

Europa, G-JAMY

AAIB Bulletin No: 11/2001	Ref: EW/G2001/09/18	Category: 1.3
Aircraft Type and Registration:	Europa, G-JAMY	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Rotax 912S	
Year of Manufacture:	2001	
Date & Time (UTC):	15 September 2001 at 1720 hrs	
Location:	Kirknewton, Edinburgh	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers 1
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers None
Nature of Damage:	Minor propeller damage	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilots Licence (A)	
Commander's Age:	26 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	116 hours (of which 25 were on type)	
	Last 90 days - 25 hours	
	Last 28 days - 6 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

The aircraft landed from a normal approach at Kirknewton, Edinburgh with the landing gear and flap selected down. Touchdown was uneventful but shortly thereafter the monowheel main landing gear retracted leaving the aircraft rolling on the partially retracted mainwheel. The aircraft came to a halt having suffered minor damage to the propeller, and the pilot vacated the aircraft uninjured.

The Europa landing gear is 'locked' down by use of an over-centre mechanism. If 'play' exists between the landing gear retraction arm and the retraction lever it is possible for the landing gear retraction arm to move sufficiently for the landing gear to retract on the ground even though the retraction lever is in the down and locked position. With the landing gear locked down the landing gear lever should be in full contact with the front of the down-gate. Any gap between the lever and the gate with the landing gear in the down position can be an indication of 'play' in the mechanism. A modification is available which links the retraction arm and the retraction lever by means of a strut and ensures a more rigid assembly. The manufacturer advises that this modification will soon be included in all new Europa monowheel construction kits.