

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Jabiru UL, G-UJAB
No & Type of Engines:	1 Jabiru Aircraft Pty 2200A piston engine
Year of Manufacture:	1999
Date & Time (UTC):	18 September 2008 at 1040 hrs
Location:	Newnham airstrip, near Ashwell, Baldock, Hertfordshire
Type of Flight:	Private
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1 Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Left main landing gear collapsed, nose leg housing damaged, underside of fuselage and elevator horn scuffed
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence
Commander's Age:	59 years
Commander's Flying Experience:	650 hours (of which 370 were on type) Last 90 days - 8 hours Last 28 days - 4 hours
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

Synopsis

Whilst taking off from a grass airstrip, a swing to the right developed which the pilot was unable to counter. The aircraft 'ground-looped' and the left main landing gear collapsed.

History of the flight

The aircraft was taking off from the grass strip in an easterly direction with the wind reported as "less than 8 km/hr from 120°". The pilot applied full power but, after travelling approximately 30 yards, a swing to the right developed which he initially corrected with nosewheel steering. Shortly afterwards the aircraft again swung to the right but this time the pilot could

not correct it and the aircraft left the runway, running into a small ditch at the side. It came to rest having turned through nearly 180° with the left main landing gear collapsed. The pilot vacated the aircraft normally, having shut the aircraft down and closed the fuel valve.

The pilot is at a loss to explain the swing to the right, since inspection did not show any ruts or holes in the runway but he suspects he may have had the right mainwheel in some long grass at the side of the runway which increased drag on that side as speed built up.