 140° at 14 kt. Although he assessed the surface wind to be from 150° at 12 kt, the pilot elected to land in the northerly direction, on an approximately 3% upslope.

The aircraft bounced on landing and the pilot initiated a go-around. As the aircraft turned left, crosswind, there was a loss of airspeed and its performance deteriorated rapidly. The pilot was concerned that the aircraft might settle into a small wooded knoll ahead, so chose to turn to the right towards an open barley field. His intention was to convert some of his remaining height into airspeed and re-establish a climb.

When the pilot attempted to level the aircraft just above the ground, he found that it would not respond in pitch. The aircraft struck the ground moments later, at a speed of about 55 kt and in a descending right turn. The aircraft came to rest after a short distance, with its wings folded about the fuselage. The pilot and his passenger

were able to free themselves from the wreckage unaided. All three emergency services attended the scene and the pilot and his passenger were taken to hospital but had suffered only minor injuries.

The pilot believed that he had focussed too much on the ground handling characteristics of the aircraft and

had not taken into account how the prevailing weather conditions would affect other phases of flight. He thought that the aircraft had encountered a tailwind as it climbed out of relative shelter at ground level and then had stalled when he initiated the right turn.