

SERIOUS INCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Europa, G-BYJI	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Rotax 912-UL piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1996	
Date & Time (UTC):	28 April 2012 at 1000 hrs	
Location:	Between York and Selby	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Pilot's door, its window and mounting	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	55 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	270 hours (of which 10 were on type) Last 90 days - 8 hours Last 28 days - 6 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

Synopsis

The aircraft was on a local flight from Pocklington Airfield and cruising at 1,800 ft. As the pilot accelerated the aircraft to 120 kt, his door opened causing damage to the door and its mounting. The door remained attached to the aircraft but its window detached. After assessing the aircraft's handling the pilot made an emergency call to Pocklington Airfield to request an immediate return to land. The aircraft landed without further incident.

Additional information

The pilot's door is of a gull wing arrangement and it is hinged in two places along its top edge, (Figure 1). A gas strut is fitted to the aft side of the door to support it in the open position. The door is held closed by two tapered shoot bolts which extend out longitudinally,

from the lower corners of the front and rear sides of the door, into guides in the door frame. It is possible to have the door locking lever in the closed position with only the front shoot bolt engaged in its guide.

The pilot candidly reported that it is most likely that the rear shoot bolt was not engaged on this occasion and as the airspeed increased, the increasing aerodynamic forces caused the partially closed door to open. The LAA intend to remind their members of the importance of checking all doors and hatches are closed before every takeoff.

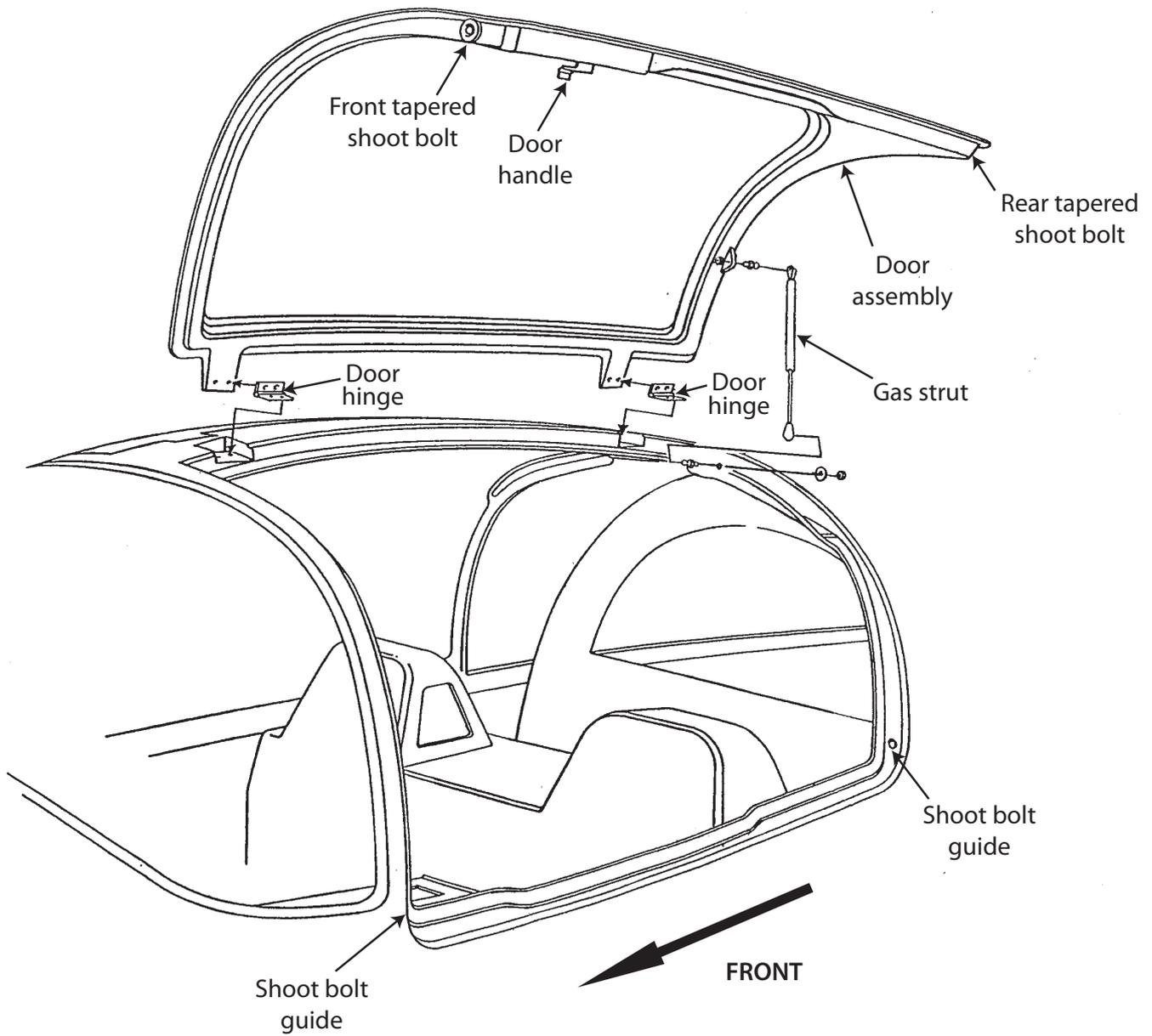


Figure 1

General arrangement of door
(courtesy Europa Aircraft (2004) Ltd)