MAJOR EVENTS INTERNATIONAL

THE EVENTS SUMMIT 2026

The Etihad Stadium, Manchester, November 10–11

tes™
THE EVENTS SUMMIT
Brought to You by Major Events International

HOW THE SUMMIT WORKS

TES 2026 combines central plenary presentations with structured delegate-led debate in 3 workstreams. The format runs as follows:

1. **MEMBER AND GUEST SYMPOSIUM AND "BEHIND THE SCENES EXPERIENCE" - (PM 10th).** Optional addition to the Summit programme.
2. **THOUGHT LEADERSHIP SUMMIT OPENING.** All delegates gather centrally to set the scene for the rest of the day.
3. **MOVE TO YOUR CHOSEN WORKSTREAM.** Each session is hosted by an industry organisation that frames the topic for debate. Opening overviews from the panel, leaving considerable time for audience comment and input.
4. **END OF DAY CENTRAL FEEDBACK TO INFORM KEY ACTIONS.** All groups return for cross-workstream feedback. Rapporteurs report to the full room and the closing plenary asks what the sector commits to doing differently.
5. **SOCIAL PROGRAMME.** Networking drinks and Awards Dinner.

TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER

17:30–20:00 — *1920 Central*

The Pitch Side Experience (OPTIONAL)

Exclusive MEI Member day symposium concludes. Non-members arrive and join them for a joint pitch side drinks and networking and photo opportunity experience.

WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER

07:45–08:45 — *1920 Central*

Women's Networking Session

A dedicated, informal space for women to connect at the start of the day. Bringing together individuals and disparate 'women in events' networks.
07:45 Registration
08:00 Networking commences - coffee and snacks
08:45 Move to Summit Opening Remarks

THE EVENTS SUMMIT

The single meeting place for event professionals from the world of music, entertainment, festivals and all forms of outdoor events. Of relevance for multi-use venues and sports delivery agencies who focus on wider city activation.

08:30	**Registration and Networking**	
09:00–09:05	**Welcome and Opening Remarks** **CEO, Major Events International**	*Legends Suite*
09:05–09:10	**The Etihad Stadium Welcome** The Etihad Stadium is a true multi-use venue, offering exceptional scope and scale. **Etihad Stadium Venue Host**	*Legends Suite*
09:15–10:00	**Manchester Drop** The Manchester Festival formally launches in August 2026, bringing sport, culture and other aspects to showcase Manchester as a vibrant hosting community. It is anticipated it will be a three-year platform. **Manchester Festival Spokesperson & UK EL**	*Legends Suite*
10:05–10:45	**Challenges and Opportunities in the Event Market?** Thought leadership panel. How do we make the events industry more resilient? Is the market saturated? What other challenges and opportunities are we facing?	*Legends Suite*
10:50–11:30	**Networking Break and Exhibition** 40 minutes for delegates to engage with exhibitors and each other. The first extended networking opportunity of the day.	*1920 Central*

CHOOSE YOUR THEME

Three concurrent themes across a 90-minute time period. Each session opens with an introduction from the host framing the debate. Four event representatives challenging the workstream delegates to articulate their perspective and stimulate the widest possible knowledge transfer outcomes. Each host will highlight the key points to be shared in the feedback session later in the day.

11:30–13:00 • SESSION BLOCK 1

LEGENDS SUITE

How learnings from sport can transpose across other Major Events

Facilitated by Match Hospitality

This session will deep dive into the learnings of all the moving parts across sport event organisation, and how we can apply these to the wider industry.

1920 WEST

Safety and Security in Crowded Places

Facilitated by K4

Exploring crowd incidents, protests and the impact of global events.

1920 EAST

The challenges of setting Event Delivery Standards & what can be done to improve industry best practice

Facilitated by PLASA

This session aims to provide insights into the processes and technological solutions of relevance to the events industry.

13:00–14:00	**Lunch** 60-minute lunch in 1920 Central - the Exhibition and networking area.	*1920 Central*

14:00–15:40 • SESSION BLOCK 2: CHOOSE YOUR ROOM

LEGENDS SUITE

AI: Its Contribution to the Events Industry

Facilitated by GXE

The opportunities and challenges - outcomes we must address.

1920 WEST

Career Mobility in the Events Industry

How can we make the events industry more attractive, improve career mobility and support the next generation of female leaders?

1920 EAST

Safety Doesn't End at the Venue Gates: Rethinking Duty of Care at Major Events

Facilitated by Nowie

15:40–16:20	**Networking Break and Exhibition** Final networking opportunity before the plenary feedback session. The exhibition remains open. Prepare feedback for the final sessions.	*1920 Central*

PLENARY CLOSE

16:20–17:00	**Feedback from Discussion Rooms** Six rapporteurs, one from each workstream session, each have five minutes to distil their group's debate into two to three comments, challenges or open questions for the sector.	*Legends Suite*
17:00–17:30	**Closing Plenary: What Will We Actually Do Differently?** A reflective, honest close. Not a summary of the day but a forward-looking challenge: what specific actions will the sector commit to in the next 12 months?	*Legends Suite*
17:30–17:45	**What Have We Learned and What Should We Do Now?** Closing Remarks by CEO of MEI - next steps and a look ahead to what follows TES 2026.	*Legends Suite*

EVENING PROGRAMME

17:45–19:00	**Drinks Reception** Informal reception bridging the conference day and the gala dinner. No programme, no speeches. Delegates decompress and socialise.	*1920 Central*
19:00–22:30	**TES 2026 Gala Dinner** Premium dinner closing TES 2026.	*Legends Suite*