

# Piper PA-34-200T, G-BGFT

**AAIB Bulletin No:**  
9/2001

**Ref:** EW/G2001/05/29

**Category:** 1.1

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** Piper PA-34-200T, G-BGFT

**No & Type of Engines:** 2 Continental LTSIO-360-EB1A piston engines

**Year of Manufacture:** 1978

**Date & Time (UTC):** 30 May 2001 at 2100 hrs

**Location:** Coventry Airport, West Midlands

**Type of Flight:** Training

**Persons on Board:** Crew - 1 - Passengers - None

**Injuries:** Crew - None - Passengers - N/A

**Nature of Damage:** Minor to underside of fuselage with substantial damage to propellers

**Commander's Licence:** Student Pilot

**Commander's Age:** 21 years

**Commander's Flying Experience:** 172 hours (of which 32 were on type)

Last 90 days - 24 hours

Last 28 days - 9 hours

**Information Source:** Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The student pilot was on a night solo navigation exercise to carry out a touch-and-go landing at Coventry before returning to Oxford. On arrival at Coventry he was given radar vectors to an ILS approach to Runway 23. The weather was fine with good visibility, few clouds at 3,200 feet and a surface wind of 270°/06 kt.

The student reported that during the procedure he carried out the 'Landing' and 'Finals' checks and checked that he had '3 greens' for the landing gear. During the landing flare however the aircraft

settled on to the surface with the landing gear partially retracted. The propellers came into contact with the surface, the engines stopped and the aircraft came to rest 'wheels up' approximately half way along the runway. The student vacated the aircraft uninjured.

The student's instructor reported that his student appeared not to have carried out the correct pre-landing and finals checks and only selected the landing gear as the aircraft was settling onto