

# He's going to put some magic on the pitch

## Ainsworth heralds his latest new signing at Adams Park



**Hogan Ephraim**

by **ANDY CARSWELL**  
acarswell@london.newsquest.co.uk

GARETH Ainsworth has beaten competition from Championship clubs to bring his former QPR team mate Hogan Ephraim to Adams Park.

The forward, who represented England at four different youth levels, has this week penned a deal with Wanderers until the end of the season.

Ephraim, 26, played as a trialist for Blues against Chesham United in pre-season but Ainsworth had to play the long game before finally landing his man.

The Blues boss said: "I spoke to Hogan throughout the summer.

There were some big clubs in for him – he nearly signed for Reading; Leyton Orient and Millwall were sniffing. We're talking Championship clubs.

"I knew he was going to try to get the best he possibly could for himself but sometimes things get promised to players that don't come off.

"It's great to be able to bring him in and I'm sure he's going to put some magic on the pitch."

Ephraim, who can play up front or on the wing, was released by Queen's Park Rangers in the summer after six years at the club.

He played 95 times for the Hoops and had loan spells at five other clubs, including a stint at

Toronto in the MLS.

Ainsworth said: "He's going to need some sharpness and Hogan admits that. He hasn't played a first team game for a good few months.

"He's not one who puts on weight, he's a fit lad, he's two footed. I know he will cause problems. He's looking good in training now but I've seen him at his absolute best and I know what he can do.

"I think people are going to have to be patient with Hogan to see the best of him.

"It's my decision when that will be and when he starts games for us, but it could possibly be an addition to the squad on Saturday."