

Wembley Stadium



Wembley Stadium is a football stadium in Wembley, London, which was opened in 2007, on the site of the original Wembley Stadium that had stood in its place since 1923 and had been host to many cup finals. The stadium hosts major football matches including home matches of the England national football team, and the FA Cup Final.

Wembley Stadium is owned by the governing body of English football, the Football Association (the FA), its headquarters are in the stadium. With 90,000 seats, it is the largest football stadium in England, the largest stadium in the UK and the second-largest stadium in Europe and the largest stadium with all seating under cover.

Location

Wembley Stadium is located to the north-west of the city of London, about 6 miles from Paddington station, 7 miles from Marylebone station, and 8 miles from Kings Cross and Euston station.

History

The stadium's first turf was cut by King George V, and it was first opened to the public on 28 April 1923. The stadium cost £750,000 and was constructed on the site of an earlier folly called Watkin's Tower. The architects were Sir John Simpson and Maxwell Ayrton and the head engineer was Sir Owen Williams.

The electric scoreboard and the all-encircling roof, made from aluminium and translucent glass, were added in 1963.

Wembley hosted the FA Cup final annually, the first in 1923, the League Cup final annually, five European Cup finals, the 1966 World Cup Final, and the final of Euro 96. Brazilian footballer Pelé once said of the stadium: "Wembley is the cathedral of football. It is the capital of football and it is the heart of football," in recognition of its status as the world's best-known football stadium. The stadium hosted the 1948 Summer Olympics, rugby league's Challenge Cup final, and the 1992 and 1995 Rugby League World Cup Finals. It also hosted numerous music events, including the 1985 Live Aid charity concert.

The old Wembley Stadium got demolished in 2003, after which construction of the new stadium started. After several delays, postponing the opening of the stadium for almost two years, the stadium finally got completed in 2007. It was built by Australian firm Multiplex at a cost of £798 million.

Renovation

Wembley Stadium officially opened on 19 May 2007 with the FA Cup final between Chelsea and Manchester United (1-0). Eight days before that on Friday 11 May, the statue of Bobby Moore had been unveiled by his former England team-mate Sir Bobby Charlton outside the stadium entrance, as the "finishing touch" to the completion of the stadium. The twice life-size bronze statue, sculpted by Philip Jackson, depicts England's 1966 World Cup winning captain Bobby Moore, looking down Wembley Way.

Designed by Populous and Foster and Partners, the stadium is crowned by the 134-metre-high (440 ft) Wembley Arch which serves aesthetically as a landmark across London as well as structurally, with the arch supporting over 75% of the entire roof load. The archway is the world's longest unsupported roof structure. The all-seater stadium is a bowl design with a capacity of 90,000, protected from the elements by a sliding roof that does not completely enclose it. Contrary to popular belief, Wembley Stadium does not have a retractable roof which covers the playing surface. Two partially retractable roof structures over the east and west end of the stadium can be opened to allow sunlight and aid pitch growth.

The stadium can also be adapted as an athletic stadium by erecting a temporary platform over the lowest tier of seating. A "platform system" has been designed to convert the stadium for athletics use, but its use would decrease the stadium's capacity to approximately 60,000. Also the conversion for athletics would take weeks of work and cost millions of pounds. So no athletics events (track and field) have taken place at the stadium, and none are scheduled.

Given the ownership of the stadium by the Football Association (the governing body of English football), the English national football team is a major user of Wembley.

The new Wembley was a significant part of the plan for the 2012 Summer Olympics in London; the stadium was the site of several games in both the men's and women's football tournaments, with the finals being held there.

In addition to England home games and the FA Cup final, the stadium also hosts other major games in English football. The stadium hosted the Gold medal matches at the 2012 Olympic Games football tournament. The stadium also hosts rugby league's Challenge Cup final and NFL London Games. Besides football, Wembley can be configured to hold many other events, particularly major concerts but also private events like weddings and conferences. This is an economic necessity given that the stadium ended up costing the FA much more than was originally projected.

Playing surface

The pitch size, as lined for association football, is slightly narrower than the old Wembley, as required by the UEFA stadium categories for a category four stadium, the top category.

In March 2010, the surface was relaid for the 10th time since 2007, when the stadium was built. It was relaid with Desso GrassMaster semi-artificial pitch. GrassMaster is a hybrid grass sports playing field surface composed of natural grass combined with artificial fibres.

How to get to

Wembley Stadium is described as a "Public Transport Destination", meaning parking is available but is very limited, and the surrounding streets are regulated so that they do not become extended parking for the stadium, disrupting the area's residents. To counter-balance the parking restrictions of the stadium, Wembley is connected to two London Underground stations: Wembley Park Station (Metropolitan and Jubilee lines), and Wembley Central (Bakerloo line). Additionally rail links are provided at Wembley Central and Wembley Stadium railway station. The journey to Wembley Stadium station takes about 8 minutes, but trains only run every half an hour.

ВСЕРОССИЙСКАЯ ОЛИМПИАДА ШКОЛЬНИКОВ ПО АНГЛИЙСКОМУ ЯЗЫКУ
2019 г МУНИЦИПАЛЬНЫЙ ЭТАП.

9 -11 классы

Finally, local buses 18, 83, 92, and 224 connect the stadium with local destinations as well as other parts of the city.