

Cessna 172P, G-BOJR

AAIB Bulletin No: 5/2004	Ref: EW/G2004/01/06	Category: 1.3
Aircraft Type and Registration:	Cessna 172P, G-BOJR	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-320-D2J piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1982	
Date & Time (UTC):	18 January 2004 at 1148 hrs	
Location:	Exeter Airport, Devon	
Type of Flight:	Training	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Damage to the nose wheel, nose leg, propeller tips and aircraft bulkhead	
Commander's Licence:	Student Pilot	
Commander's Age:	56 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	32 hours (all on type)	
	Last 90 days - 10 hours	
	Last 28 days - 3 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and subsequent AAIB enquiries	

History of the flight

The student pilot rejoined the circuit after a solo flight and completed an orbit on the final approach to allow a preceding aircraft to vacate the runway. He then continued his approach without incident until touchdown. The pilot reported that on touchdown the nose suddenly pitched down and that in his efforts to control the aircraft it bounced "a couple of times before settling onto the runway". This was confirmed by an eyewitness who stated seeing the aircraft bounce twice after landing before finally touching down on its nosewheel. The pilot reported that he could not then steer the aircraft which moved to the left side of the runway before coming to a halt on the paved surface near its edge. The pilot was uninjured and shut down the aircraft before vacating it using the pilot's door.

Conclusion

The damage sustained by the aircraft was consistent with a heavy impact on the nosewheel. The damage to the wheel itself was probably caused by a sideways movement at touchdown breaking the tyre's contact with the rim, deflating the tyre and fragmenting the wheel on the runway surface.

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