

AAIB Bulletin No: 8/94

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Category: 1.3

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** Morane Saulnier MS.880B Rallye Cub, G-SAMS

**No & Type of Engines:** 1 Continental O-200-A piston engine

**Year of Manufacture:** 1967

**Date & Time (UTC):** 29 June 1994 at 1840 hrs

**Location:** Greenlands Airstrip, Rhualt, Clwyd, Wales

**Type of Flight:** Private

**Persons on Board:** Crew - 2                      Passengers - None

**Injuries:** Crew - None                      Passengers - N/A

**Nature of Damage:** Propeller, right wing flap and all three landing gears

**Commander's Licence:** Private Pilot's Licence

**Commander's Age:** 69 years

**Commander's Flying Experience:** 182 hours (of which 31 were on type)  
Last 90 days - 3 hours  
Last 28 days - 2 hours

**Information Source:** Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

On completion of a local flight in good weather conditions on an exceptionally warm day, the aircraft returned to the private landing site where the surface wind was from 190° at 12 to 15 kt with gusts. There are three grass strips at Greenlands and the pilot established the aircraft on final approach at an IAS of 60 kt to the strip orientated 180°. The approach was normal until at about 50 metres from the threshold where there was a sudden and severe increase in the rate of descent. Despite the timely application of power, the pilot was unable to avoid a heavy touchdown some 20 metres before the threshold.

The uninjured occupants vacated the aircraft without difficulty and were grateful for the restraint provided by their full shoulder harnesses. They also noticed how much stronger and more turbulent the wind seemed in the touchdown area than at the windsock which was on the other side of the landing area. The threshold of the landing strip sloped upwards and was bordered by rough ground.