

Aircraft Type and Registration: Team Minimax, G-MWLW

No & Type of Engines: 1 Rotax 377 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1991

Date & Time (UTC): 4 June 1993 at 1200 hrs

Location: Deanland Airfield, East Sussex

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - Minor Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Damage to landing gear, cockpit, fuselage and right wing

Commander's Licence: Basic Commercial Pilot's Licence with IMC
and Instructor Ratings

Commander's Age: 31 years

Commander's Flying Experience: About 3,100 hours (of which 3 were on type)
Last 90 days - about 55 hours
Last 28 days - about 30 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The purpose of the flight was to check the aircraft prior to demonstrating it to a prospective purchaser. The engine performed normally during starting, taxi and power checks. The take off and climb were normal until, at about 200 feet agl, the engine stopped without warning. The area straight ahead was unsuitable for a forced landing, and so the pilot elected to land in a field approximately 30° to the right of the runway heading. However, the field contained tall grass with the result that, following touchdown, the aircraft immediately nosed over onto its back. The pilot was unhurt but was trapped in the wreckage for approximately 15 minutes before he was able to escape by kicking a hole in the fuselage. During this time he was considerably concerned by the smell of fuel and the sound of the engine cooling down, however fire did not occur.

Investigation of the engine revealed that the No 2 (rear) piston had seized. The aircraft owner stated that this piston had been installed and the engine rebored some 4 flying hours earlier, this work being necessary due to a previous seizure. The engine has not as yet been examined by the main UK agents for Rotax. When this occurs, any pertinent information arising from the strip examination will be published in the form of an Addendum to this Bulletin.