

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	CZAW Sportcruiser, G-CZSC	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Rotax 912 ULS piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	2009	
Date & Time (UTC):	17 August 2009 at 1420 hrs	
Location:	Priory Farm Airstrip, Norfolk	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Significant damage to both wings and fuselage	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	56 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	112 hours (of which 15 were on type) Last 90 days - 35 hours Last 28 days - 9 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

Synopsis

During the landing roll, a gust of wind caused the aircraft to turn to the left towards a hedge and ditch. The pilot corrected the turn but the wingtip contacted a substantial branch in the hedge, rotating the aircraft 180° into the ditch. The pilot and passenger exited the aircraft uninjured.

History of the flight

The aircraft took off from Runway 19 at 1210 hrs for a local flight, returning at 1420 hrs. The weather at departure was fine with an 8 kt breeze from the south-west. Upon return the pilot executed an overhead join, making 'blind' radio calls as required. He noted that the windsock was showing the wind had veered to become a north-westerly, so he elected to turn

downwind for Runway 01. After flying an uneventful circuit, the pilot landed on the main gear and continued the landing roll. At a point about halfway down the runway, prior to the nose gear touching down, the aircraft turned sharply left and was heading for a hedge and ditch, which ran the length of the left side of the runway. The pilot immediately countered the turn and straightened the aircraft but the left wingtip was now in contact with the hedge. Before he could move the aircraft away from the hedge the wingtip struck a more substantial branch and the aircraft spun 180°, coming to rest in the ditch. The pilot and passenger exited the aircraft normally, uninjured.

The pilot noted, whilst waiting for assistance, that

the windsock was veering between north-west and south-west and the wind was gusting up to 15 kt. He reported that each time he had checked the windsock during the approach it had shown the wind was from the north-west.

Discussion

The pilot reported that this was only the third time he had landed on Runway 01 and consequently he was not familiar with the approach. He considered that the

sudden gust of wind acting on the tail, and turning the aircraft, had taken him by surprise. The hedge along the runway is several feet high but not continuous, which may account for the aircraft's sudden reaction. Of note, the entry for Priory Farm Airstrip in Pooleys Flight Guide, which is replicated on the airfield's website, warns of buildings and trees on the approach to Runway 01. It also highlights the ditch along the runway, though not the hedge, and suggests use of Runway 19 in crosswinds.