

**ACCIDENT**

<b>Aircraft Type and Registration:</b>	Thruster T600N 450, G-OASJ	
<b>No &amp; Type of Engines:</b>	1 Jabiru 2200A piston engine	
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>	2003 (Serial no: 0037-T600N-090)	
<b>Date &amp; Time (UTC):</b>	14 September 2016 at 1105 hrs	
<b>Location:</b>	Bradley's Lawn Airfield, Heathfield, East Sussex	
<b>Type of Flight:</b>	Training	
<b>Persons on Board:</b>	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
<b>Injuries:</b>	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
<b>Nature of Damage:</b>	Extensive damage, beyond economic repair	
<b>Commander's Licence:</b>	Student	
<b>Commander's Age:</b>	41 years	
<b>Commander's Flying Experience:</b>	61 hours (of which 55 were on type) Last 90 days - 10 hours Last 28 days - 3 hours	
<b>Information Source:</b>	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

**Synopsis**

A student pilot was carrying out his second solo flight and was on finals to land at Bradley's Lawn Airfield in East Sussex. The pilot was unable to establish a stable approach and bounced heavily on touchdown. He applied power to go around and the aircraft yawed, rolled to the left and before he could take corrective action the aircraft lodged in nearby trees. The pilot was uninjured but the aircraft was damaged beyond economic repair.

**History of the flight**

The pilot had carried out his first solo flight approximately three weeks before at Headcorn Airfield. The pilot and his instructor had returned to Headcorn to conduct circuit practices in crosswind conditions. After the circuit practice they flew back to Bradley's Lawn Airfield where the aircraft and instructor were based.

The pilot's performance during the circuits earlier in the day had been good, so it was decided that he should make a short local solo flight to land back at Bradleys Lawn Airfield. After an uneventful flight he joined the circuit. During his final approach he became concerned that he was going to undershoot and modified his flight path accordingly. However, a stable approach was not established and as he flared the aircraft, it rolled left to right, contacted the ground and bounced heavily. His instructor advised a go-around over the radio and the pilot applied full power. The aircraft immediately yawed and rolled to the left and headed towards nearby trees. Before the pilot could react, the aircraft lodged in the trees

approximately 15 metres from the ground. The aircraft was badly damaged and the pilot, although uninjured, had to be rescued by the emergency services.

### **Instructor's comment**

The instructor had been satisfied with the student's flying skills on the day of the accident and commented on his student's proficiency in all aspects of the circuit practice and the return flight to the home airfield. He was therefore "very content" to allow the pilot to carry out his second solo flight.

### **Pilot's assessment**

In the pilot's own analysis after the accident, he considered there to be a number of contributory factors. With hindsight he felt that he had not been fully comfortable with his first solo landing at Headcorn Airfield three weeks before. He also felt that it might have been unwise to attempt a solo landing at Bradley's Lawn, which he considered to be more challenging than Headcorn. However, he took off and re-joined the circuit without any problems but became uneasy during the latter part of his final approach and did not feel in control of the aircraft. The wing rock and bounce further unsettled him. When he applied full power to go around, he did not react quickly enough to counter the torque reaction of the aircraft and this he attributed to inexperience in a stressful situation.