

No: 1/84

Ref: EW/G83/12/06

**Aircraft type and registration:** Slingsby T67A G-BJGH (light single engined fixed wing aircraft)

**Year of manufacture:**

**Date and time (GMT):** 21 December 1983 at 1320 hrs

**Location:** Nr Darwen, Lancashire

**Type of flight:** Private (Business)

**Persons on board:** Crew — 1                      Passengers — Nil

**Injuries:** Crew — Nil                      Passengers — N/A

**Nature of damage:** Propeller damaged, nose oleo broken, associated aircraft structure damaged

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

**Commander's Age:** 48 years

**Commander's total flying experience:** 449 hours (of which 161 hours were on type)

The flight was planned for a duration of 1 hour 15 minutes and it was considered that there was sufficient fuel on board for over 3 hours' flying. The aircraft ran out of fuel after 1 hour 10 minutes flying and in the ensuing forced landing sustained damage.

It was found that fuel had been leaking out of the spring loaded fuel drain valve positioned on the underside of the fuselage on the starboard side. It was considered that a valve lug had been fouling the edge of the local cut-out in the lower cowling under vibration in flight thus being held partially open. The results of fuel flow tests supported this as a possible explanation for the fuel loss.

All operators of T67A aircraft have been asked to check the lower engine cowling to ensure that the cut-out is large enough to preclude fouling of the drain valve.