



**V.E.C. Football Club** has a great 'UCFL Challenge Cup' final tradition, winning 9 of the 12 finals we have played in.

Reaching the final in just our second season (1976) was truly remarkable: however, we were a little unlucky to lose 1-2 to **Dublin University** in their own back yard in Santry.

In the 1980's, **VEC** won in 1980, 1981, 1984 and 1988 and lost in 1987. Mick Kenny managed and captained the first Elvery Cup win (4-1) in 1980 against **St. Mary's** in Tolka Park. The following year, Larry Doherty managed and captained the second Elvery Cup win (4-0) at Haddon Park in Killester against the league winners, **Spartak Dynamo** - noteworthy for Pat Quin scoring all four **VEC** goals and for **Spartak** losing their only game of the entire season.

In 1984 the final was back in Tolka Park, and this time the club's second team had an unforgettable win against **St. Mary's**. Managed and captained by Dave Spring, **VEC** scored two excellent goals following great runs from the late Willie Kissane, firstly with a 30-minute volley from Joe O'Hanlon and then in the final minute, Noel Ryan clinched the winner to make it 2-1, after Herbie Beattie had equalised for St. Mary's just before half-time,

The defeat in 1987 was against **Strand Utd.** where we lost 2-1 after extra time at Tolka Park. Although player/manager Dave Spring opened the scoring with a free kick after 15 minutes, **Strand** equalised with ten minutes to go, bringing the game to extra time when they secured the winner. However, in 1988, the team got its revenge against **Strand Utd.** with a comprehensive 4-0 win in the final - again in Tolka Park. Tommy Coyle was the manager on this occasion.

Since the 80's, the Club has reached the U.C.F.L's. 'Blue Ribboned' Final in 1993, 2002, 2011, 2016 and 2019. Having being consigned to the history books as the last winners of the **Elvery Cup** in 1988, **VEC** became the fifth winners of the new challenge cup, the **Prudential Life Cup** on the 22nd April 1993 in Tolka Park under the management of Darby Timbs and Chas Heather. With Dermot O'Dwyer scoring the two goals in a game that ended 2-2 after extra time, we eventually beat **Dublin University** (later to become Trinity Corinthians) 3-2 on penalties. The penalty scorers were John McCarthy, Dave Spring and Mike Doran.

In 2002, nine years since our previous appearance in the final, we played **Trinity Corinthians** again in the **Irish Life Challenge Cup Final** in Tolka Park on 11th May, hoping to win our sixth premier cup. Unfortunately, it was not to be. Despite a brave performance, we lost 2-0 to an excellent **Trinity** team. Fergal Nolan and Dave Spring were the managers that day.

In 2011, after another nine-year gap, we won our 6<sup>th</sup> final with Dave Spring again as Manager, beating **Stedfast Utd.** 2-0 in Home Farm, with goals from the deadly duo - Joey Byrne and Brian Ward.

In 2016, again in Home Farm, with Dave Spring and Kevin O'Hanlon at the helm, we had a comfortable 4-1 win over **South William Street Celtic**. The **VEC** goalscorers were Niall Flynn, Séamus Staunton, Anthony Dunne and Raimonds Jaudzems.

In 2019 with Kevin O'Hanlon now the manager (assisted by Dave Spring & Simon Roche), we had a comprehensive 6-3 win over **Drumcondra AFC** at the Oscar Traynor Centre - Aidan Hyland scoring the first four **VEC** goals, added to by Séamus Staunton and Joey Byrne.

Then in 2022, back in Home Farm with manager Simon Roche (captain for that 2011 cup final) and now at the helm (assisted now by Dave Spring & Dexy Donoghue) we made it 9 Challenge Cup wins out of 12, with Séamus Staunton scoring the only goal against Tallaght Utd. It was his third Challenge Cup Final and he scored in each of them! New **VEC** goalkeeper Dan Smyth received the m-o-t-m award.

