

No: 9/92

Ref: EW/G92/06/30

Category: 2c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Bensen B8MR Autogyro, G-BSNL

No & Type of Engines: 1 Rotax 532 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1990

Date & Time (UTC): 28 June 1992 at 1603 hrs

Location: Bodmin Airfield, Cornwall

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Substantial general structural damage

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 38 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 108 hours (of which 2 were on type)
Last 90 days - 2 hours
Last 28 days - 2 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot's flying experience was on fixed wing Group 'A' aircraft; the two hours on type, his first on autogyros, were training on the accident aircraft. Under the supervision of an instructor, who was observing from the control tower, he carried out an exercise which involved flying with the autogyro balanced on the main wheels followed by "short hops" during which the aircraft became airborne. The first attempt was successful but at the start of the second "hop" the rotor speed was noted to have reduced more than expected. Power was increased and as the aircraft speed increased so did the rotor speed; it became airborne and lifted about six to ten feet in the air. The pilot then reduced power to land again; he reported that he had probably not made a large enough reduction and he found himself overcontrolling in pitch. As the aircraft was approaching the end of the grass runway he decided to put it on the ground. The main wheel ran into a shallow ditch, the rotor struck the ground and the aircraft fell onto its right side. The pilot switched off the magneto, released his harness and moved away from the aircraft. When he had removed his protective helmet and ascertained that there was no immediate danger, he returned to the aircraft and switched off the fuel.