

No. 9/83

Ref: EW/G83/04/14

Aircraft type and registration: Skyhook Twin G—MBVW (Twin Engined Microlight)
Year of Manufacture: 1982
Date and time (GMT): 30 April 1983 at about 1450 hrs
Location: Oban, North Connel Aerodrome, Strathclyde
Type of flight: Private
Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — Nil
Injuries: Crew — 1(serious) Passengers — N/A
Nature of damage: Substantial damage to undercarriage and propellers
Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence
Commander's Age : 42 years
Commander's total flying experience: 950 hours (Total hours on type: nil)

The pilot, an instructor at a local gliding club, was making his first flight in a Skyhook Microlight aircraft. The aircraft took off into a steady 10 knot head wind, and observers reported that the initial climb was steep. At about 60 feet above ground level, the left wing and then the nose of the aircraft dropped, and shortly afterwards it struck the ground in a steep nose-down attitude. The aircraft sustained substantial damage, and the pilot was seriously injured.

The pilot afterwards reported that this was his first flight in a weight shift control type machine, although he had flown other Microlight aircraft previously. When the left wing dropped, he applied the wrong control in-put, which aggravated the situation, and caused the aircraft to enter a descending, side-slipping turn. There was insufficient height in which to recover, and a very heavy contact with the ground resulted.