ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Replica SE5A, G-BMDB
No & Type of Engines:	1 Continental Motors Corp O-200-A piston engine
Year of Manufacture:	1988
Date & Time (UTC):	22 April 2006 at 1325 hrs
Location:	Boscombe Down Airfield, Wiltshire
Type of Flight:	Private
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1 Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Propeller not repairable, minor damage to engine cowlings and wing tip
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence
Commander's Age:	74 years
Commander's Flying Experience:	1,307 hours (of which 638 were on type) Last 90 days - 8 hours Last 28 days - 4 hours
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

Synopsis

Following engine start the pilot removed the wheel chocks and took them to an area where chocks could be left. While the pilot was away from the aircraft it slowly moved forward and started to turn, during which time the left wing touched the ground and the aircraft tipped onto its nose.

History of the flight

The aircraft, which is not fitted with a park brake, was parked with chocks in place on the grass at the side of Runway 23. The pilot started the engine and set the engine rpm to a slow idling speed. The operation of the airfield does not allow aircraft chocks to be left on the grass so the pilot removed them from the aircraft's wheels and carried them to an area where they could be left. On turning back towards the aircraft, the pilot saw that it was slowly moving from the grass to the tarmac runway. On reaching the tarmac the aircraft started to turn in a circle. The left wing tip touched the ground and, when facing east, which put the aircraft in a crosswind position, it tipped onto its nose.

The pilot, in a frank and honest statement, said that in his assessment the accident was the result of his rush to get airborne before the airfield's ATC opened. This resulted in him not tightening the throttle friction nut sufficiently which allowed the throttle to vibrate towards the open position.