

**No: 11/88**

**Ref: EW/G88/08/09**

**Category: 1c**

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** Monnett Sonerai 2, G-BHZG

**No & Type of Engines:** 1 Volkswagen 1834 piston engine

**Year of Manufacture:** 1981

**Date and Time (UTC):** 29 August 1988 at 0920 hrs

**Location:** Monks Farm, Lancing, Sussex

**Type of Flight:** Private (pleasure)

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

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

**Nature of Damage:** Substantial - beyond economic repair

**Commander's Licence:** Private Pilot's Licence with IMC and Night Ratings

**Commander's Age:** 56 years

**Commander's Total Flying Experience:** 1010 hours (of which 47 were on type)

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

The aircraft had been fitted with a modified canopy some 25 flying hours before the accident flight. It was a side opening canopy allowing entry via the left side of the aircraft. A stay incorporating an eccentric lock was also fitted so that the canopy could be held open if required while the aircraft was on the ground.

The aircraft took off on the grass runway 25 at Shoreham in good weather with the wind 250°M at 18 kt. During the initial climb-out the canopy opened and the eccentric lock on the stay engaged. During his efforts to close the canopy, the pilot believes that he must have let the airspeed decay as the right wing dropped and the aircraft fell into a ploughed field from an estimated 90-100 feet agl and came to rest upright. The aircraft was substantially damaged, and the pilot suffered bruising to his legs, and to his shoulders where the full upper harness held, and restrained him. He evacuated the aircraft through the still open canopy. There was no fire.