

Evans VP-1 Series 2, G-BAJC

AAIB Bulletin No: 6/99 Ref: EW/G99/03/05 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Evans VP-1 Series 2, G-BAJC

No & Type of Engines: 1 Volkswagen 1834 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1981

Date & Time (UTC): 4 March 1999 at 1000 hrs

Location: Bovingdon disused airfield, Hertfordshire

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Damage to landing gear and propeller; possible airframe damage

Commander's Licence: Basic Commercial Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 38 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 1,086 hours (of which 37 were on type)

Last 90 days - 102 hours

Last 28 days - 42 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

During a flight from a farm strip at Romney Street to Shenington earlier in the day the engine had started to run roughly and the pilot had diverted towards a disused airfield at Bovingdon. However prior to landing, the engine had lost power completely and had stopped, but the pilot managed to carry out a successful forced landing on the disused airfield. His subsequent inspection of the carburettor revealed the presence of ice.

After waiting for approximately one hour for the induction system to clear, the pilot re-started the engine successfully. He then conducted power checks which produced a normal response from the engine, and so he elected to continue his flight. However, just after take off the engine again began to run roughly and the pilot therefore carried out a second forced landing on another part of the disused airfield. The associated touchdown was satisfactory, but when the brakes were applied to keep the aircraft within the available landing distance, it veered to the left. The pilot was unable to control the swing to the left with rudder and the aircraft veered onto soft ground, causing the right

main gear to collapse and the propeller to strike the ground. The pilot, who was not injured, attributed the failure of the engine to a second occurrence of carburettor icing.