

AAIB Bulletin No: 5/95

Ref: EW/G95/03/02

Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Cassutt Racer IIIM, G-MACS

No & Type of Engines: 1 Continental O-200-A piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1981

Date & Time (UTC): 3 March 1995 at 1200 hrs

Location: Brighton Airfield, North Yorkshire

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - Serious Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Wing main spar, engine mounting and propeller broken;
substantial damage to the forward fuselage

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence (PPL)

Commander's Age: 34 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 117 hours
Last 90 days - 4 hours
Last 28 days - 2 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and
witness statements

The pilot had recently received professional training on tailwheel aircraft and, prior to this flight, which was his first in the aircraft, he had carried out a mutual briefing with the club owner, a 1,000 hour PPL holder.

There are two parallel runways at Brighton, one 30 metre wide grass strip and a 9 metre wide tarmac strip along its south side. The wind was 295°/10 kt and the grass Runway 29 was in use.

It was the pilot's stated intention to carry out several approaches and go-arounds before attempting his first landing and the aircraft was seen to take off and, a little while later, to make two go-arounds from apparently normal approaches. Making the third approach, this time for a landing, the mainwheels struck a small ridge three feet short of the runway threshold. The aircraft bounced, slewed to the left and landed with significant left yaw on the tarmac. It then continued off the side of the runway and into the corner of an adjacent hangar, which it struck with considerable force.

The pilot's upper torso restraint harness failed at impact and he sustained severe facial injuries. He was assisted from the wreckage and taken to hospital.