

Robinson R22 BII, G-BXUJ, 9 April 1998 at 1515 hrs

AAIB Bulletin No: 8/98 Ref: EW/G98/04/03 Category: 2.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Robinson R22 BII, G-BXUJ

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-320-B2C piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1998

Date & Time (UTC): 9 April 1998 at 1515 hrs

Location: Denham Aerodrome, Middlesex

Type of Flight: Acceptance Test Flight

Persons on Board: Crew - 2 - Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Substantial to rotor blades, rotor mast, fuselage and tail boom

Commander's Licence: Commercial Pilot's Licence (Helicopters)

Commander's Age: 33 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 4,000 hours (of which 3,000 were on type)
Last 90 days - 120 hours
Last 28 days - 40 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The helicopter was being flown on an acceptance air test prior to being handed over to its new owner. The commander was accompanied by another pilot who was an instructor with 1,800 hours on type and was representing the new owner. At the time of the occurrence the commander had handed control to his colleague. The helicopter was stationary on the grass on a heading of approximately 225° with rotors running awaiting the passing of a taxiing aircraft. It then lifted to the hover and began to roll gently to the right. The commander took control immediately, repeatedly stating 'I have control', and attempted to return the helicopter to a level attitude with its skids on the ground. Using his full force, against that of the other pilot, he was not able to lower the collective control sufficiently to prevent the helicopter from rolling slowly onto its right side. Both the pilots, who were wearing 'lap and diagonal' seat belts, vacated the helicopter through the broken front windscreen without injury. The surface wind at the time was 045°/05 kt.

The commander assessed the cause of the accident as being due to 'dynamic rollover' brought about by interference on the collective control by the other pilot whilst he was attempting to recover from the situation.