

## Heathrow gears up for post-Olympics chaos

Departing athletes were treated to an unusual sight at Heathrow Airport on Monday. To cope with the hordes of Olympians exiting the country, the authorities built a temporary new terminal on top of the staff carpark.

But this was no ordinary terminal. The entire facility was designed to resemble a London city park. An area the size of three Olympic swimming pools was covered in fake grass and decorated with plants, trees, park benches, and replicas of London's iconic gas-powered street lamps. The walls were painted with a detailed mural of the London skyline.

Athletes were invited to write farewell messages that documented their best memory from the Olympics. The notes were hung on a big tree inside the terminal, and will remain in the airport as a memento to the London games.

The British Airports Authority (BAA) was understandably anxious about the pressure on London's main transport hub at the end of the games. On an average day, Heathrow sees around 95,000 passengers pass through its gates. But on Monday, when the majority of the Olympics athletes and visitors flew home, that number swelled to around 116,000.

Keen to avoid chaos on departure day, the BAA coordinated a mass luggage collection directly from the Olympic Village on Sunday night. Over 5000 bags were collected, allowing athletes to proceed directly to boarding the following day.

With the London games wrapped up, all eyes now turn to Rio de Janeiro in 2016. Will the Brazilians upstage the Brits with their own airport makeover? We'll find out soon enough.