

No: 9/88

Ref: EW/G88/07/15

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: PIEL CP301A, G-BDKH

No & Type of Engines: 1 Continental Motors Corp. C90-14F piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1958

Date and Time (UTC): 31 July 1988 at 1020 hrs

Location: Shoreham Airport, Sussex

Type of Flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Left landing gear leg collapsed and aircraft suffered minor airframe damage

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 33 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 103 hours (of which 3 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot, who had recently purchased the aircraft, was on his first flight in the left-hand seat, the right-hand seat being occupied by the previous owner who was not a qualified flying instructor.

On final approach to runway 25, with a surface wind estimated as about 15 kts down the runway, the pilot selected too high a nose attitude and allowed the airspeed to reduce below normal approach speed. Shortly before touchdown, the aircraft stalled and, despite assistance from the right-hand seat occupant, a heavy landing ensued as a result of which the left main landing gear collapsed.

The aircraft came to rest on a reciprocal heading and, having carried out the shutdown drill, the occupants, who were wearing full upper torso restraint, escaped uninjured. There was no fire and the emergency services were on the scene by the time the aircraft had been vacated.

The pilot attributed the accident to the fact that the pitch attitudes required and the lightness of the controls were unfamiliar to him, his previous flying having been mainly on the Cessna 150 series aircraft.