

# Piper PA-28 Cherokee, G-ATOM, 4 April 1996

**AAIB Bulletin No: 5/96 Ref: EW/G96/04/02 Category: 1.3**

**Aircraft Type and Registration:**Piper PA-28 Cherokee, G-ATOM

**No & Type of Engines:**1 Lycoming O-320 -E2A piston engine

**Year of Manufacture:**1966

**Date & Time (UTC):**4 April 1996 at 1100 hrs

**Location:**Glasgow Airport

**Type of Flight:**Private

**Persons on Board:**Crew - 1 Passengers - 1

**Injuries:**Crew - None Passengers - None

**Nature of Damage:** Propeller damaged and engine shock loaded;nose landing gear sheered off and damage to starboard wing tip

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

**Commander's Age:** 36 years

**Commander's Flying Experience:** 61 hours (of which 3 were on type)

Last 90 days - 2 hours

Last 28 days - 2 hours

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

The pilot had taken off from Glasgow with the intention of landing at Cumbernauld but, because his passenger was uncomfortable with the slight turbulence the aircraft was experiencing, he decided to return to Glasgow to land. The visibility was good with cloud patches at 2,500 feet agl and the surface wind was 200°/13kt, but varying in direction between 160° and 250°.

For the final approach to Runway 23, the pilot selected an airspeed of 85 mph and maintained the runway centre line; he was aware that the nose of G-ATOM was pointing to the left to maintain the centre line. As he crossed the threshold, the pilot reduced the airspeed to 70 mph and applied right rudder to align the aircraft for landing. On touchdown, which may have been on all three wheels, G-ATOM bounced and the pilot then checked the control column back to hold the aircraft off. However, as he did so, the left wing rose rapidly and he was unable to stop the aircraft from

landing heavily; he considered that the right wing tip may have struck the ground during this landing. On touchdown, the nose landing gear collapsed and the aircraft slid to a halt on the runway.