

Siai Marchetti S.205 22/R, G-VELA, 12 December 1999

AAIB Bulletin No: 4/2000 **Ref: EW/G99/12/06** **Category: 1.3**

Aircraft Type and Registration: Siai Marchetti S.205 22/R, G-VELA

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming IO-540-D4A5 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1968

Date & Time (UTC): 12 December 1999 at 1800 hrs

Location: Gamston (Retford), Nottinghamshire

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Nose landing gear and propeller

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 40 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 128 hours (of which 54 were on type)
Last 90 days - 6 hours
Last 28 days - 4 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

On the night of the accident the weather was fine and clear with no wind. Tarmac Runway 03 was in use and equipped with APAPI lights set to a 3.5° glidepath plus runway edge and threshold lights. The pilot was working towards a night rating and had completed five satisfactory night landings under the supervision of a qualified instructor. The instructor then sent the pilot solo to practice night circuits. She completed five uneventful night landings but on the sixth attempt the aircraft bounced. After the second touchdown the nose landing gear slowly collapsed allowing the propeller to strike the ground. The aircraft skidded to a halt on the Runway about 200 yards before the first available exit point. The pilot informed ATC of her predicament and shut down all the aircraft systems shortly before the airport fire and rescue service arrived.