

Agonizing silence followed the wait. Conversations of hopes and dreams, all stood still, silent in the expectation of one line.

# The city of London

By Sergiu Tripon

**And in the following seconds of the 6th of July 2005, the tense crowd gathered at Trafalgar square erupted into cheer.**

They were ours: The 2012 Olympics were ours!

## A multicultural event



By the 27th of July 2012, an astonishing 10,500 athletes will participate in the biggest sporting event on earth. Athletes from 5 continents will be competing for the podium, in 26 different sports. The

variety of countries present in London next summer will be unbelievable. The Olympics is the only event able to gather such a wide scope of nations. London is already a benchmark for multiculturalism, the number of cultures present in the city leaves one feeling as if a tour of the capital would be nothing short of a trip around the world. As the Olympics approach, London will officially become the most multicultural city in the world, for a month at least. To reflect that, Amir Khan, the boxer born in Birmingham to a British Pakistani family, was chosen as ambassador. A chance for all of Britain to come together in cheering for the games.

## Polemics with every game

With limited parking on and around the Stratford Olympic site, the London Olympics are said to be the "public transport games". In a normal year, without

any major events scheduled The London Underground guides 1,107,000 passengers every year to their destinations. But during the games capacity will be the network's biggest issue.

In response, to decrease the number of commuters by 30%, TFL is running a campaign advising them to work from home or use different routes. When asked about plans during the Olympics, a common answer for many people is travelling to another country just to avoid the chaos.

## The economics of the games

**By July 2012, 30,000 people will have worked in the Stratford Olympic site.**



50,000 more permanent jobs will follow as a result of the facilities the site will make available in the future. There is no doubt, that the Olympics are nothing but a breath of fresh air for the jobless.

During the Olympics, landlords in East London will be able to charge sky-high rents. Figures like £8000 weekly for a four-bedroom house will be making them more money during the Olympic weeks than in normal months. An injection of money is certainly a good thing for



the local economy, but rising costs have priced out many first time buyers from the area.

## Greatest Show on Earth or Tax Drain?

The moment the decision was announced, we all dreamed of the events to unfold 7 years later, unconcerned about the cost. But 4 years on in 2009, economic tragedy hit in the form of the recession. Since then the government has had to balance the pride of the nation versus its needs. The Government has admitted the cost of the Olympic Park has jumped from its previous estimate of £2.4bn to £9.3bn. Will it all have been worth it? I think so.

The Olympics are a chance to bring London back into the eyes of the world. To show people that despite tough times, we are still able to deliver! What we remember as Britain's finest hour, was a time of great hardship for the whole nation. We stand at the same place we were and like we triumphed then, we will do so again. Let's put on the best show the world has to give, in a way only London can offer.

