

= Arsenal Stadium =

Arsenal Stadium was a football stadium in Highbury , North London , which was previously the home ground of Arsenal Football Club between 6 September 1913 and 7 May 2006 . It was mainly known as " Highbury " due to its location and was given the affectionate nickname of the " Home of Football " by the club .

It was originally built in 1913 on the site of a local college 's recreation ground and was significantly redeveloped twice . The first reconstruction came in the 1930s from which the Art Deco East and West Stands date . There was a second development ; the first phase was completed in 1989 which added executive boxes to the Clock End , and afterward in 1993 a new North Bank Stand was constructed , both following the recommendations of the Taylor Report which replaced the terraces to make the stadium an all @-@ seater with four stands . However , further attempts to expand the stadium were blocked by the community , and the resulting reduction in capacity and matchday revenue eventually led to Arsenal opting to build a new stadium , to become known as the Emirates Stadium in nearby Islington . After the club moved to their new stadium upon the conclusion of the 2005 @-@ 06 season , Highbury was redeveloped as a residential development known as Highbury Square , with the Clock End and North Bank stands being demolished ; parts of the East and West Stands remained and were incorporated into the new development due to their listed status .

The stadium also hosted international matches ? both for England and in the 1948 Summer Olympics ? and FA Cup semi @-@ finals , as well as boxing , baseball and cricket matches . Its presence also led to the local London Underground station being renamed to Arsenal in 1932 , making it the only station on the Underground network to be named after a football club .

In addition to its architecture , the stadium was known for its small but immaculate pitch and for the famous clock which was positioned in the southern side of the ground since its introduction in 1930 .

= = History = =

The original stadium was built in 1913 , when Woolwich Arsenal moved from the Manor Ground in Plumstead , South East London to Highbury , leasing the recreation fields of St John 's College of Divinity for £ 20 @,@ 000 . The lease negotiation also agreed that no matches were to be played on " holy days " and that no " intoxicating liquor " would be sold at the stadium ; however , these stipulations were dropped within a year . The stadium was hurriedly built over the summer of that year , and was designed by Archibald Leitch , architect of many other football grounds of that era . It featured a single stand on the eastern side and the other three sides had banked terracing . The new stadium cost £ 125 @,@ 000 . It opened whilst not fully complete , with Arsenal 's first match of the 1913 ? 14 season , a 2 ? 1 Second Division win against Leicester Fosse on 6 September 1913 . Leicester 's Tommy Benfield scored the first goal at the new ground while George Jobey was the first Arsenal player to do so . Highbury hosted its first England match in 1920 .

The Australian rugby league team suffered the first loss of their 1921 ? 22 Kangaroo tour of Great Britain at Highbury to an English side 4 points to 5 before approximately 12 @,@ 000 spectators .

Arsenal bought the stadium site outright in 1925 , for £ 64 @,@ 000 .

No significant portion of Leitch 's original stadium remains today following a series of bold redevelopments during the 1930s . The idea was to create a ground for London that could capture the grandeur of Villa Park , home of Birmingham club Aston Villa . The Highbury project was ambitious in its scale and reach , the first stand completed being the West Stand , designed by Claude Waterlow Ferrier and William Binnie in the Art Deco style which opened in 1932 . On 5 November the same year the local Tube station was renamed from Gillespie Road to Arsenal . Leitch 's main stand was demolished to make way for a new East Stand , matching the West , in 1936 . The West Stand cost £ 45 @,@ 000 while the East Stand went far over budget and ended up costing £ 130 @,@ 000 , mainly thanks to the expense of the facade . The North Bank terrace was given a roof and the southern terrace had a clock fitted to its front , giving it the name the Clock End .

During the 1948 Summer Olympics , the stadium hosted the football preliminaries . For the next 50 years , the stadium changed little , although during the Second World War the North Bank terrace was bombed and had to be rebuilt ; the roof was not restored until 1956 . Floodlights were fitted in 1951 , with the first floodlit match being a friendly against Hapoel Tel Aviv on 19 September of that year . The floodlights that adorn Dalymount Park , once stood at the Arsenal stadium . They were shipped to Dublin in 1962 . The inaugural floodlit match saw Arsenal beat Bohemians 3 ? 8 . Undersoil heating was added in 1964 . Unlike at many other grounds , Arsenal refused to install perimeter fencing , even at the height of hooliganism in the 1980s , which made it ineligible for use as an FA Cup semi @-@ final venue .

Before the Taylor report and the era of all @-@ seater stadiums in Britain , both the North Bank and Clock End consisted of terracing , and the stadium often saw crowds of up to 60 @,@ 000 or more ; its largest attendance was 73 @,@ 295 on 9 March 1935 when Arsenal played Sunderland in the First Division ; the game finished 0 ? 0 . When the ground was initially constructed , it was to " accommodate 90 @,@ 000 spectators " .

