Neilson And Crawford Extend Contracts At Tynecastle

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Hearts Head Coach Robbie Neilson with the grandson of The Edinburgh Reporter's Mike Smith

Hearts have announced that Head Coach Robbie Neilson and his assistant Stevie Crawford have extended their contracts to remain at Tynecastle until the end of season 2017/18.

The pair have been in Gorgie for less than two years but have already delivered success after winning the Ladbrokes Championship by some distance last season. This season, Hearts sit in third place in the Ladbrokes Premiership and it's not difficult to see why Neilson and Crawford have appeared on the radar of some clubs in England and abroad.

Hearts owner Ann Budge told the official Hearts website: "I am very pleased to have secured Robbie and Stevie's services for the next two seasons, as we continue to build for the future.

"This is a win-win for everyone, the club, the players and the supporters. By continuing to pull together, I am confident we will all achieve our goals."

Neilson was delighted to have clarified his future by committing to the club he served so well as a player.

"Stevie and I are very happy to have extended our contracts" he told the official Hearts website. "We are both young coaches with a lot to learn, and while we've enjoyed some real success, we want to deliver more for the supporters." Meanwhile, Hearts will need to make at least one change to their side to face Kilmarnock in their Ladbrokes Premiership game at Tynecastle on Saturday. Young defender Jordan McGhee is suspended following his red card in last weekend's defeat at Dundee United.

However, Callum Paterson and Juanma Delgado could return after missing last week's game due to injury.