

AAIB Bulletin No: 8/93

Ref: EW/G93/06/29

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: DHC-1 Chipmunk 22, G-ARGG

No & Type of Engines: 1 de Havilland Gipsy Major 10 Mk.2 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1951

Date & Time (UTC): 26 June 1993 at 1245 hrs

Location: Bembridge Airport, Isle of Wight

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Damage to leading edge of left wing

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence with Instrument Rating

Commander's Age: 46 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 1,350 hours (of which 500 were on type)
Last 90 days - 23 hours
Last 28 days - 8 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot was participating in the Schneider Trophy air race. After take off from Bembridge Airport the aircraft was held at low level and, while in a gentle turn, the left wing struck a wooden post. The pilot thought at first that it was a wheel which had made contact and, as he was experiencing no handling problems, he continued the race. Later he noticed the damage to the left wing and, when the race was over, he checked the aircraft's handling; having satisfied himself that it was safe so to do, he flew it to his home base and then to the repair agency.

The pilot considered that it was possible that the accident occurred because he was concentrating on the aircraft which had departed 10 seconds before him.