

# Europa, G-BWRO

**AAIB Bulletin No: 9/99 Ref: EW/G99/05/27      Category: 1.3**

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** Europa, G-BWRO

**No & Type of Engines:** 1 Rotax 912-UL piston engine

**Year of Manufacture:** 1997

**Date & Time (UTC):** 6 May 1999 at 1123 hrs

**Location:** Exeter Airport, Devon

**Type of Flight:** Private

**Persons on Board:** Crew - 1 - Passengers - 1

**Injuries:** Crew - None - Passengers - None

**Nature of Damage:** Minor to propeller tip

**Commander's Licence:** FAA Private Pilot's Licence

**Commander's Age:** 32 years

**Commander's Flying Experience:** 350 hours (of which 200 were on type)  
Last 90 days - 20 hours  
Last 28 days - 20 hours

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

The aircraft joined the circuit for a landing on Runway 26 (2083 x 46 metres with an overall slope of 0.05% down) and was given the surface wind as 220°/10 kt. After touchdown, which was in a two-point attitude and on the runway centreline, the aircraft weather-cocked into wind as the result of an unexpected gust. The aircraft carried out a ground loop damaging the tip of one propeller blade in the process.

The pilot believed that the lack of directional control was due to the crosswind being stronger than reported and that the steering authority of the tailwheel was reduced by the down-slope of the initial portion of the runway.