

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Aeroprakt A22 Foxbat, G-VROD	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Rotax 912 ULS piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	2003	
Date & Time (UTC):	16 January 2008 at 1300 hrs	
Location:	Kilkeel, County Down	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Nose landing gear collapsed and propeller damaged	
Commander's Licence:	National Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	31 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	228 hours (of which 43 were on type) Last 90 days - 11 hours Last 28 days - 3 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

Synopsis

As the pilot rotated the aircraft on takeoff, it ran into a wet patch on the grass runway and lost speed. Although it subsequently became airborne, an uncontrollable yaw caused the pilot to abandon the takeoff. It departed the side of the runway and struck a hedge at low speed.

History of the flight

The pilot reported that there had been heavy rain over the days prior to the accident but fine conditions between showers appeared to offer an opportunity for a local flight. He arrived at the airfield and walked the length of the grass runway, assessing that it was damp with occasional wet patches.

The takeoff proceeded normally until the pilot began

to rotate, at which time the main wheels ran onto a wet patch on the runway, causing slight deceleration. He held the nosewheel off the ground, the aircraft gained speed again and became airborne. The aircraft then yawed right and as he was unable to correct the yaw, the pilot closed the throttle and abandoned the takeoff. It touched down on undulating ground to the side of the runway, ran into a hedge at low speed and came to a stop. The pilot shut the aircraft down and both occupants disembarked without difficulty.

The pilot assessed the cause of the accident as loss of airspeed on rotation which led the aircraft to be airborne closer to the stall than usual.