

Parry slams name change

- Director uses official website to criticise move
- Blues have to give tenants Wasps a cut of the deal
- Fans show their disgust in Wanderers' official poll

WANDERERS director Alan Parry has condemned his club's decision to rename Adams Park by attacking the move on the club's own official website.

His outburst comes in the same week that the Free Press can reveal that Wanderers have to pay tenants Wasps a cut of the deal which has seen them change the ground's name to Causeway Stadium.

Parry's comments on the subscribers-only Wanderers World section of the club website have blown open the private boardroom split caused by the decision to name the ground after a sponsor.

Parry told the website: "Personally, and it is a very personal view, I think that one of the things that is sacrosanct in any football club is the name of the stadium."

The move has been blasted by fans with 94 per cent voting against it in a poll on the club's official website, which was stopped prematurely because of a revamp by the national

**DAVE PETERS
and
JOE SLADE**

WANDERERS

organisers PTV, with 827 votes cast.

Parry this week stood by his comments and added that he wasn't surprised 'some people have gone doolally' over the name change.

He said: "The name of the club, the colour of the shirts and the name of the ground are the three things that should never change.

"As soon as you start interfering with those three things you are interfering with the very fabric of the game.

"I'm surprised the Football League don't have a rule against this. I don't think changing the name of stadiums is a good idea at all.

"If you could come up with a ten-year deal, I might then think it worthy of consideration."

The director and Sky

television commentator's outburst has shown the deep splits within the club over the dropping of the Frank Adams name.

He said: "I stand by what I said. I'm not going to be dishonest for the sake of diplomacy. I'm uncomfortable with the idea but having access to the club's finances I know how important this deal is to the club.

"The decision was taken for the best possible motives. It is a positive step to improve the club's finances.

"My wish is that in three years time the club's finances will have improved to such an extent that we will be able to revert to Adams Park and keep the name forever."

And he defended the new sponsors.

He said: "In no way am I criticising Causeway. They've been very honourable and have been caught in the crossfire."

Wanderers are receiving between £150,000 and £300,000 over three years from

Loudwater firm Causeway Technologies, but they are also having to give Wasps a sweetener from the deal.

The money is less than £10,000, but adds fuel to fans' anger that Wanderers have sold the name of their former player and patron too cheaply.

Ian Mobsby, chairman of Wycombe Wanderers Independent Supporters Club, believes that Causeway has got a great bargain with a Division Two club and top Zurich Premiership side for less than £100,000 a year.

He said: "Causeway have got the rugby club as well as Wycombe, which means they're going to have a lot of exposure on live television, as well as European exposure.

"The fans are not happy. They can understand the logic of having stadium sponsors but for less than £300,000, that is no good at all."

Wasps chief executive Alistair McLean admitted his club are now having to change their literature.

He said: "I would always want more money but everybody does. We all want value for money but we're happy with the sponsorship.

"We don't have any historical association with Adams Park except for this one season so to that extent, it's great news that Wycombe have managed to gain a major sponsor. I'm very pleased for them.

"They talked to us about it in advance. In today's current climate, getting sponsorship is very difficult and I can only congratulate them on getting a sponsor.

"We have advertised a lot but normally, the association is with High Wycombe. I'm hoping that it won't be a problem."

Meanwhile the great Adams Park summer sell-off looks set to continue next week.

The club are close to securing a £25,000 sponsorship deal for the naming rights to the main stand.

● Causeway join the debate: Page 18

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