



Information about 289 - E289 HRV

New to: Southampton City Transport

Built in: 1987

Registration No.: E289 HRV

Fleet No.: 289

Chassis: Leyland Olympian ONLXB/1RH

Bodywork: EAST LANCS. CH43/27F

Engine: Gardner 6LXB 10.45 Litres

Body No.: A6509 **Chassis No.:** ON10432

- 289 was delivered to Southampton City Transport Limited in August 1987 together with sister bus 290 - E290 HRV as dual purpose vehicles which were fitted with coach seating. It was painted in CityBus livery, which was the reverse colour order of the original Leyland Atlantean AN68s.
- It received Red Ensign overall red livery in February 1988, and was initially mainly used on excursion and private hire duties. It is thought that these vehicles were one of the last two Leyland buses ordered by Southampton City Transport as a council undertaking ending a long line of buses from that manufacturer.
- Both buses passed into First Group ownership from Southampton City Transport Ltd on 31st July 1997, and were painted into 'Barbie' livery in May 2006, being renumbered 1289/90 respectively. 289 initially stayed at Portswood, although it did work for short times from Hoeford Depot in late August 2001 and Weymouth Depot during the Summer of 2006.
- On 12th January 2004, 1289 & 1290 were again renumbered to 34989/90290. In May 2007, 289 had its dot matrix type route number display replaced with a Hanover LED type, but retained its roller destination blind. 290 ended her days at First's Bridport outpost, and was scrapped in 2010 by Erith Commercials.
- 289 was purchased for preservation by a local dealer on 23rd July 2009 and painted in Southampton CityBus red and black livery in August 2009. It was subsequently used by the newly founded Xelabus operation where it was painted in Xelabus green livery. It was given the fleet number 505 in September 2010 and in January 2011, it received the name 'Marion'.
- The bus was finally withdrawn and sold to members of the Southampton & District Transport Trust in April 2012, and was rallied in Xelabus livery for several years before a repaint into its original as delivered livery of red and cream in early 2017.
- 289 remains the youngest surviving Leyland bus purchased for the Southampton CityBus fleet on the road.