

Grumman AA-5 Traveller, G-BCLI

AAIB Bulletin No: 7/2003	Ref: EW/G2003/05/08	Category: 1.3
Aircraft Type and Registration:	Grumman AA-5 Traveller, G-BCLI	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-320-E2G piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1974	
Date & Time (UTC):	4 May 2003 at 1405 hrs	
Location:	Elstree Airfield, Hertfordshire	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 2
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Nose wheel collapsed, propeller damaged and dent to left wing	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	49 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	174 hours (of which 12 were on type)	
	Last 90 days - 5 hours	
	Last 28 days - 1 hour	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

The wind direction at Elstree, at the time of the accident, was reported as 180°/15 kt. G-BCLI was lined up for takeoff from Runway 26, with the wind across the runway. The initial take-off roll was without incident and as the airspeed reached 60 kt, the pilot rotated the aircraft. A witness, who saw the takeoff, determined that the rotation was greater than normal. The aircraft did not appear to climb and, at about 10 feet above the ground, the right wing then dropped and the aircraft veered to the right. The pilot counteracted the roll, with left aileron. This prevented the right wing from contacting the ground, but the aircraft landed on its nose some 40 metres from the point of rotation, on an area of grass, to the right of the runway. The nose leg then collapsed causing the propeller to strike the ground, after which the aircraft came to an abrupt stop. The pilot shut down the aircraft, checked that the passengers were unhurt after which they all evacuated the aircraft.

The pilot's assessment of the cause of the accident was due to a possible, unexpected, wind change at rotation. He also assessed that he may have stalled the aircraft during the rotation.