

No: 9/92

Ref: EW/G92/07/28

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper PA-28-140 Cherokee, G-BRPL

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-320-E3D piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1972

Date & Time (UTC): 26 July 1992 at 1443 hrs

Location: Blackpool Airport, Lancashire

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Damage to nose landing gear, propeller and engine mounting

Commander's Licence: Student Pilot

Commander's Age: 30 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 31 hours (of which 16 were on type)
Last 90 days - 16 hours
Last 28 days - 6 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

After successfully completing her first solo flight, the pilot flew four circuits under the supervision of a flying instructor. She then took-off on another solo detail. The runway in use was 25 and the surface wind was 250°/20 kt. On the third circuit it was necessary to extend downwind due to other traffic and consequently the final approach was longer, and needed more power than normal. The aircraft bounced after touchdown and subsequently the nose landing gear collapsed and the propeller struck the ground. The aircraft came to rest over the right edge of the runway on a heading of about 340°. The pilot carried out the basic shutdown checks and escaped without injury.

The landing had been observed by the flying instructor who reported that the approach was good and the "round-out" had been at the correct height, however, the pilot had not held the aircraft off in the flare; all three wheels touched down at the same time and it bounced. A small oscillation developed which increased to the point where the nose landing gear collapsed and the propeller struck the runway.