

No: 4/84

Ref: EW/G84/01/02

Aircraft type and registration: Piper PA28/140D Cherokee G-AYRM (light single-engine fixed wing aircraft)

Year of manufacture: 1970

Date and time (GMT): 12 January 1984 at 1145 hrs

Location: Barden Farm, Nr Ware, Herts

Type of flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — Nil

Injuries: Crew — None Passengers — N/A

Nature of damage: Port wing tip fairing and propeller tips damaged, nose oleo bent

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence with IMC Night and Full Instructors Rating

Commander's Age: 23 years

Commander's total flying experience: 1055 hours (of which 20 were on type)

During a flight from Biggin Hill to Little Straughton when cruising at 2000 ft AMSI over Ware, the engine began to run roughly and significant power loss was experienced. The pilot reported an engine failure to the "Approach Radar Controller" at Luton who had been providing a "Flight Information Service" and he was given information on the position of Panshanger Airfield. When the pilot realised that he could not reach Panshanger he declared his intention to make a forced landing. After having selected a field the engine then lost almost all power and a cross wind landing had to be made in a clover field. On landing the pilot was forced to ground loop the aircraft to the right to avoid trees at the field boundary.

Examination of the engine revealed that the loss of power was due to an exhaust valve breaking up.