

No: 12/91

Ref: EW/G91/09/10

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper PA-34-200 Seneca, G-OPAG

No & Type of Engines: 2 Lycoming IO-360-C1E6 piston engines

Year of Manufacture: 1972

Date & Time (UTC): 14 September 1991 at 1530 hrs

Location: Goodwood airfield, Sussex

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 5

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Shattered windscreens, nose gear structure disrupted and damage to starboard propeller tips.

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence with Night rating

Commander's Age: 50 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 710 hours (of which 97 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and telephone enquiries and reports from Shoreham staff.

The pilot reported that he made a visual approach to runway 24 with 10° flap at 90 mph (78 kt) into a headwind of 18 knots. He touched down smoothly just beyond the threshold and lowered the nosewheel onto the runway after two or three seconds of ground roll. The nosewheel then hit a surface ridge at the intersection of runways 24 and 28 which caused the nose to pitch up. When the nosewheel contacted the ground on the rebound, the nose gear supporting structure failed and the right side windscreen split. The aircraft continued to porpoise uncontrollably due to suspension recoil and the second nosewheel impact caused further damage. Eventually he regained control of the aircraft and was able to clear runway 24 onto runway 14/32 using only nosewheel steering. He informed ATC of his predicament, shut down the aircraft and vacated normally with his passengers.

The approach was observed from ATC and by an instructor holding near the runway threshold. Both observers reported that the aircraft approached abnormally fast and porpoised after landing. One of them reported that the aircraft decelerated rapidly after the third nosewheel impact.

Further movements on runway 24 were suspended whilst a portion of the shattered windscreen was removed.