

No: 12/87

**Aircraft type and registration:** Slingsby T61A Self Launching Motor Glider G-AZHD

**No & Type of engines:** 1 Stark-Stamo MS1500/1 piston engine

**Year of Manufacture:** 1971

**Date and time (GMT):** 14 August 1987 at 1745 hrs

**Location:** Winthorpe Airfield, Newark, Notts

**Type of flight:** Club and Group

**Persons on board:** Crew — 2                      Passengers — None

**Injuries:** Crew — None                      Passengers — N/A

**Nature of damage:** Minor to propeller, port wing, D box and 3 rib bays

**Commander's Licence:** Private Pilot's Licence

**Commander's Age:** 37 years

**Commander's Total Flying Experience:** 430 hours

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

The aircraft was being taxied to the threshold of the westerly runway with the wind 270° at 5—10 knots. On approaching the runway the pilot noticed that glider launching cables had been laid along the runway, and he decided to use a grass track that was to the south of the runway, and parallel to it for take-off.

During the take-off run, the port wing struck a post that had been obscured by long grass causing the aircraft to swing to the left and came to rest in an adjacent potato crop. The occupants were wearing full upper torso restraint and were uninjured.