

Hamburg Marathon
Sunday 21st April 2013
Report by Lewis Holloway of Beverley AC

While several of his clubmates ran in the London Marathon on the same day, Andrew Foster was in Germany, running the Hamburg Marathon in a personal best time of 3:26:15. This was 18 minutes better than his previous record of 3:44:27 achieved at the Blackpool Marathon in 2009, and he was justly very happy with his performance. Fortunately, the weather was dry and calm following several windy days, so that the race was run in ideal conditions. Andrew reported that the event was very well organised, and that despite there being 11,441 finishers in the main race, plus another 1381 taking part in a relay race, the course was not congested. Runners were well-supplied with refreshments including isotonic drinks and gels, along with banana slices and even coke, although the fact that drinks were supplied in plastic cups meant that Andrew had to stop at rather more drinks stations than planned. Before the race, runners observed a minute's silence in memory of the tragic events at the Boston Marathon the previous week, and most of the runners wore yellow and green wristbands with the legend "Run for Boston Marathon 2013". The Hamburg Marathon is sponsored by the German bank Hamburger Sparkasse. The men's race was won by the Kenyan Eliud Kipchoge in a new course record time of 2:05:30, while the winner of the women's competition was the Lithuanian Diana Lobacevske with a personal best of 2:29:17.