

No: 9/84

Ref: EW/G84/07/29

Aircraft type and registration: Piper PA38—112 Tomahawk G-BGXO (Light single engine fixed wing aircraft)

Year of manufacture: 1979

Date and time (GMT): 19 July 1984 at 0710 hrs

Location: Cardiff Airport

Type of flight: Training

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — Nil

Injuries: Crew — Minor Passengers — N/A

Nature of damage: Nose gear collapsed, propeller and right wing tip damaged.

Commander's Licence: Student Pilot

Commander's Age: 18 years

Commander's total flying experience: 11 hours (all on type)

Information Source: Accident Report pro-forma completed by pilot.

The student pilot was authorised to carry out a solo circuit training detail using runway 30 at Cardiff. The wind when he started his first take-off was given as 060° at 7 kt. The circuit was uneventful and on base leg he trimmed the aircraft to maintain 70 kt and prepared for a powered approach. Once established on finals, the second notch of flap was selected. The pilot realised that there would be a slight crosswind and approaching the ground lowered the right wing in order to counter the drift to the left. At about 15—20 feet above the runway he started to reduce power and prepare for the landing. However, at this point the aircraft's nose started to drop and the aircraft struck the runway and bounced back into the air. Three more bounces followed during which the nose gear collapsed and the propeller hit the ground. As the aircraft settled down it veered to the left and came to rest on the grass alongside the runway.