

No: 9/84

Ref: EW/G84/07/23

Aircraft type and registration: Cessna F152 G-LSMI (Light single engined fixed wing aircraft)

Year of manufacture: 1980

Date and time (GMT): 9 July 1984 at 1615 hrs

Location: Wycombe Air Park, Buckinghamshire

Type of flight: Instruction/training

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — Nil

Injuries: Crew — Nil Passengers — N/A

Nature of damage: Substantial — to nose gear, propeller, and possible engine shock loading.

Commander's Licence: Student Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 30 years

Commander's total flying experience: 34 hours (all of which were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report pro-forma submitted by the pilot.

After a period of dual instruction, the pilot was briefed for solo practice of General Flight Test Manoeuvres within the local area. After having cleared the circuit to the north the pilot decided that the weather was not suitable for a VFR operation, and returned to Wycombe Air Park where the weather was suitable for circuit work. The wind was from 200° at 8—12 kt.

The runway in use was 17, a grass strip some 846 metres long. Approximately 180 metres south of the threshold of runway 17, two parallel runways, 07/25, cross it, and the northerly of the parallel runways has a tarmac surface, while the other is grass.

Upon returning to the circuit, the aircraft made a straight in approach and landed on runway 17, the pilot's intention being to carry out a touch and go. As the aircraft was crossing the tarmac runway (07/25) it commenced a pitching motion sufficient to cause the pilot to abandon the take-off. After another circuit and reportedly smooth landing, the pilot raised the flaps to 10° and applied full power having intended to carry out a further touch and go manoeuvre.

As the aircraft commenced to cross the tarmac 07/25 runway the nose pitched up to an extreme attitude, accompanied by a loud noise from beneath the aircraft. The pilot reduced power and as the aircraft crossed the far side of the tarmac runway, the nose wheel re-contacted the grass and although there was significant noise from the area of the nosewheel, the aircraft's pitch attitude appeared to be normal. However, after a short run on the grass the nose of the aircraft pitched down and made contact with the ground. The pilot who was uninjured switched off the fuel and electrics and evacuated the aircraft.

The aircraft was substantially damaged with the propeller, and possibly engine, suffering damage as a result of the collapse of the nosewheel.