

## Pietenpol Aircamper, G-BYFT

<b>AAIB Bulletin No: 9/2004</b>	<b>Ref: EW/G2004/06/21</b>	<b>Category: 1.3</b>
<b>Aircraft Type and Registration:</b>	Pietenpol Aircamper, G-BYFT	
<b>No &amp; Type of Engines:</b>	1 EA81 piston engine	
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>	2003	
<b>Date &amp; Time (UTC):</b>	25 June 2004 at 1655 hrs	
<b>Location:</b>	Lichfield, Staffordshire	
<b>Type of Flight:</b>	Private	
<b>Persons on Board:</b>	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
<b>Injuries:</b>	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
<b>Nature of Damage:</b>	Damage to left landing gear and propeller	
<b>Commander's Licence:</b>	Private Pilot's Licence	
<b>Commander's Age:</b>	43 years	
<b>Commander's Flying Experience:</b>	153 hours (of which 27 were on type)	
	Last 90 days - 10 hours	
	Last 28 days - 5 hours	
<b>Information Source:</b>	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

The aircraft was taxied in preparation for a takeoff from the grass Runway 21 at Lichfield. After lining up on the runway the pilot partially opened the throttle, to initially carry out a fast taxi, and then full power was applied to begin the takeoff. As the aircraft began to lift off the runway, the pilot felt a thud, following which the aircraft began to lean to the left due to a partial failure of the left main gear. The pilot maintained control and removed the engine power, after which the left main gear finally collapsed. The aircraft came to rest on the runway with damage limited to the landing gear and the propeller. The pilot was uninjured.

It was discovered that the chalk runway designation numbers '21' were recessed into the ground by about three inches. It was surmised that, during the take-off roll and as the left landing gear passed over the '21' chalk markings, it became caught, resulting in the shock loading and failure of a 'rose' joint the left main gear.