The Clock End was redeveloped in 1988 / 89 with the addition of a roof and 48 executive boxes [ 4 ] , while seating was fitted into the remaining standing area in 1993 .

In the early 1990s , the Taylor report on the Hillsborough disaster was published , which recommended that football stadia become all @-@ seater . The North Bank , which had become home of Arsenal 's most passionate supporters , was demolished at the end of the 1991 ? 92 season . During redevelopment , a giant mural of fans was placed behind the goal at that end , to give the illusion that the players were kicking towards a crowd rather than a construction site . The mural initially attracted criticism for its absence of black fans , which was quickly rectified . Populous ( then LOBB Partnership ) designed all @-@ seater two @-@ tier North Bank Stand , the last area of Highbury to be refurbished , which was opened in August 1993 at a cost of £ 20 million amid strong opposition from local residents . The new North Bank Stand contained a museum and a concourse with video arcades , bars , confectionery counters , souvenir shops and fast @-@ food stands . The old stand had received a fitting send off with a 5 ? 1 defeat of Southampton , though the new stand had a less auspicious start , the first game being a surprise 0 ? 3 defeat to Coventry City with all 3 goals coming from striker Micky Quinn . The first victory came 10 days later against Leeds United .

= = Structure = =

At the time of its closure , the stadium consisted of four separate all @-@ seater stands ; the pitch was aligned north @-@ south , with the North Bank Stand ( formerly the Laundry End ) and South Stand ( popularly known as the Clock End ) at the ends of the field . The East and West Stands ran alongside the pitch and are two of the few examples of British football stands designed in the Art Deco style . The East Stand incorporated the club 's offices and was well known for its marble halls ( though the floors were actually terrazzo ) which are often cited in media depictions of the stadium , and the facade that faces onto Avenell Road . The East Stand is considered architecturally significant enough to have been designated a Grade II listed building .

The stadium 's main entrances were on Gillespie Road , Avenell Road and Highbury Hill . When it closed , Highbury had a capacity of 38 @,@ 419 ( approximately 12 @,@ 500 in the North Bank , 11 @,@ 000 in the West Stand , 9 @,@ 000 in the East Stand and 6 @,@ 000 in the Clock End ) , all seated , and had Jumbotron screens in the south @-@ east and north @-@ west corners .

Arsenal Stadium was well known for its very small immaculately @-@ kept pitch , which measured only 109 × 73 yards ( 100 × 67 metres ) . Arsenal 's groundsmen , Steve Braddock and his successor Paul Burgess , have won the FA Premier League 's Groundsman of the Year award several times for their work on the stadium .

= = Closure and redevelopment = =

The post @-@ Taylor capacity of Highbury was limited to 38 @,@ 419 , while Arsenal 's success

during the 1990s and 2000s meant that virtually every home match was filled to near capacity . Restrictions , such as the East Stand 's status as a listed building and the fact the stadium was surrounded on all sides by a residential area , made any future expansion of Highbury difficult and expensive , although the club 's directors would have liked to have kept Arsenal at a modernized and expanded Highbury . In October 2004 , it was confirmed that the new stadium would be called the Emirates Stadium as part of a sponsorship deal with Emirates Airlines .

In October 1998 , just after Arsenal started playing Champions League games at Wembley , the club made an unsuccessful bid to buy the stadium and make it their permanent home to share with the England national football team , although at the time Wembley was two years away from closure for a redevelopment which was not completed until more than six years later .

In November 1999 , Arsenal decided to leave Highbury and construct a new 60 ,000 seat stadium in nearby Ashburton Grove , which opened in July 2006 . Arsenal 's offices were moved to a new building , Highbury House , which was named in commemoration of the former stadium .

For their final season at Highbury ( 2005 ? 06 ) Arsenal ran a series of promotions honouring the stadium 's legacy . A commemorative logo was designed featuring the club 's traditional Art Deco crest from the 1930s , and the club 's history at Highbury was celebrated through a series of themed matchdays . On the field , Arsenal temporarily set aside their traditional red shirts with white sleeves for the season and adopted a solid redcurrant shirt , the colour they wore during their first season at Highbury in 1913 ? 14 .

Arsenal 's final game at the stadium was their FA Premier League match on 7 May 2006 against Wigan Athletic , the last game of the season . The team needed to better the result of neighbours Tottenham Hotspur to again secure qualification for the Champions League . Having been 2 ? 1 behind , a hat trick by captain and all time leading goal scorer Thierry Henry secured qualification , with Henry kneeling down to kiss the turf on scoring what proved to be the final goal seen at the stadium . The last goal scored in a regulation game at the stadium came in a Football Aid charity match when lifelong fan Alan Alger scored a penalty in the final minute of a fixture played on Thursday 8 June 2006 ( exactly one month and one day after Henry 's goal ) . After the stadium 's closure , Arsenal held an auction to sell off many of the stadium 's parts , including pieces of the pitch , the goalposts and former manager George Graham 's desk . Sale of the stadium 's seats had to be cancelled after it was found they contained trace amounts of the toxic metal cadmium .

