

No: 9/88

Ref: EW/G88/06/05

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Taylor Monoplane, G-BGHY

No & Type of Engines: 1 Volkswagen 1600 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1986

Date and Time (UTC): 6 June 1988 at 1835 hrs

Location: Tinnel Farm, Landulph, near Plymouth

Type of Flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - 1 Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Extensive damage to left wing, cowlings, engine firewall and landing gear

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 58 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 329 hours (of which 56 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

Prior to the intended flight, the engine was started with the three-position choke in the mid position, although full choke was normally used. The engine was "warmed-up" whilst the aircraft was taxiing. A full power check was not carried out, since this aircraft cannot be held on brakes alone. During the take-off run, the aircraft became airborne only momentarily and failed to achieve a safe flying speed before striking a hedge and electric fence at the far end of the field. The pilot suffered only minor injuries and, having switched off the ignition and fuel, was able to vacate the aircraft over the side of the cockpit, the "shoulder-doors" having become detached.

The choke control operated in the reverse sense from normal, ie the knob had to be pushed forward to apply full choke. The relevant pre take-off check was to ensure that the knob was pulled fully out, however, it appeared that on this occasion the knob had only been pulled halfway. Thus the take-off had been attempted with half choke selected, leading to a failure to achieve full power.