

My analysis on the future of the Olympic stadium.

The conclusion is quite simple – the Spurs proposal should be accepted.

A sum of money is paid over to bring Crystal Palace up to a standard required for the athletics future, an athletics legacy fund is set up to help grass roots directly and Spurs do what they like with the Olympic stadium.

Consider the alternative

We have a 60,000 seat stadium which is used for football 10 months of the year. The pictures of the proposed stadium show that part of the track will be dug up during the football season so the window for athletics will be quite small.

What will take part in this window?

There is talk of World and European Championships, but these have not been awarded. West Ham have said the stadium will be ready for 2015 which would mean athletics could start in 2016. From this timeframe we could hope to secure both these Championships (there is no guarantee) in the 2020's. Championships are very rarely offered to the same city again within 20 years so we have two championships in the next 40 years if we are lucky.

I have been privileged to go to 4 of the last 6 world championships and a 60,000 stadium is too big. 35-40,000 is the ideal size (which a revamped Crystal Palace could be temporarily raised to). Recent world championships have seen tickets been given away and thousands of kids bussed in to fill the empty space. European Championships are even smaller.

The London Grand Prix could be moved, but again the stadium is too big, European Grand Prix's do not attract crowds of this size. Also the current two day Grand Prix is dependant on huge sponsorship from Aviva. Who will sponsor Grand Prix's from 2016 onwards when London 2012 is a distant memory?

Moving any domestic athletics meeting to a 60,000 seat stadium will be a farce. In 4 recent years Manchester has hosted the UK Championships with a 4,000 seat stadium and this was not full every day.

There can be no clearer picture of what can happen with a huge athletics stadium than looking at Sydney, Athens and Beijing. Atlanta has no problems as they started knocking it down within hours of the closing ceremony.

My analysis of competitors in athletics makes grim reading

**WE NEED A SPORT, NOT A STADIUM** – give it to Spurs