

No: 6/90

Ref: EW/G90/04/09

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Socata TB9, G-BPGX	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-320-D2A piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1988	
Date and Time (UTC):	8 April 1990 at 1045 hrs	
Location:	Manston airfield, Kent	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 3
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Minor indentations on leading edge of left wing	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	37 years	
Commander's Total Flying Experience:	67 hours (of which 14 were on type)	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

After a flight from Biggin Hill to Manston, the pilot reports that he was preparing to take off from Manston runway 11 for the return flight to Biggin Hill. Shortly after starting the take off run he felt the aircraft to veer to the left, and he reduced power and applied more right rudder and left (into wind) aileron and steered back to the centre-line. Retaining the application of right rudder and left aileron he then re-applied full power. However as the airspeed increased to 70 knots, and the pilot was on the point of initiating rotation, the aircraft veered suddenly to the left and departed the runway. The throttle was closed and as the aircraft decelerated across the grass its left wing struck a wooden marker board, which resulted in minor damage to the wing leading edge. The pilot reported the incident to ATC and, after making all switches safe, the occupants vacated the aircraft without injury through the normal exit.

The weather conditions at the time were a surface wind of 040/20 knots maximum gusts 29 knots, visibility 30 kilometres, with nil weather. The flying club operator observes the maximum demonstrated cross-wind limit of 25 knots for both take off and landing. In the weather conditions prevailing a maximum gust of 29 knots would have resulted in a cross-wind component of 27 knots during a take off on runway 11. At the time of the accident the grass runway 06 was also available for use by light aircraft.