

Taylor Titch, G-BFID

AAIB Bulletin No: 8/99 Ref: EW/G99/05/44 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Taylor Titch, G-BFID

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

Year of Manufacture: 1990

Date & Time (UTC): 31 May 1999 at 1500 hrs

Location: Brighton Airfield, Yorkshire

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Left main landing gear distortion, minor scrapes to cowlings and left wheel spat broken

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 33 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 128 hours (of which 10 were on type)

Last 90 days - 22 hours

Last 28 days - 11 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

Following a standard circuit and approach to grass Runway 29 at Brighton a normal touchdown was achieved. The pilot reported that as the aircraft decelerated towards the end of the ground roll it became difficult to maintain directional control. The aircraft turned to the right despite the application of full left rudder and wheel brake. When it was clear that the aircraft would depart the runway, the magneto switches were selected off. The aircraft left the runway to the right and came to rest in a field of Oil Seed Rape crop.

On examination it was observed that the left side tail wheel steering spring had become disconnected from its link at the tailwheel. The pilot considered that the load applied by the remaining spring, attempting to turn the aircraft to the right, dominated as rudder authority was lost in the ground roll deceleration.