

**Aircraft type and registration:** Nipper T66 RA45 Series 3 G-AWLS

**No & Type of engines:** 1 Ardem Mk 10 piston engine

**Year of Manufacture:** 1968

**Date and time (GMT):** 14 January 1988 at 1414 hrs

**Location:** Stapleford Airfield

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

**Persons on board:** Crew — 1                      Passengers — None

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

**Nature of damage:** Substantial to nose wheel strut, propeller, canopy, tip tanks and other minor damage

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

**Commander's Age:** 27 years

**Commander's Total Flying Experience:** 159 hours (of which 23 were on type)

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

The aircraft was taking off on the grass runway 22 in good weather with the wind from 239° at 05 kt. The runway was wet and somewhat muddy but normal take-offs and landings were being carried out, including student flying.

The take-off roll was normal until the pilot started to rotate and the aircraft swung 45° to the left. The aircraft left the runway, the pilot closed the throttle, but the aircraft continued over the taxi way and came to rest inverted on the edge of a ploughed field receiving substantial damage.

The pilot switched off the fuel and magneto switches and vacated the aircraft via the damaged canopy. Full upper harness was being worn and the pilot was uninjured. There was no fire.

It is believed that the left main wheel encountered a soft patch of ground at the point of rotation, thereby inducing a swing to the left.