

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Medway Microlights Eclipse, G-BZGE	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Jabiru Aircraft PTY 2200A piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1998	
Date & Time (UTC):	19 February 2006 at 1430 hrs	
Location:	Woore, Shropshire	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - 1 (Minor)	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Extensive damage to wing	
Commander's Licence:	National Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	38 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	349 hours (of which 81 were on type) Last 90 days - 45 minutes Last 28 days - 45 minutes	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and AAIB enquiries	

Synopsis

The aircraft lost power in the cruise and the pilot carried out a forced landing. During the landing flare the pilot could not reduce the power to idle and the aircraft landed long, running into trees. The pilot suggests that the initial power loss was due to carburettor icing.

History of the flight

The pilot had flown for 45 minutes in the previous 24 hours, but had otherwise not flown for a number of months. Whilst in the cruise at 1,200 ft, with normal cruise power of 2,300 rpm set, the engine began to lose power, dropping to approximately 1,900 rpm. The aircraft was equipped with both a hand throttle, normally used in the cruise, and a foot throttle, and

the pilot tried to regain power using the latter without success. He therefore chose a field for a forced landing. As he approached the field he saw deep ruts at the approach end, and so he extended the landing further into the field. During the landing flare he retarded the throttle to idle but the engine power did not reduce and the aircraft landed long, running into some trees and a barbed wire fence.

Discussion

This particular engine has had problems with overheating, and new cylinder heads had been fitted as a result. However, in his report the pilot suggests that the initial power loss was due to carburettor icing. The

carburettor has a spring loaded slide which, if induction ice is present, can freeze and can prevent the power from being reduced. Alternatively the pilot suggests that he may not have fully closed the hand throttle.