

Aircraft type and registration: Socata Rallye 180 G-BTUG
Mini Nimbus C BGA.620

No & Type of engines: Rallye — 1 Lycoming 0-360-A4A piston engine
Nimbus — None

Year of Manufacture: Rallye 1978, Nimbus 1978

Date and time (UTC): 29 August 1986 at 1150 hrs

Location: Close to Lasham airfield, Hants

Type of flight: Glider towing

Persons on board: Crew — Rallye 1
Nimbus 1 Passengers — None

Injuries: Crew — None Passengers — N/A

Nature of damage: Minor damage to the wings of both aircraft

Commander's Licence: Rallye — Private Pilot's Licence
Nimbus — Silver C certificate

Commander's Age: Rallye — 25 years
Nimbus — 42 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: Rallye — 650 hours (of which 200 were on type)
Nimbus — 350 hours (of which 83 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Forms submitted by the pilots

As the Rallye tug, with a Ventus glider in tow, was passing through approximately 1600 feet AGL whilst in a gentle turn to the left, the tug pilot suddenly became aware of another glider in close proximity on his right side. As it crossed from right to left he took evasive action by diving down to the right.

The pilot of the Nimbus glider reported that he first became aware of an imminent collision as he began a turn to the left in order to start thermalling and estimates that the tug was only some 50 feet away at this time. He made an immediate climbing turn to the left, but the actions of both pilots were unable to prevent the left wing of the Nimbus contacting the left wing of the tug. The pilot of the glider on tow released very soon after the collision and all three aircraft were able to land without further incident.

Subsequent examination of the two aircraft revealed a scuff mark on the top of the Nimbus left wing tip and a small dent in the leading edge slat of the Rallye's left wing several feet in from the tip. The Nimbus has a wing span of 15 metres (49.2 feet), the Rallye 9.74 metres (31.92 feet).