Piper PA-28-140, G-AZWD

AAIB Bulletin No: 1/99 Ref: EW/G98/11/07 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper PA-28-140, G-AZWD

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-320-E2A piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1972

Date & Time (UTC): 15 November 1998 at 1352 hrs

Location: Cardiff Airport, Wales

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Substantial to nose landing gear and propeller

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 54 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 80 hours (of which 11 were on type)

Last 90 days - 2 hours

Last 28 days - 0 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot was landing on Runway 30 with a surface wind of 320°/11 kt. The aircraft was observed to sink rapidly and land on all three wheels before bouncing and contacting the runway again in a nose down attitude before once again bouncing into the air. On the second contact with the runway, a large cloud of smoke was seen to come from the area of the nosewheel. After the second bounce, the pilot executed a go-around and completed an uneventful circuit and landing. However, as he lowered the nosewheel onto the runway, the pilot realised that there was something wrong with the landing gear and brought the aircraft to a stop on the runway before shutting down the engine. Subsequent examination revealed that the nosewheel tyre had burst and that there was substantial damage to the nose landing gear and the propeller.

The pilot considered that the cause of the accident was the incorrect technique used when correcting for the first bounce.