

Auster 6A, G-ARHM

AAIB Bulletin No: 3/98 Ref: EW/G98/01/12 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Auster 6A, G-ARHM
No & Type of Engines:	1 De Havilland Gipsy Major 10 MK 1 piston engine
Year of Manufacture:	1946
Date & Time (UTC):	17 January 1998 at 1315 hrs
Location:	Finmere Aerodrome, Buckinghamshire
Type of Flight:	Private
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1 - Passengers - 2
Injuries:	Crew - None - Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Nicks in propeller blades, pitot assembly bent back with fractured tube, landing gear bungees overstretched, left rear lift strut bowed
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence
Commander's Age:	70 years
Commander's Flying Experience:	473 hours (of which 319 were on type) Last 90 days - 4 hours Last 28 days - 1 hour
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was taking part in the Vintage Aircraft Club 'Snowballrally' at the airfield. The weather was good with the wind from 230° at 10 to 12 kt gusting 15 kt. On approach to Runway 28 the pilot noticed one aircraft completing its roll out at the upwind end of the runway and another four aircraft backtracking the runway, having almost reached the take-off point. The pilot flared the aircraft at the threshold and applied a 'trickle' of power so as to pass the backtracking aircraft before touching down. As flying speed was lost the aircraft landed heavily in a tail down attitude, perhaps as a result of an aft CG. Rudder authority was lost and the aircraft weather-cocked into wind causing it to run through a stock control fence which ran to the left of and parallel with the runway. During the swing to the left the pilot was unable to apply sufficient braking to stop the aircraft before it ran into the fence, stopping some 20 feet into the adjacent field. The pilot reports that the accident may have resulted from a lull in the gusty wind conditions at the point of touchdown.

