

No: 4/83

Ref: EW/G82/10/01

Aircraft: Cessna 172 B G-ARID (light single engine fixed wing aircraft)

Year of Manufacture: 1961

Date and time (GMT): 3 October 1982 at 1510 hrs

Location: 1½ nautical miles SSE of Tilstock Airfield, Shropshire

Type of flight: Parachuting

Persons on board: Crew - 1 Passengers - Nil

Injuries: Crew - Nil Passengers - N/A

Nature of damage: Damage to leading edge of port wing. Severed and broken electricity cables

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 32 years

Commander's total flying experience: 474 hours (of which 97 were on type)

The aircraft was engaged in parachute-dropping as an extra item in the day's programme at a motor-cycle grass racing circuit approximately 1½ nautical miles SSE of the parachuting club's base airfield and dropping zone. The weather was good and the pilot accurately dropped three parachutists from 3,000 ft before descending in order to fly across the motor-cycle circuit at low level from west to east.

As it reached the western boundary of the circuit the aircraft struck with its port wing some 11,000 volt electricity cables which were at that point 23 ft 6 ins above the ground. One cable was severed and fell to the ground live and burning, but there were no casualties and the pilot was able to climb away in order to land successfully at the club airfield.