

FINAL REPORT

AAIU Synoptic Report No: 2008-022

State File No: 00908056

AAIU File No: 2008/0056

Published: 27/08/08

In accordance with the provisions of SI 205 of 1997, the Chief Inspector of Air Accidents, on 28 July 2008, appointed Mr. Frank Russell as the Investigator-in-Charge to carry out an Investigation into this Accident and prepare a Synoptic Report.

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Samba XXL, OK-KUA 26
No. and Type of Engines:	1 x Jabiru 2200 A
Aircraft Serial Number:	SA-XL-28
Year of Manufacture:	2005
Date and Time (UTC):	28 July 2008 @ 20.05 hrs
Location:	RWY 27 - Kilkenny Airfield (EIKL)
Type of Flight:	Private
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1
Injuries:	Crew - Nil
Nature of Damage:	Substantial
Commander's Licence:	Student Pilots Licence (SPL)
Commander's Details:	Male, aged 69 years
Commander's Flying Experience:	59.14 hours, of which 59.14 were on type
Notification Source:	Duty Flying Instructor, Kilkenny Airfield
Information Source:	AAIU Pilot Report Form submitted by Pilot.

SYNOPSIS

The Student Pilot was carrying out his first solo flight in benign weather conditions. On landing, the aircraft bounced twice, however the nose wheel collapsed on the third impact and the propeller then struck the ground. The Student Pilot exited the aircraft uninjured.

FINAL REPORT

1. FACTUAL INFORMATION

1.1 History of the Flight

Earlier that evening, the Student Pilot and Instructor flew six satisfactory circuits to RWY 27 at Kilkenny Airfield, followed by a short coffee break. Four more satisfactory circuits were then flown and the Student Pilot was deemed satisfactory by the Instructor to carry out his first solo flight. The Student Pilot was comfortable with this decision. His circuit and approach were normal, but on landing he allowed the nose wheel to touch down first, causing the aircraft to bounce. A second bounce followed. This was followed by a rapid third touch down, at which point the nose wheel collapsed. As the nose dropped the propeller hit the ground. The engine stopped. There was no fire.

1.2 Damage

The nose wheel was severed and the wooden propeller suffered impact damage as did the underside of the fuselage (**Photo's No. 1 & 2**).

1.3 Comment

In a frank comment the Student Pilot considered the cause of the accident was due to him not holding the nose wheel of the tricycle undercarriage off sufficiently during the landing phase.

A mitigating factor may have been the downhill slope of RWY 27, which made the landing judgement that more difficult for the Student Pilot.



Photo No. 1: Propeller damage



Photo No. 2: Severed nose wheel strut

(Photos courtesy Kilkenny Airfield)

- END -