

Avid Hauler Mk 4, G-BWCI

AAIB Bulletin No: 1/99 **Ref:** EW/G98/05/19 **Category:** 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Avid Hauler Mk 4, G-BWCI

No & Type of Engines: 1 Rotax 582 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1993

Date & Time (UTC): 16 May 1998 at 1935 hrs

Location: 2 miles west of Fenland Airfield, Lincolnshire

Type of Flight: Private (Training)

Persons on Board: Crew - 2 - Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Substantial

Commander's Licence: Commercial Pilot's Licence with IMC, Night & Instructors Ratings

Commander's Age: 46 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 1,500 hours

Last 90 days - 210 hours

Last 28 days - 140 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and telephone enquiries

The aircraft was operating in the circuit at Fenland; the handling pilot, a PPL holder with a total of 47 hours flying experience was being checked out on type by another pilot with an Instructor Rating. When downwind at a height of 1,000 feet the engine stopped suddenly. The Instructor said, "I Have Control" and asked the other pilot to transmit a 'Mayday' call, which he did. The aircraft was turned into wind and a forced landing carried out into a field of Sugar Beet. The aircraft finished up inverted but both occupants were able to exit the aircraft via the doors and were uninjured. The Fenland Airfield fire vehicle responded to the Mayday call and assisted the pilots at the scene.

Neither of the occupants nor the attending fire service personnel were aware of any fuel draining from the inverted aircraft and when it was returned to an upright position there was no fuel in the aircraft. The engine was found to be free to turn by hand but was damaged in the impact so as to preclude running.