

Stitts Playboy SA3A, G-BGLZ

AAIB Bulletin No: 12/2001	Ref: EW/G2001/09/02	Category: 1.3
Aircraft Type and Registration:	Stitts Playboy SA3A, G-BGLZ	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Continental Motors CORP C90-12F piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1973	
Date & Time (UTC):	1 September 2001 at 1116 hrs	
Location:	Fenland Airfield, Spalding	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Front and rear spars of right wing	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	43 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	264 hours (of which 26 were on type)	
	Last 90 days - 7 hours	
	Last 28 days - 2 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

The pilot was on a local flight from his home airfield at Fenland. The weather was good with a surface wind of 260°/ 06 kt. Runway 36 was in use; the runway had a surface of dry grass. Following a normal approach and landing, the aircraft settled onto the runway but then veered to the left. Despite the use of right rudder and brake, the pilot was unable to prevent G-BGLZ turning through 180°. Then, as the aircraft came to rest, it slid sideways into a drainage dyke. The damage to the right wing resulted from the wingtip bearing the weight of the aircraft in the dyke.

The pilot subsequently commented that he considered that the aircraft is generally difficult to land and that three of the four members of G-BGLZ owner's group had 'ground looped' the aircraft but with no damage. Post accident inspection of the aircraft showed no evidence of any pre-existing fault with the tail wheel assembly or steering linkages. There was ballast in the fin area and the weight / C of G of the aircraft would be checked following the repair.

