

All-Ireland Hurling 'Home' Final in the VEC Sportsgrounds in Terenure

The 1900 G.A.A. All-Ireland Hurling 'Home' Final was played in the Gaelic Park Arena Terenure* on September 21, 1902, where Tipperary defeated Galway.

*From 1913 to 1934, that Gaelic Park Arena was called **University Park, Terenure**; then the **VEC Sportsgrounds** since 1934; and now officially the ETB Sportsgrounds since 2013, but still colloquially referred to as the **VEC Sportsgrounds, Terenure**.

Background: The 'Home' Final was a precursor to the actual All-Ireland hurling final which determined the Irish-based champions who would face the London champions in that final. Due to significant delays common in the early GAA era, the All-Ireland Senior Football and Hurling Finals for the 1900 season did not actually take place until 1902.

In that 1900 Hurling 'Home Final', Galway was represented by Ardrahan and Tipperary by Two Mile Borris. Tipperary won with a final score of 6-13 to 1-5.

The turn of the century had seen the emergence of Two Mile Borris as a real power house in Tipperary Hurling. With Ned Hayes as captain, they bounced back from losing the previous year's county final to go on and win the 1900 county championship and the All Ireland title for the county, with a 2-5 to 0-6 win over Desmonds (the London Champions) in the actual All-Ireland Final, which was held at the Athletic Grounds in Cork.

The **VEC Sportsgrounds** had a long association with Gaelic games in those early years. The grounds were indeed a significant GAA venue during this period. In 1901, the grounds were leased by the Celtic Hurling Club, and in 1902, the lease was taken over by the Dublin Senior Hurling League. Important local and league matches were played there.

Then between 1913 and 1934, the grounds became the primary sports base for University College Dublin (**UCD**) sports clubs (hence the name change to **University Park, Terenure**) – with UCD's central Rugby and Soccer sports teams using the grounds for training and competitive matches throughout that 21-year period. As the landlord would not sell the site to the university, this eventually led to UCD seeking a permanent home elsewhere. This lack of ownership was a key factor in UCD's decision to purchase Belfield House and its 44-acre estate in 1934 to establish its own permanent sports centre and playing fields.

The grounds in Terenure have a long history of broader community sports. Following UCD's departure in 1934, the site eventually transitioned to the City of Dublin Vocational Education Committee (CDVEC) for their use. In May 1974 the CDVEC granted **V.E.C. Football Club** the on-going use of the VEC Sportsgrounds in Terenure. **V.E.C. Football Club's** main aims and objectives from day one are to fulfil a role in promoting the game of Association Football (Soccer) and to provide football for players who join the club. In 2024, the Club celebrated 50 continuous years doing just that. More than 600 players have represented the Club in those 50+ years. **V.E.C. Football Club** continues to thrive! DS.