

Bygone Buses

of
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NN-HO6
Page 1

HOOTON & PERKINS Ltd

George Street (143723)

IRTHLINGBOROUGH

The limited liability company Hooton & Perkins Ltd was incorporated on 28th April 1916 with a nominal capital of £1,000 divided into 1,000 Shares of £1 each. Its Memorandum of Association lists amongst its many objectives a desire to establish and carry on public motor omnibus and motor van services in Northamptonshire and elsewhere and to carry on business as motor omnibus, motor cab, motor car, motor lorry and motor van proprietors and carriers of passengers, goods, wares and merchandise of every description.

The above aims were perhaps somewhat over-ambitious as the two subscribers - Harry Hooton of 58 High Street, Irthlingborough and William Mark Perkins of 22 Spinney Road, Irthlingborough - both describing themselves as carriers, appear to have possessed little money, each owning only one Share in the business of which neither were Directors.

The backers of the firm were four Boot Manufacturers, namely John and Thomas Henry Sudborough of Wellingborough, together with Herbert Perkins and John Bird of Irthlingborough. The presumption is that Herbert and William Perkins were related. Initially only 22 Shares were subscribed - one each to the two running the enterprise and five each to the four Directors. On 22nd November 1917 Herbert Perkins and John Bird each purchased another 150 Shares and the issued capital never increased beyond the 322 Shares then in circulation. With a starting capital of just £22 in April 1916 not rising to £322 until November 1917 it is remarkable that Hooton & Perkins Ltd traded at all.

But trade they did and on 24th July 1916 purchased a 30hp Lacre van-cum-bus which was duly registered BD 3390, painted brown and black and licensed for the conveyance of both passengers and goods. Quite what the owners did with this vehicle is largely unknown. No evidence has come to light to suggest that any regular bus service was provided, so presumably it was used for just the occasional private hire when fitted with seats. It is more likely that the Lacre was used in van form to convey the products of the Company's boot-manufacturing Directors. However, BD 3390 continued to be licensed until 11th January 1924.

Bygone Buses of Northamptonshire is compiled by R M Warwick, "Forestyn" 101 Broadway East, Northampton NN3 2PP, who would be pleased to be advised of any additional information relating to the above operator. The records of the PSV Circle and the Omnibus Society have been consulted extensively for this series and acknowledgement and thanks are due to these organisations.

HOOTON & PERKINS Ltd - I'BORO

January 1924 appears to have been the date when Hooton & Perkins ceased trading as there is a record in the National Archives in a letter from the Company's accountant and auditor dated 12th August 1926 that states:- "This concern is now dead, no business having been done for more than a year past. There are no liabilities save a small amount due to the Bank which has been allowed to remain on guarantee, and no assets save a derelict motor lorry for which the Directors cannot find a purchaser."

Thereafter the Company was wound up.

Rolling Stock:

REGN. NO.	CHASSIS		BODY		DATES			PREVIOUS OWNER	INITIAL DISPOSAL	NOTES
	MAKE	NUMBER	MAKE	TYPE/ SEATS	NEW	S/H	W/D			
BD 3390	Lacre	23629	?	Van/ Bus	7/16	—	1/24	—	No further owner	