

No: 7/89

Ref: EW/G88/11/05

Category: 2c

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** Benson B8 Gyrocopter (Kit Built), G-BOYK

**No & Type of Engines:** 1 Rotax 532 cc liquid cooled two stroke piston engine

**Year of Manufacture:** 1988

**Date and Time (UTC):** 17 November 1988 1440 hrs

**Location:** Martins Lane, Chilbolton, near Andover

**Type of Flight:** Private

**Persons on Board:** Crew - 1 Passengers - None

**Injuries:** Crew - 1 (serious) Passengers - N/A

**Nature of Damage:** Substantial

**Commander's Licence:** Private Pilot's Licence Class D (no licence on the category in question)

**Commander's Age:** 40 years

**Commander's Total Flying Experience:** 623 hours (of which 14 hours 40 minutes were on type)

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

The pilot had completed initial training on a towed, unpowered auto-gyro and was gaining experience in flying a powered machine prior to the issue of a licence in that aircraft category. He reported that the aircraft was descending in a manner which he described as 'parachuting' down. He then lowered the nose and applied power whereupon he was aware of a loud bang and the aircraft went out of control. He was conscious that the aircraft was spinning down and he rapidly became disorientated. He believed from the sound that the rotors were spinning-up under load and he therefore eased the stick back and believes that this action reduced the descent rate sufficiently to render the ensuing ground impact survivable.

The pilot stated that when the aircraft was examined after the accident it appeared that the rotor blades had struck the rudder. The remainder of the control system appeared to be still connected correctly.