



Ref: 7753

SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

ACCIDENT REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Aircraft Registration	ZU-CFM	Date of Accident	08 January 2004		Time of Accident	0410Z
Type of Aircraft	WINDLASS AQUILLA 618		Type of Operation		Private	
Pilot-in-command Licence Type		Microlight	Age	40	Licence Valid	Yes
Pilot-in-command Flying Experience		Total Flying Hours	335		Hours on Type	28.5
Last point of departure		Springs Aerodrome				
Next point of intended landing		Springs Aerodrome				
Location of the accident site with reference to easily defined geographical points (GPS readings if possible)						
Springs Aerodrome						
Meteorological Information		CAVOK, Wind: 060/5, Temperature 16°C.				
Number of people on board	1 + 0	No. of people injured	Nil		No. of people killed	Nil

Synopsis

The pilot was on a local flight at Springs Aerodrome when the accident occurred. After take-off from Runway 03R and at a height of approximately 90ft AGL (above ground level), he experienced turbulence and power loss.

He apparently applied full power but the engine did not respond. He then decided to perform a left turn down-wind for landing on Runway 21R. The pilot remained clear of trees and houses but was not stable enough to land on Runway 21R, and opted to land on Runway 32. The aircraft continued to descend and the pilot had to land on rough grass next to Runway 32. A hard landing followed.

The pilot sustained no injuries but the aircraft sustained damage to it's left hand wing, undercarriage and propeller.

At the time of the accident the owner did not have a valid Authority to Fly as the previous certificate had expired on 15 October 2003. The owner, however, applied for a renewal on 06 January 2004. The last Annual Inspection was certified on 06 January 2004 at 147.30 flying hours. The aircraft had accumulated a further 0.6 flying hours since the last Annual Inspection.

Probable Cause

Undetermined loss of engine power.