

Jodel DR1050, G-ARXT

AAIB Bulletin No: 6/99 Ref: EW/G99/03/33 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Jodel DR1050, G-ARXT

No & Type of Engines: 1 Continental Motors Corp O-200-A piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1962

Date & Time (UTC): 26 March 1999 at 1710 hrs

Location: Wellesbourne Mountford Airport, Warwickshire

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 2 - Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Substantial to landing gear and propeller

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 37 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 90 hours (of which 5 were on type)
Last 90 days - 4 hours
Last 28 days - 1 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot joined the group operating the aircraft in January 1999 having obtained his Private Pilot's Licence in September 1998. The aircraft's insurers stipulated that during the pilot's first fifteen hours on type he should be accompanied by a senior member of the group.

On the day of the accident, the pilot was offered some flying at short notice by a long standing member of the group, who was to accompany the pilot. He was wearing heavy boots with thick soles and did not have sufficient time to change his footwear before flying. During the first flight of the afternoon, the pilot had some difficulty in controlling the aircraft on the ground and the other pilot had to take control on one occasion. Initially, Runway 23 was in use with a surface wind of 250°/10 to 15 kt but during the second flight, Runway 18 was in use to allow preparations for the Saturday Market that was to take place on the airfield. During the pilot's first touch-and-go on the new runway, he had some difficulty in keeping straight. The second approach was uneventful until the ground roll phase when the aircraft began to 'fishtail' before executing a ground loop to the left during which the landing gear collapsed.

The pilot attributed the cause of the accident to his lack of experience on tailwheel aircraft, the crosswind component on Runway 18 and the wearing of inappropriate footwear.