

Piper PA-34-200T, G-BOUL

AAIB Bulletin No: 3/99 Ref: EW/G99/02/01 Category: 1.3

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

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

Year of Manufacture: 1976

Date & Time (UTC): 1 February 1999 at 0855 hrs

Location: Oxford Airport

Type of Flight: Commercial (Training)

Persons on Board: Crew - 2 - Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Substantial to left wing

Commander's Licence: Commercial Pilot's Licence with IR Rating

Commander's Age: 37 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 2,100 hours (of which 450 were on type)
Last 90 days - 110 hours
Last 28 days - 41 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The weather was unsuitable for flying due to poor visibility and it was decided that an instructor would take two students onto the runway to practice rejected take offs before decision speed. On completion of the exercise, the aircraft vacated the runway and the instructor was completing the pre-shutdown checks while one of the students was handling the aircraft. While the instructor's attention was inside the cockpit as he reset the flying control trims, the aircraft struck a fuel bowser that was parked on the taxiway. The low ability student admitted that he had seen the bowser, but could offer no explanation as to why he failed to avoid it.

The instructor considered that the cause of the incident was his decision to allow the student to maintain control of the aircraft while his attention was distracted by completion of the check list.

