



Happy as Larry: Wasps skipper and England star Lawrence Dallaglio looks forward to coming to Wycombe and reading the BFP for Wasps news

Adams Family here we come

And we're so excited, says Wasps skipper Lawrence Dallaglio

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— with Dallaglio missing most of the campaign through injury and the uncertainty over where the club would be playing next season, but they are determined to regain their place at the top of rugby's tree.

Dallaglio said: "This is a new era for us. It's been a bit unsettling not knowing where we were going to be playing but now it is sorted out we are very excited.

"It is a wonderful opportunity for us. The stadium here is ideal. I think we can realistically expect to fill it on a regular basis.

"The players will give

everything to make sure it is a success and if the supporters are prepared to come and help us, we could have some exciting times ahead.

He added: "We had a disappointing season by our standards last year. We're a team that's used to finishing at the top. There were reasons for that. Injuries didn't help but since Christmas we've shown championship form with victories over the top teams Leicester, Northampton and Gloucester.

"I'm confident that if we can start the season as we finished the last one and stay injury-free, we can challenge for major honours next season.

"I've told the squad that if we can win our home matches

at Adams Park we can realistically win the league and that's why this move is very important for us.

"It's a nice compact ground that should create a tremendous atmosphere and that's very important to us. We need good support here. We want Wycombe to get behind us because that support could be the difference between winning and losing.

And Dallaglio, who missed last season with a cruciate injury and has now been ruled out of England's tour to Argentina, believes Wasps could end up in Wycombe for good if it takes off.

He said: "We've got a two year deal here with the ability to extend it for another year

[subject to planning permission] and there is no reason why, if things don't go right here, that this couldn't become a permanent home.

"It's probably time Wasps laid some permanent roots again. While the staff at QPR were fantastic, it never really felt like home although we won the league and had some great victories there.

"What has particularly impressed me and surprised me has been the attitude of Wycombe. They have been fantastic in making us welcome here.

"We will make this work as a club certainly for the next couple of years and then we will have to see."

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Wasps move will be a big boost for youngsters

FORMER RFU president Peter Trunkfield says Wasps arrival in town will do more for kids' sport in the area than any Lottery grant could do.

He believes it could lead to an explosion of interest and encourage youngsters off street corners and onto playing fields.

He said: "In rugby terms you've now got the chance to see the equivalent of a David Beckham down there every week and that will be fantastic for the area.

"If Wasps do what they say they are going to do, and I'm sure they will, you will have people like Lawrence Dallaglio going into the schools and giving coaching lessons — the council couldn't buy that."

But Trunkfield, who lives in Wycombe, cautioned that the council and highways authority now need to make sure that a sporting dream for some doesn't become a nightmare for Sands residents who objected to it.

He says it is now time for the local authority to sit down and work out another route in an out of Adams Park, which is stuck up the end of a cul-de-sac.

He said: "In the 21st Century, surely it is not beyond the wit of man to put another road in there.

"I have every sympathy with the residents of Sands. Between the County Council and the local authority we need to sort out the problem."

Trunkfield says if that happens, Wasps arrival will be a major boost.

Wasps have promised to hold coaching sessions in local schools and will visit the area's comprehensive schools as well as the more traditional rugby playing schools.

Trunkfield said: "We've got to give the kids at non-grammar schools the same level of opportunity as the grammar school boys and Wasps can help us do that."