

No: 8/92

Ref: EW/G92/05/23

Category: 1c

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** Piper PA-25-235 Pawnee, G-CGMC

**No & Type of Engines:** 1 Lycoming O-540-B2C5 piston engine

**Year of Manufacture:** 1977

**Date & Time (UTC):** 25 May 1992 at 1545 hrs

**Location:** Long Mynd Airfield, Shropshire

**Type of Flight:** Private

**Persons on Board:** Crew - 1                      Passengers - None

**Injuries:** Crew - None                      Passengers - N/A

**Nature of Damage:** None

**Commander's Licence:** Private Pilot's Licence

**Commander's Age:** 58 years

**Commander's Flying Experience:** 1,366 hours (of which 24 were on type)  
Last 90 days - 13 hours  
Last 28 days - 8 hours

**Information Source:** Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The gliding club was holding an 'open' day and the spectators were mostly positioned in an area to the north of a footpath which defined the northern perimeter of the field used for the flying operation. The gliders were being launched by a tug aircraft which, having completed the launch, returned to land with the tow rope still attached.

There was a 10-15 kt wind from the south and, in order to keep the tow rope clear of the spectators and not to overfly them, the glider tug was making its final approaches to land on a curving flightpath from the east, at least 50 metres to the south of the footpath, before landing in a southerly direction. On this occasion, because it was an 'open' day involving more than the usual number of spectators, the pilot was particularly vigilant for anyone who may have moved south of the footpath into the area of the airstrip.

Whilst making his eleventh approach of the day, the pilot did not see anyone positioned or moving south of the footpath and made what he believed to be an uneventful landing. However, when he got out of the aircraft, he was told by the club's Chief Flying Instructor that the end of the tow rope had

passed near to a party of spectators and, consequently, approaches and landings would now be made in a straight line to the west. Thirty minutes later, a father went to the clubhouse and reported that his son's arm had been hit by the end of the tow rope.

The gliding club is presently in negotiation with the land owners to allow a fence to be erected round the aircraft operating area.