

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Robinson R22 Beta, G-TOMM	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-360-J2A piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	2002	
Date & Time (UTC):	12 October 2009 at 1508 hrs	
Location:	Redhill Aerodrome, Surrey	
Type of Flight:	Training	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Significant damage to main rotor blades and tail boom severed	
Commander's Licence:	Student	
Commander's Age:	39 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	28 hours (of which 28 were on type) Last 90 days - 5 hours Last 28 days - 2 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

Having completed a training flight with his instructor, the student, for his second solo flight, was cleared to fly three solo circuits. The instructor stated that the wind was light and variable and, having vacated the helicopter, observed that the circuits were flown accurately. The student, to conclude the lesson, repositioned and landed the helicopter on the apron. The student stated that, upon touchdown, he had lowered the collective fully before setting the friction adjustment. The instructor briefly turned away, before he heard the helicopter's engine noise increase.

The student recalled that as he moved his left hand to set the cyclic friction the helicopter started to shudder,

move and began to rotate to the right. He attempted to control the rotation using pedal and confirmed that the collective was fully down. However, the helicopter began to lift and the student, believing that it was going to topple onto its side, pitched the cyclic forward. Having rotated approximately three times, the helicopter hit the ground nose first. The main rotor blades struck the ground and also severed the tail boom. The helicopter settled onto its skids as the student shut down the engine by turning the ignition switch key. He was uninjured and exited through the cabin door. The helicopter was damaged beyond economic repair.