

Boeing A75N1 (Stearman), G-BIXN, 21 April 1996

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Aircraft Type and Registration: Boeing A75N1 (Stearman), G-BIXN

No & Type of Engines: 1 Continental W-670-6N piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1941

Date & Time (UTC): 21 April 1996 at 1345 hrs UTC

Location: Frensham Pond, Nr Farnham, Surrey

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Aircraft destroyed

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 70 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 1,575 hours (of which 1,025 were on type)

Last 90 days - 5 hours

Last 28 days - 5 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

On the day of the accident the pilot made two flights from the grass strip at Frensham Pond. The first flight was uneventful and the pilot decided to fly again about one hour later. For this second flight the pilot estimated the surface wind as south-easterly at 6 kt. The take-off run was normal and the aircraft became airborne at about 80 mph. The pilot stated that at between 30 and 40 ft agl he experienced a strong gust of wind from the aircraft's starboard quarter from which he recovered by the lowering the aircraft's nose. A few seconds later he experienced a second and more powerful gust which rolled the aircraft between 70° and 80° to the left. Apparently the gust was so strong that its effect exceeded the control authority of the ailerons and rudder and the pilot was unable to regain a wings-level attitude before the aircraft struck the ground. Both the pilot and his passenger were wearing full harnesses and neither was injured in the crash.

The meteorological observations for Farnborough airfield showed that the weather was CAVOK for most of the day with no weather until light rain fell late in the evening. The wind at 1350 hrs was

170°/13 kt, the air temperature was 21°C and the only cloud was scattered cumulus cloud base 5,000 ft.