No: 6/86 Ref: 1b

Aircraft type

Cessna 172M G-BBKZ

and registration: No & Type of Engines:

One Lycoming 0-320-E2D piston engine

Year of Manufacture:

1973

Date and time (GMT):

29 May 1986 at 1100 hrs

Location:

Bembridge, Isle of Wight

Type of flight:

Private (pleasure)

Persons on board:

Crew — 1

Passengers — 1

Injuries:

Crew — None

Passengers — None

Nature of damage:

Damage to nose wheel, oleo and bulkhead. Control column

support bent. Minor damage to fuel tank.

Commander's Licence:

Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age:

61 years

Commander's total

flying experience:

73 hours (of which 5 were on type)

Information Source:

Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot.

The aircraft had made an uneventful flight from Exeter and the pilot had been advised by Bembridge to fly a right hand circuit for runway 30. The wind was 300°/10 to 15 knots. The downwind leg was shortened to enable the aircraft to avoid a heavy rain shower. On base leg the pilot lost sight of the runway because of the reduced visibility associated with the shower. He selected 20° of flap and when he saw the runway again it was evident that he had flown through the extended centreline. On the approach he judged that he was high and selected full flap. In retrospect the pilot believed that he might inadvertently have returned the flap selector to the retract position thus allowing the flap to retract during the remainder of the approach.

After the first touchdown the aircraft bounced and floated until it made a second and heavy landing. By this time the aircraft was nearly half way down the runway and the pilot elected to go around. He made a low pass for a visual check of the landing gear which appeared undamaged.

A normal landing was made from the third circuit except that the pilot held off the nose wheel as long as possible. Vibration was felt as soon as the nose wheel touched the runway and when the aircraft had stopped this wheel was seen to be deflated. The structural damage was discovered subsequently during a detailed examination of the aircraft.