

No: 1/84

MICROLIGHT

Ref: EW/G83/12/03

Aircraft type and registration: Cyclone/Goodwin Trike G-MJDZ (single engine microlight aircraft)

Year of manufacture: 1983

Date and time (GMT): 3 December 1983 at 1330 hrs

Location: Rainham, Essex

Type of flight: Private

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — Nil

Injuries: Crew — 1 (serious) Passengers — N/A

Nature of damage: Aircraft destroyed

Commander's Licence: Student Pilot's Licence (Microlights)

Commander's Age: 49 years

Commander's total flying experience: 6 hours (hours on type: nil)

A student microlight aircraft pilot was making his first solo flight. According to eye-witnesses the take-off appeared normal and the aircraft climbed straight ahead to about 300 feet, when it started a turn to the right, still gaining height. There was an increase in engine noise and the aircraft assumed a steep nose up attitude, and was observed to stall. It then entered a rapid series of stall manoeuvres, finally ending up inverted. A sharp cracking sound was then heard, accompanied by a structural failure of the wing. The aircraft then fell steeply and crashed into a gravel pit that was full of water. The aircraft was destroyed and the pilot sustained serious injuries. The weather at the time was fine with very light surface winds.

The pilot, who was a co-owner of the aircraft, had been receiving a course of instruction in a two-seat Puma microlight aircraft. His flying instructor did not consider that he was yet ready for solo flight, and the accident flight was carried out without the knowledge or approval of the instructor. The British Microlight Association is carrying out a detailed investigation into this accident.