48-Year Cup Record follows:

2021-2022	<b>FINAL</b>	Tallaght Utd.	<b>WON 1-0</b>
2020-2021	N/A - Not played due to Covid-19		
2019-2020	Quarter-Final	Dunshaughlin Youths FC	Lost 3-4 on Penalties $\frac{1}{4}$ final
2018-2019	<b>FINAL</b>	Drumcondra AFC	<b>WON 6-3</b>
2017-2018	Quarter-Final	Blackrock College FC	Lost 1-2
2016-2017	3 <sup>rd</sup> Round	AGP FC	Lost 1-2
2015-2016	<b>FINAL</b>	South William St. Celtic	<b>WON 4-1</b>
2014-2015	SEMI-FINAL	FC Sportslink Ailesbury	Lost on Penalties SEMI-FINAL
2013-2014	Quarter-Final	Chapelizod FC	Lost 1-3
2012-2013	3 <sup>rd</sup> Round	Sandyford Utd.	Lost 2-5
2011-2012	3 <sup>rd</sup> Round	Sandyford Utd.	Lost 4-5
2010-2011	<b>FINAL</b>	Stedfast Utd.	<b>WON 2-0</b>
2009-2010	4 <sup>th</sup> Round	Trinity Corinthians	Lost 0-1
2008-2009	SEMI-FINAL	Terenure FC	Lost 0-3 SEMI-FINAL
2007-2008	SEMI-FINAL	Sportslink FC	Lost on Penalties SEMI-FINAL
2006-2007	2 <sup>nd</sup> Round	Glasnaion FC	Lost on Penalties
2005-2006	2 <sup>nd</sup> Round	Rail PSV FC	Lost on Penalties
2004-2005	3 <sup>rd</sup> Round	Clontarf Ath.	Lost after extra time
2003-2004	2 <sup>nd</sup> Round	Strand Utd.	Lost on Penalties
2002-2003	4 <sup>th</sup> Round	FC Ailesbury	Lost after extra time
2001-2002	<b>FINAL</b>	Trinity Corinthians	Lost 0-2 FINAL
2000-2001	Quarter-Final	Stedfast Utd.	Lost on Penalties
1999-2000	4 <sup>th</sup> Round	Strand Utd. #	Lost after extra time#
1998-1999	SEMI-FINAL	Strand Utd.	Lost on Penalties SEMI-FINAL
1997-1998	Quarter-Final	FC Ailesbury	Lost 1-2
1996-1997	Quarter-Final	Harding FC	Lost 2-3
1995-1996	2 <sup>nd</sup> Round	Stedfast Utd.	Lost after extra time
1994-1995	4 <sup>th</sup> Round	St. Mary's FC	Lost 2-4
1993-1994	3 <sup>rd</sup> Round	Russell Ath.	Lost 1-3
1992-1993	<b>FINAL</b>	Dublin University	<b>WON 3-2 on penalties (2-2 aet)</b>
1991-1992	2 <sup>nd</sup> Round	Castle Rovers	Lost on Penalties
1990-1991	2 <sup>nd</sup> Round	Courtlands FC	Lost 1-2
1989-1990	3 <sup>rd</sup> Round	Stedfast Utd.	Lost on Penalties
1988-1989	3 <sup>rd</sup> Round	Strand Utd.	Lost 1-3
1987-1988	<b>FINAL</b>	Strand Utd.	<b>WON 4-1</b>
1986-1987	<b>FINAL</b>	Strand Utd.	Lost 2-1 after extra time FINAL
1985-1986	SEMI-FINAL	C.M.H.	Lost 0-3 SEMI-FINAL
1984-1985	1 <sup>st</sup> Round	Butterfield Rovers	Lost 1-4
1983-1984	<b>FINAL</b>	St. Mary's (Crumlin)	<b>WON 2-1</b>
1982-1983	3 <sup>rd</sup> Round	St. Catherines	Lost 1-3
1981-1982	SEMI-FINAL	St. Catherines	Lost after extra time SEMI-FINAL
1980-1981	<b>FINAL</b>	Spartak Dynamo	<b>WON 4-1</b>
1979-1980	<b>FINAL</b>	St. Mary's (Crumlin)	<b>WON 4-1</b>
1978-1979	Quarter-Final	D. S. B.	Lost 2-3
1977-1978	2 <sup>nd</sup> Round	Glendale Celtic	Lost 2-5
1976-1977	SEMI-FINAL	St. James Ath.	Lost 2-3 SEMI-FINAL
1975-1976	<b>FINAL</b>	Dublin University	Lost 1-2 FINAL
1974-1975	2 <sup>nd</sup> Round	Harding FC	Lost 1-2

# tbc