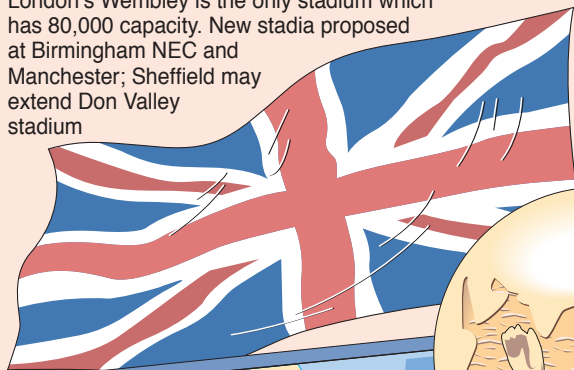


England and France battle for World Cup '98

England and France are front-runners among the seven candidates for the 1998 World Cup. FIFA requires up to 12 stadia of between 30-40,000 capacity for group matches, plus at least one of 60-80,000 for the opening ceremony, semi-finals and final. This is how the two rival countries compare:

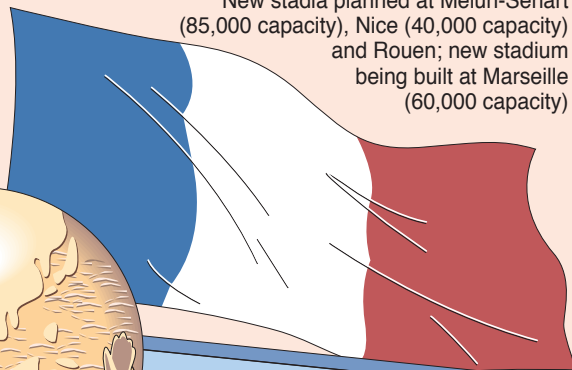
The English bid

London's Wembley is the only stadium which has 80,000 capacity. New stadia proposed at Birmingham NEC and Manchester; Sheffield may extend Don Valley stadium

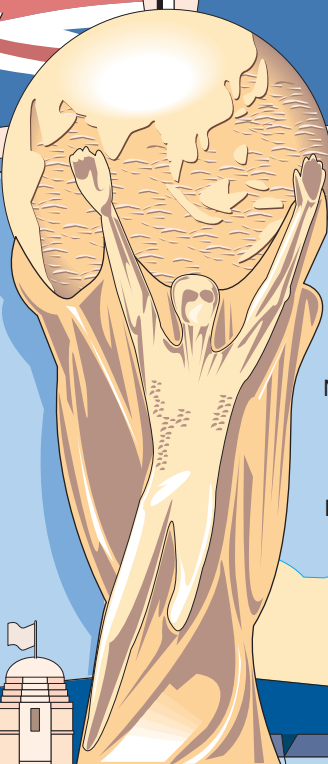
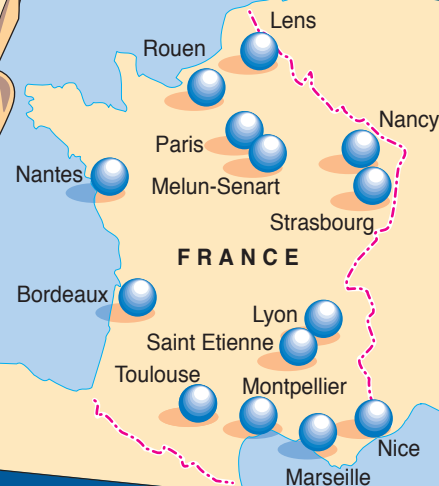


The French bid

New stadia planned at Melun-Senart (85,000 capacity), Nice (40,000 capacity) and Rouen; new stadium being built at Marseille (60,000 capacity)



Figures refer to clubs projected all-seater capacities by 1984



1998

England: where they would play:

- Group A:** London – Wembley (85,000) and Arsenal (39,600)
- Group B:** Birmingham – Aston Villa (40,000) and new NEC stadium (60-80,000) or Nottingham Forest (29,000)
- Group C:** Liverpool (38,200) and Everton (40,000)
- Groups D and E:** Sheffield (34,000), Leeds (40,000) and Manchester's new Olympic stadium (if built)
- Group F:** Newcastle (41,200), Sunderland (new stadium) or Leeds

France: where they would play:

- Group A:** Melun-Senart – Le Grand Stade (85,000), Lens (40,116) or Rouen (new stadium planned)
- Group B:** Paris – Parc des Princes (49,232), Strasbourg (40,000) and Nancy (40,000 stadium to be built if bid successful)
- Group C:** Lyon (43,000) and Saint Etienne (40,960)
- Group D:** Marseille (60,000) and Nice (40,000)
- Group E:** Montpellier (40,000) and Toulouse (41,718)
- Group F:** Nantes (40,000) and Bordeaux (40,000)