

# Wembley faces critical safety tests

The new Wembley stadium faces its toughest test in March when rigorous safety checks must be carried out before declaring the showpiece venue ready to host the FA Cup Final in May. Fire safety, escalators, toilets and computer systems must be tested at two events to gain a safety certificate

**Architects:** Foster and Partners, HOK Sports

**Victory arch:**

133-metre arch allows spectacular lighting effects

**Bowl:** Acoustics tuned to match current bowl

**Sliding roof:** Allows sunlight to reach grass and airflow to dry pitch while eliminating shading for optimal TV viewing. All seating covered

**Athletics:** Removable platform track

**Transport:** Rebuilt station to handle 50,000 people/hour

**Concourse:** Provides space for 40,000 people

## OLD WEMBLEY

Built: 1918 (300 days)

Cost: £750,000

Capacity: 78,000

## NEW WEMBLEY

Construction: Sep 30, 2002 - March 2007

Cost: £798 million (original estimate £312m)

Capacity: 90,000 (18,800 "premium seats", at up to £5,450 per year)

