
ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Gemini Flash IIA, G-MTIA	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Rotax 503 piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1987	
Date & Time (UTC):	16 June 2009 at 1155 hrs	
Location:	Caernarfon Airport, Gwynedd	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - 1 (Minor)	Passengers - 1 (Minor)
Nature of Damage:	Substantial	
Commander's Licence:	National Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	70 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	109 hours (of which 41 were on type) Last 90 days - 13 hours Last 28 days - 8 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

Synopsis

The aircraft was unstable on the approach and rolled over on the subsequent landing.

History of the flight

The aircraft is a flex-wing microlight type. The pilot and his passenger went for a local sightseeing flight along the Llyn Peninsula, south of Caernarfon Airport. The weather conditions were fine and clear with a surface wind varying from westerly to south-south-west at 6 to 10 mph, scattered cloud and a temperature of 20°C. On returning to Caernarfon the pilot joined the left hand downwind leg for Runway 20.

The trim speed for the aircraft was set at 53 mph. The pilot found that on the final approach he was having difficulty

making the necessary corrective control movements in turbulence and realised afterwards that he had been low and slow, about 42 mph to 45 mph. He reported that this had been corrected shortly before touchdown. However, over the threshold the aircraft was destabilised, possibly by a gust of wind, and drifted to the left of the runway centreline (see Figure 1). The aircraft touched down on the left main wheel first, then rolled to the right and pivoted about the right main wheel. The starboard wing contacted the ground, both wings folded backwards and the trike rolled onto its right hand side and slid along the ground until it stopped. Both occupants were able to get clear of the aircraft without assistance, suffering only minor injuries.



Figure 1

View on short final approach from on board the aircraft before the accident