

Four Clubs Lead the Way – Football as a Force for Social Change

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Translated from original news: [Fyra klubbar visar vägen – fotbollen som kraft för samhällsförändring - Föreningen Svensk Elitfotboll](#)
[Föreningen Svensk Elitfotboll - Tillsammans utvecklar vi svensk elitfotboll](#)

Over two intensive weeks, Svensk Elitfotboll's sustainability lead, Beatrice Clarke, visited four clubs that demonstrate in different ways how football can contribute to a better society. Malmö FF, Östers IF, BK Häcken, and Varbergs BoIS all show how sport's engagement, networks, and influence can change lives.

"It is inspiring to see how the clubs take responsibility far beyond the pitch. I am genuinely humbled to be part of this journey," says Beatrice Clarke.

Malmö FF – 20 Years of Community Engagement

For two decades, Malmö FF has built an extensive community program. From school and academy projects against racism to night football and the career academy that has helped hundreds of young people progress to jobs and education.

"There is a deep belief here that football is not just about results on the pitch but about creating hope for the future and real opportunities," says Clarke.

Östers IF – Night Football as a Safe Meeting Place

In Växjö, Östers IF brings together hundreds of young people every weekend for night football. The program has become an alternative to loneliness and destructive environments. Local government leaders also participated on-site—a clear sign that the issue is a priority.

BK Häcken – Sustainability Day Focused on Youth

Together with BK Häcken, Beatrice Clarke moderated the club's Sustainability Day—an initiative highlighting the importance of social efforts in Gothenburg's vulnerable areas. Through collaborations with organizations such as Stadsmissionen Göteborg, the club works to create jobs, strengthen community, and support the most vulnerable—including approximately 800 homeless children living in the city.

"Not everyone can do everything, but everyone can do something. And everything counts," says Clarke.

Varbergs BoIS – Focus on Safety and the Future

In Varberg, BoIS brought together over 120 people from the municipality, police, business community, and civil society for an evening dedicated to youth safety and future opportunities. Discussions led to concrete initiatives and partnerships going forward.

"It was three hours of commitment, listening, and courage. That gives energy and shows how collaboration can create real change," says Clarke.

The initiatives of these four clubs illustrate the societal power represented by Swedish elite football. Through collaboration between clubs, municipalities, companies, and nonprofit organizations, solutions are created that strengthen both individuals and communities.

“What I take away is the power of collaboration, the will to make a difference, and the courage to take responsibility. Football reaches young people where they are—and that is a strength few other societal actors have,” says Clarke.