

**ESCAPADE,
G-CGNV**

**Brighton Airfield,
Yorkshire**

14 November 2021

Accident

Investigation Synopsis

The aircraft had landed normally and was taxiing at about 5 kt when the right wing tip suddenly dropped and hit the ground; the engine stopped. The aircraft was shut down and the pilot and his passenger exited via the left door. The cause of the wing drop was a failure of the right main gear bungee. A friend of the pilot's, who had built his own Escapade, examined the aircraft to provide a repair assessment. He was not able to examine the bungee because it was tangled with rope and was supporting the aircraft. However, he observed that the back-up wire had failed in tension due to the bungee releasing suddenly. He did not note any damage to the other landing gear components, including the bungee strut, the gear leg and the 'V' brace.

Safety Recommendation 2021-049

Justification

Given the possibility for a seat to not be properly locked in place and the secondary locking to not be secure on these and similar aircraft types the following Safety Recommendation is made.

Therefore, the following safety recommendation was made:

Safety Recommendation 2021-049

It is recommended that the Light Aircraft Association remind owners of this aircraft type of the necessity, after every seat position adjustment, to:

- ensure that the seat pin is correctly locking the seat in position, and
- set the seat adjuster backup strap after the desired seat position has been selected.

Date Safety Recommendation made: 13 December 2021

LATEST RESPONSE

Response received: 28 March 2022

The Light Aircraft Association (LAA) accepts this recommendation.

The LAA wrote to the owners of all Reality Escapade and Sherwood Scout aircraft on the LAA fleet in December 2021 advising them of AAIB Bulletin S3/2021, and advising: "... please ensure that after every seat position adjustment and prior to takeoff, that the seat locking pin is correctly locking the seat in position and that the seat adjuster backup strap has been set after the desired seat position has been selected.". The LAA Reality Escapade / Sherwood Scout Type Acceptance Data Sheet (TADS) was also revised to add a Special Inspection Point regarding the seat adjustment and referring to AAIB Bulletin S3/2021.

Subsequent to this initial action:

- In February 2022 the LAA issued LAA Technical Service Bulletin TSB-01-2022 to promulgate The Light Aircraft Company (TLAC) SB 01-2021 and CAA MPD 2022-004E. The LAA wrote to the owners of all Reality Escapade and Sherwood Scout aircraft on the LAA fleet advising them of these documents, and the LAA Reality Escapade / Sherwood Scout TADS has been up-issued to reference these documents.

- February 2022's Light Aviation magazine contained an article based on AAIB Bulletin S3/2021 and highlighting the risks associated with adjustable seats. Also in February 2022, the LAA issued LAA Alert A-003-2022 to promulgate CAA SN-2022-001.

Safety Recommendation Status **Closed**

AAIB Assessment **Adequate**

Action Status **Planned Action Completed**

RESPONSE HISTORY

N/A

Safety Recommendation 2021-050

Justification

Given the possibility for a seat to not be properly locked in place and the secondary locking to not be secure on these and similar aircraft types the following Safety Recommendation is made.

Therefore, the following safety recommendation was made:

Safety Recommendation 2021-050

It is recommended that the British Microlight Aircraft Association remind owners of this aircraft type of the necessity, after every seat position adjustment, to:

- ensure that the seat pin is correctly locking the seat in position, and
- set the seat adjuster backup strap after the desired seat position has been selected.

Date Safety Recommendation made: 13 December 2021

LATEST RESPONSE

Response received: 14 March 2022

The BMAA accepts the Safety Recommendation listed above and has carried out the following actions in response.

1. Copies of AAIB Special Bulletin S3/2921 on Escapade, G-CGNV were sent via e-mail to all BMAA Inspectors and owners of Escapade and Sherwood Scout aircraft under the airworthiness approval of the BMAA on 14th December 2021.
2. The Light Aircraft Company (TLAC) SB 01-2021 was sent via e-mail to all BMAA Inspectors and owners of Escapade and Sherwood Scout aircraft under the airworthiness approval of the BMAA on 31st January 2022.
3. An article regarding adjustable seats and with reference to this particular incident was published in the March 2022 edition of the BMAA Magazine Microlight Flying which is posted to all member of the BMAA. This article also included details about the CAA MPD 2022-004-E and also CAA Safety Notice SN-2022/001.
4. The Escapade Pilot Operators Manual has been up issued to include specific details about the seat pin and pre-flight checks. Similarly the Sherwood Scout Pilot Operators Manual has been up issued by The Light Aircraft Company to include additional details regarding the seat pin and pre-flight checks.
5. Homebuilt Aircraft Data Sheet (HADS) HM12 (Escapade) has been updated to include TLAC SB 01-2021 and also the CAA Mandatory Permit Directive CAA MPD 2022-004-E. The HADS also include details of the new Operators Manual reference, and in Annex E of the HADS Points for Special Attention include details about the seat pin, runner and backup straps.
6. Type Approval Data Sheet (TADS) BM84 (Sherwood Scout) has been similarly updated, and the same actions applied.

Safety Recommendation Status Closed

AAIB Assessment

Adequate

Action Status

Planned Action Completed

RESPONSE HISTORY

N/A

Safety Recommendation 2021-051

Justification

Given the possibility for a seat to not be properly locked in place and the secondary locking to not be secure on these and similar aircraft types the following Safety Recommendation is made.

Therefore, the following safety recommendation was made:

Safety Recommendation 2021-051

It is recommended that the Civil Aviation Authority in conjunction with the Light Aircraft Association and British Microlight Aircraft Association, remind pilots of the importance of ensuring that seats are correctly locked and any secondary locking mechanisms are correctly used, particularly after any seat position adjustment.

Date Safety Recommendation made: 13 December 2021

LATEST RESPONSE

Response received: 24 February 2022

The CAA accepts this Safety Recommendation.

The CAA issued general Safety Notice SN-2022/001 on February 17th 2022 to remind pilots of the importance of ensuring all occupied seats are correctly locked in position prior to departure and any secondary locking mechanisms are correctly used. Pilots are encouraged to be familiar with seat adjustment/locking mechanisms in their aircraft, including any backup locking systems and monitor them for wear and proper functioning, particularly following any heavy landing.

The CAA has also issued a Mandatory Permit Directive, MPD 2022-004, on February 10th, 2022 applicable to all Reality Escapades and Sherwood Scout aeroplanes (both kit and factory built). The MPD requires inspection of the seat locking and secondary locking means to ensure components are in good condition and working correctly.

The inspection is to be performed every 50 flight hours or Annual Inspection (whichever comes first) as well as after any heavy landing. The CAA has worked in conjunction with the Light Aircraft Association and the British Microlight Aircraft Association on mitigation activities for this safety risk. With the agreement and to the satisfaction of the CAA, both the LAA and BMAA have taken appropriate safety actions in relation to this accident and the general safety risk it has highlighted.

Safety Recommendation Status Closed

AAIB Assessment Adequate

Action Status Planned Action Completed

RESPONSE HISTORY

N/A