As of 2010 , Arsenal Stadium was redeveloped and converted into flats in a project known as " Highbury Square " , a scheme that had 711 properties built on the site . The North Bank and Clock End stands were demolished . The exteriors of the listed Art Deco East Stand and the matching West Stand were preserved and incorporated into the new developments , while the rest of the stands ' structures were removed , and the pitch became a communal garden . In October 2005 the proposed flats went on sale ; as of May 2006 all properties in the North , East and West Stands had been taken .

Arsenal 's famous clock was moved from Highbury to the outer side of the new stadium , with a new larger version of the feature added inside the ground in August 2010 . At the same time as the unveiling of the new clock , the south stands at the venue were also renamed Clock End inline with the same name previously used at Highbury .

= = Other roles = =

As well as being home to Arsenal , it also hosted games as home stadium for England matches ; 12 internationals were played at Highbury from 1920 to 1961 , most of them being friendlies . These included both England 's first full home international against opposition outside of Great Britain and Ireland ( Belgium in 1923 ) , and the " Battle of Highbury " , England 's 3 ? 2 win over World Champions Italy in 1934 , where a record seven Arsenal players started the match , the most players from a single club to play in an England fixture . Highbury was also used as a football venue for two matches in the 1948 London Olympics ? a first round match and a quarter final . It was also provisionally named as one of London 's two host stadiums for the 1966 FIFA World Cup

( along with Wembley ) , but was eventually dropped with White City Stadium taking the role instead . By the time of Euro 96 , the pitch had been ruled too small for international football and the stadium would have been ineligible .

Highbury was the venue for twelve FA Cup semi @-@ finals as a neutral ground , the first in 1929 and the last in 1997 , although between 1984 and 1992 it was off the FA 's list of approved venues , after Arsenal 's refusal to install perimeter fencing following a pitch invasion by Everton fans during their semi @-@ final against Southampton . It also hosted the London XI 's home leg against Lausanne Sports in the 1955 ? 58 Inter @-@ Cities Fairs Cup semi @-@ finals ; London won 2 ? 0 on the night and 3 ? 2 on aggregate .

Arsenal did not always play their home matches at Highbury in the 93 years they were based there . During the Second World War the stadium was used as an ARP station and was bombed ; Arsenal played their matches at White Hart Lane , home of North London rivals Tottenham Hotspur , until Highbury re @-@ opened in 1946 . More recently , Arsenal 's home UEFA Champions League matches in the 1998 ? 99 and 1999 ? 00 seasons were played at Wembley Stadium , as Highbury 's already limited capacity had to be reduced to accommodate advertising hoardings . Arsenal 's record at Wembley ( P6 W2 D1 L3 ) was relatively poor , and after two seasons the club switched back to playing at Highbury , not least because since Wembley closed for rebuilding in October 2000 , it would not have been able to host their 2000 ? 01 campaign .

Highbury has also hosted several cricket games and also baseball matches involving American servicemen between 1916 and 1919 . It was the venue for the 1966 World Heavyweight boxing title bout between Henry Cooper and Muhammad Ali , which Ali won . It has featured on the silver screen as well , having been the backdrop for at least two movies : The Arsenal Stadium Mystery , and Fever Pitch .

= = Record scorelines = =

Arsenal 's biggest win at Highbury came on 9 January 1932 , with an 11 ? 1 victory over Darwen in the FA Cup . Their biggest defeats were 0 ? 5 losses to Huddersfield Town in the First Division on 14 February 1925 and against Chelsea in the League Cup on 11 November 1998 .

= = Final record of results = =

= = = Arsenal = = =

Arsenal 's complete competitive record at Highbury is as follows :

= = = England = = =

England 's record at Highbury is as follows :

= = = FA Cup semi @-@ finals = = =

FA Cup semi @-@ finals held at Highbury are listed below . Arsenal never played a semi @-@ final at their own stadium . Teams in bold went on to win the competition that year

= = In popular culture = =

In Charlie Higson 's post @-@ apocalyptic young adult horror novel The Enemy ( 2009 ) , nine @-@ year @-@ old " Small Sam " is kidnapped by a group of grownups and taken to a spectator box in which they have set up camp , in Arsenal Stadium , after a worldwide sickness has infected adults turning them into something akin to zombies . Sam ultimately escapes , only after setting his captors afire ( which ultimately sets the structure afire ) , and dodging various groups of adults

scattered throughout the stadium structure and playing field .