

SERIOUS INCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Zenair CH 601HD, G-BVVM	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Rotax 912-UL piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1996 (Serial no: PFA 162-12539)	
Date & Time (UTC):	29 July 2022 at 1700 hrs	
Location:	Perranporth Airfield, Cornwall	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	None	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	38 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	455 hours (of which 322 were on type) Last 90 days - 48 hours Last 28 days - 11 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

Synopsis

Shortly after takeoff, the aircraft rolled to the right and required greater than normal control input to maintain a climb. The pilot declared a PAN. A joining aircraft acknowledged the call and remained clear. The pilot observed that the right-wing locker door had opened and was protruding up at an approximate angle of 45° to the top surface of the wing, disrupting the airflow (Figure 1). They were able to control the aircraft, using significant left rudder, and positioned the aircraft to land. The aircraft landed without further incident.

Pilot's comments

The pilot commented that they were aware that a parachute aircraft was inbound to overhead the airfield and had rushed to prepare the aircraft for departure. In the end they decided to wait for the parachutists to land before departing but had forgotten to check the wing locker was securely closed.

After reflecting on the circumstances that led up to the event the pilot made the following suggestions to prevent a similar occurrence:

- Do not rush to expedite takeoff, the self-imposed time pressure is likely to have been the root cause of not checking the wing locker.
- Add 'wing lockers' to the '*hatches and harness*' check to the pre-flight check list.



Figure 1

Open wing baggage lockers on a similar aircraft
(Image used with permission)

AAIB comment

Taking the time to ensure all hatches and external panels are properly secure before departure is equally important on all types of aircraft. In this case, once airborne, the pilot rightly focused on maintaining control of the aircraft to ensure a safe landing.