

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Thruster TST Mk1, G-MTKA	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Rotax 503 piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1987 (Serial no: 867-TST-021)	
Date & Time (UTC):	14 May 2016 at 1328 hrs	
Location:	Manchester/Barton Aerodrome	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Wing spar distorted, left mainwheel detached and propeller damaged	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	63 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	567 hours (of which 16 were on type) Last 90 days - 2 hours Last 28 days - 1 hour	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and information from the airport operator	

When commencing takeoff on grass Runway 26L, the pilot believed there was a moderate crosswind from his right. As he reached flying speed, his rudder and aileron control inputs suddenly seemed ineffective. The right wing lifted and the aircraft (Figure 1) yawed quickly to the right through 90°. The left wheel dug into the ground and detached and the left wing then struck the runway. This caused the aircraft to yaw left, while pitching nose-down until the propeller made ground contact. The aircraft then fell back onto its tailwheel and right mainwheel and the two occupants vacated, without assistance.



Figure 1
Thruster TST Mk1, G-MTKA

Airport records indicated the wind direction that afternoon was predominantly northerly, at 10 kt or less but with occasional gusts of up to 15 kt. Approximately six minutes before the accident, it veered east of north and, before takeoff, the pilot was informed that the wind was from 030° at 7 kt. However, he recalled seeing no downwind component for Runway 26L on the windssock situated nearest the threshold. Immediately after the accident, he sensed the wind was extremely variable and suspected a sudden wind shift caused the loss of control.