

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198700743**

Grob Astir CS77

22 August 1987

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NOTE: All air safety occurrences reported to the ATSB are categorised and recorded. For a detailed explanation on Category definitions please refer to the ATSB website at www.atsb.gov.au.

Occurrence Number: 198700743
Location: Bordertown SA
Date: 22 August 1987
Highest Injury Level: Serious
Injuries:

Occurrence Type: Accident

Time: 1320

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	1	0	0
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	0
Total	0	1	0	0

Aircraft Details: Grob Astir CS77
Registration:
Serial Number: 1672
Operation Type: Private (Pleasure)
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Bordertown SA
Departure Time: 1320
Destination: Bordertown SA

Approved for Release: November 3rd 1987

Circumstances:

The glider was being winch-launched from strip 36. During the launch, the left wingtip dropped into lush vegetation covering the strip. The glider rolled rapidly to the left around the wingtip, until it was inverted. It impacted heavily in this attitude and came to rest 96 metres from, and 15 metres to the left of the take-off point. A 15-20 knot north-easterly wind was blowing at the time and the right wing was seen to lift as the left wing contacted a reasonably heavy cover of dandelions which were 30-40 centrimetres tall. The pilot had activated the manual release and the winch operator stopped the launch when the glider adopted the acute roll angle, but both of these actions were too late for recovery to be achieved prior to impact. Due to soggy conditions, the gliding club had not used the strip for the previous 2 months, and had not mown the surface prior to recommencement of operations.