

Football ground would welcome thousands **Park could host Christian mission**

PLANS are afoot to bring international speaker Luis Palau and thousands of Christians to a mission at Adams Park.

Christians from churches in High Wycombe hope to invite the Argentinian preacher to speak to crowds at the Wycombe Wanderers' football ground.

Mr Palau spoke this week at President Clinton's inauguration ceremony in the USA. Last year, he preached at

missions in Londonderry and in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Lane End pastor John Richards has already written to Wycombe District Council asking for planning permission to use the stadium for the mission, which would consist of several evening meetings at the ground.

Mr Richards, minister at Elim Church, said: "We were hoping to use Adams Park, which has got a 5,000-seater stadium, and they said we could explore the avenue of

making a formal application for change of use."

He added: "We are just exploring the possibilities. I contacted about 16 churches of different denominations in High Wycombe and Marlow, and they were all fully behind it - they were all quite keen."

Wycombe Wanderers' marketing manager Mark Austin confirmed that he had been approached with a view to hiring the stadium. He said: "I know a large number of Christians have been behind it, and

in principle we would have no objection."

Luis Palau, who has international headquarters in Amersham, has been hailed as successor to world-renowned preacher Billy Graham. His spokesman Nigel Gordon said it was unlikely the mission would take place this year. He said: "There are a couple of people who are doing research, and it looks possible, but we have got to have a meeting to get broader support from church leaders."

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