

Jacob earns year-long contract

Gardiner-Smith rewarded following successful trial.



Gareth Ainsworth has rewarded Jacob Gardiner-Smith with a one-year contract after the midfielder impressed during a trial period with the club in pre-season.

The 22-year-old netted the equalising goal in a 1-1 draw in the opening friendly with Barnet, and continued to catch the eye with excellent displays against Woking and Brentford, prompting Ainsworth to invite the youngster to put pen to paper for the 2019/20 season.

The manager said: “Jacob came recommended to us by Luke O’Nien, who is obviously someone we trust greatly after he spent three excellent years with us, and it’s paid off for us and for Jacob because we think he’s got all the attributes to be successful in the game.

“He’s actually very similar to Luke in a lot of ways, in terms of how he applies himself in training, the character he brings to the changing room, and his combative and all-action performances on the pitch. He’s fitted in really well already and I’m excited to see how his game develops over the coming months.”



Gardiner-Smith started his career in Russia, moving to CSKA Moscow as a 16-year-old and breaking into the men's game with Zenit St Petersburg, before moving back to the UK last year to feature for Hendon and St Albans City.

He becomes the fourth player to arrive at Adams Park this summer, following the captures of fellow midfielder Alex Pattison on a free transfer, attacker Paul Smyth on a loan deal from Queens Park Rangers, and Jack Grimmer on a two-year contract.

Jacob passed his medical at the club's medical partner BMI The Chiltern Hospital on Monday and will wear squad number 24 during his time with the club.