

No: 8/86

Ref: 1b

Aircraft type and registration: Piper PA-38-112 G-BGEV

No & Type of engines: One Lycoming O-235-L2C piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1978

Date and time (UTC): 29 March 1986 at 1540 hrs

Location: Sleaf Aerodrome, Shropshire

Type of flight: Training

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — None

Injuries: Crew — None Passengers — N/A

Nature of damage: Substantial damage to wings, fuselage and nosewheel — aircraft beyond economic repair

Commander's Licence: Student Pilot

Commander's Age: 30 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 34 hours (of which 18 were on type)

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

The student pilot, on his third solo detail, was taking-off on runway 23 when, at about 200 feet agl, he felt a sudden yaw followed immediately by a complete loss of power. He force-landed the aircraft in a field beyond and to the left of the runway, running through a hedge before coming to rest.

Examination of the engine by the maintenance organisation did not reveal any reason for its failure, although the condition of the sparking plugs apparently suggested fuel starvation. A thorough investigation of the fuel system was accordingly carried out with no defects found and it was ascertained that 7 and 9 gallons of fuel remained in the left and right tanks respectively after the accident.