

Member News...

We're on the way to Wembley!

Weighing in at 40 tonnes apiece, two fabrications will be playing a crucial, if unseen, role at the new Wembley Stadium now under construction in London and due to open in two years.



The fabrications, designed by Rotherham-based consulting engineers **M G Bennett and Associates** and manufactured by **AK Heavy Engineering** in Sheffield, are the bearing blocks on which the most striking feature of the new stadium, a massive 133 metre high steel arch will stand. The structure will span the whole stadium and support the north roof and 60 per cent of the weight of the south roof, which will be retractable to allow sunlight to reach the grass. At 315m long, it will be the longest single roof structure in the world.

The bearing blocks, now being installed on site, have been designed to carry loads of 3000 tonnes each when the arch is in place. They also have to rotate so that the arch, which will be fabricated and attached to the blocks on the ground, can be pivoted into its final vertical position. Once the roof is in position, the blocks will be welded to form a permanent rigid structure.

Bennetts are also working with **Cleveland Bridge**, the main contractor for the arch and roof, on an access system for maintaining the arch and the design of the connecting nodes for the



M G Bennett and Associates Ltd.
Bennett House, Pleasley Road,
Whiston, Rotherham S60 4HQ
Tel: 01709 373782