

Piper PA-38-112, G-BNPL

AAIB Bulletin No: 10/2002 Ref: EW/G2002/04/09

Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Piper PA-38-112, G-BNPL	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-235-L2C piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1979	
Date & Time (UTC):	11 April 2002 at 1210 hrs	
Location:	Fowlmere Aerodrome, Royston	
Type of Flight:	Training	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Nose leg collapsed, damage to engine frame and firewall bulkhead	
Commander's Licence:	Student Pilot	
Commander's Age:	40 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	26 hours (of which all were on type)	
	Last 90 days - 7 hours	
	Last 28 days - 4 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and subsequent enquiries by AAIB	

The student pilot was flying her fourth solo circuit exercise, having just completed 35 minutes circuit training with an instructor. On her fourth circuit to Runway 07, and having carried out a normal approach, the pilot stated that she misjudged the round out resulting in the aircraft bouncing approximately 30 feet into the air. The pilot attempted to land from this bounce but in doing so cannot remember applying any power. The aircraft then landed nose wheel first causing the nose leg to collapse. The aircraft came to an abrupt halt on the grass runway having slewed through approximately 40 degrees to the right. The pilot turned off the fuel and engine master switch before vacating the aircraft unaided.

The student pilot's training records showed that she had twice been taught the correct 'bounce' recovery technique, once in March and again on the day of the accident before she was sent solo.

