

Reims Cessna F172M, G-BKIJ, 21 September 1996

AAIB Bulletin No: 4/97 Ref: EW/G96/09/15 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Reims Cessna F172M, G-BKIJ

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-320-E2D piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1972

Date & Time (UTC): 21 September 1996 at 1155 hrs

Location: Clacton Airfield, Essex

Type of Flight: Private (Training)

Persons on Board: Crew - 2 - Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Left wheel broken off, minor damage to flap and cabin window

Commander's Licence: Basic Commercial Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 27 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 591 hours (of which 47 were on type)

Last 90 days -180 hours

Last 28 days - 65 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was on final approach to land on Runway 36 at Clacton; this runway has a grass surface, which was dry, and has an available landing distance of 542 metres. The weather was good with a surface wind of 050°/10 to 15 kt. During the landing the student, who was the handling pilot, flared too high and the indicated airspeed rapidly diminished. The instructor took control, applied power and lowered the nose but a gust of wind lifted the right wing and the aircraft landed heavily on the left wheel. The left wheel strut snapped just inboard of the wheel which broke away and struck the flap and then broke the rear cabin window. The aircraft came to a halt about 100 metres from the touchdown point and just off the left side of the runway. The engine was shutdown and the 2 crew members and the passenger vacated the aircraft via the side doors: the emergency vehicle arrived about 30 seconds later.

In his report of the incident the instructor accepted that he should have taken control earlier but believed that he would still have landed safely had it not been for the wind gust.