

No: 6/92

Ref: EW/G92/04/06

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: ARV Super 2, G-OPIG

No & Type of Engines: 1 Hewland AE75D piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1986

Date & Time (UTC): 8 April 1992 at 1400 hrs

Location: Bere Regis, Dorset

Type of Flight: Private (training)

Persons on Board: Crew - 2 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Damage to propeller, nose wheel and engine bay floor

Commander's Licence: Basic Commercial Pilot's Licence
with Night and Instructor ratings

Commander's Age: 56 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 7,830 hours (of which 705 were on type)
Last 90 days - 70 hours.
Last 28 days - 24 hours.

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

Whilst in the cruise shortly after taking off from Exeter, en route to Bournemouth, the engine suffered a partial power loss. The flying instructor took control and decided to carry out a precautionary landing. However the ground in the chosen field had been softened as a result of recent rain, causing the nose gear to collapse during the landing. The seats and harnesses held on impact and the crew were uninjured.

The aircraft was taken to a maintenance organisation where it was found that the engine was damaged beyond repair and could not be test run. A visual inspection of the carburettors and exhaust system revealed no defects, but it was noted that the spark plugs were 'oily' in appearance. It was considered that the most likely explanation was plug fouling, due to the oil in the fuel of the two-stroke engine, this having led to a loss of power from one of the three cylinders. It was noted that the spark plugs were close to the end of their recommended service life of 25 hours. This short period was apparently set in view of the tendency towards plug oiling, and reflects the need for careful handling of two-stroke engines, particularly after starting. The engine manufacturer intends to examine the engine, and any significant findings will be reported in a future Bulletin.