

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Thruster T300, G-MYAP	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Rotax 582-2V piston engine	
Category:	1.4	
Year of Manufacture:	1992	
Date & Time (UTC):	28 July 2005 at 0800 hrs	
Location:	Blowfield, Norwich	
Type of Flight:	Training	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 2	Passengers - Nil
Injuries:	Crew - 1 (Minor) 1 (Serious)	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Substantial damage to the fuselage and wings	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence with Microlight Instructor rating	
Commander's Age:	48 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	958 hours (of which 700 were on type) Last 90 days - 0 hours Last 28 days - 1 hour	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot plus a video recording of the approach	

Background

On Saturday 23 July, the student had been given a trial lesson in the microlight aircraft as a gift. He and his family arrived at the private operating site which was a grass field. The grass strip was orientated north/south and was estimated by the instructor to be between 250 m and 300 m in length, with a width of 45 ft at the narrowest point between the trees. The site was bordered by high trees on the west, north and east sides and open at the south end with a low fern hedge approximately 4 ft high, through which there was an opening to permit vehicle access. Takeoffs were made towards the south with approaches and landing carried out from the south, over the fern hedge.

The aircraft required maintenance prior to the trial lesson and the instructor carried out a short test flight before the student boarded the aircraft. During the flight the engine developed a technical problem resulting in a loss of power and the aircraft was landed back at the strip. Because the lesson had not been completed due to the technical problem, the student was told he would be given another trial lesson.

History of the flight

On the day of the accident the student arrived at the strip with his family and he departed on a local area flight

with the instructor. The weather was good with the wind light and variable, good visibility and no cloud. At the end of the flight the instructor carried out the approach and in the latter stages, descended below his normal approach path. He applied power and attempted to clear the fern hedge but the aircraft struck it, yawed to the right and collided with trees. The student was trapped in the wreckage and had to be released by the emergency services following which, he was taken to hospital. Although both occupants were wearing four-point harnesses, the instructor suffered a cut leg and the student suffered two broken legs.

Video evidence

A relative of the student made a video recording which showed the accident and previous approaches. The video confirmed that the aircraft was low on the approach and power was heard to increase but the right wing of the aircraft struck the hedge.

Conclusion

The instructor considered that the accident was caused by the aircraft becoming too low on the approach and his not correcting this in time to prevent the aircraft contacting the fern hedge.