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Championship **RELEGATION PLAY-OFF**

# KILCUMMIN v TEMPLENOE



**Réiteoir:** Pádraig O'Sullivan (Fíries)

**Tosnú:** 1.30pm • Extra Time & Winner on the Day



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**2020** Kerry Petroleum  
Senior Club Football  
Championship  
**FINAL**

# KENMARE SHAMROCKS v AUSTIN STACKS

**Réiteoir:** Eddie Walsh (Rathmore)

**Tosnú:** 3.30pm • Extra Time & Winner on the Day



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# Fáiltiú an Chathaoirligh



**Welcome to our online platform! We are delighted to give you free access to this digital programme which will keep you informed on team news as you watch today's two games in the Kerry Petroleum Senior Club Championship.**

It is difficult for people to stay away from games particularly when their own club is involved in an all important decider! However Kerry GAA has endeavoured to provide opportunities for you to support your team through using a range of media platforms. Today's double header can be enjoyed from the comfort of your home as they are being streamed live on the Kerry GAA website.

I wish the players and management from all four teams the very best of luck today. The Senior Club winner will be presented with a beautiful Cup and Kerry Petroleum has also sponsored a Man of the Match trophy.

I wish to sincerely thank Kerry Petroleum for their continued sponsorship of this great Club Championship. Every Club gets the chance to participate at an appropriate level with the prize of promotion at stake.

Wherever you are in the world, I hope you enjoy these games!

Le Buíochas

*Tadhg Ó Murchú*

Cathaoirleach, Coiste Chontae Chiarraí



# Battle to save senior status could go either way

By **MURT MURPHY**

**The battle of the most recent Intermediate champions will unfortunately see either Templenoe or Kilcummin drop out of the senior ranks, so therefore it's a big game for both clubs, when they meet on Sunday afternoon at the Fitzgerald Stadium.**

Covid had meant that the SFC Review Committee have not been able to meet so it will be 2021 before they can make recommendations, but there is a general consensus now that the number of senior teams should at least be increased to ten but the mechanism that might be used in making that possible reminds one of the tale of "belling the cat".

The mice thought it would be a great idea to tie a bell around the cat's neck for self preservation purposes, so they would hear him coming. However one clever mouse blew the idea out the water when he asked the pertinent question; who among us will volunteer to do the job of belling the cat! Likewise, there are many out there who have great ideas and they must be workable but what is clear is that it's been a revolving door of late with Intermediate Champions going up to senior grade but dropping down the following year.

Templenoie have played some outstanding football in their first year in the senior ranks and not alone were they unlucky to find themselves in this position after their group's games, but they caused a major shock when

taking out Dingle in the opening round of the SFC back in Dingle. So a historic day for the small rural hamlet and though they fell at the next hurdle against Dr Crokes, it was nip and tuck for long periods of the game and they went out on their shields.

John Rice and Mike Crowley have a fine bunch of young men, who have really put Templenoie on the map again and while the name Spillane is still to the fore, you can now throw in three Crowley brothers, Tadgh Morley, Stephen O'Sullivan, Sean Sheehan, Teddy Doyle and Josh Crowley Holland to mention just a number of talented footballers and remember they have five at least in the Kerry senior squad.

Just like Kilcummin they have been unlucky as they lost on merit to Crokes in the Group stages of the club championship, then their neighbours Kenmare came and stole the win at closing time, while they made

Kerins O'Rahilly's fight all the way before losing in Tralee with young keeper Mark Looney outstanding. So one could argue that while they finished at the bottom of a tough group, they could have finished with four points and instead they face the trapdoor game and after one season it seems desperately unfair, but they knew the rules of the competition before the off.

Meanwhile, without wanting to be cruel, Kilcummin would almost find it strange if they were not in a relegation scrap, and they are in reality the great survivors. Just look

But when you look at Kilcummin's annual ability to tunnel an escape route, it has swayed me towards them surviving after a battle...

at their record and judge for yourself. Since 2013 they have been in every relegation dogfight except 2018 when they were All-Ireland Intermediate Club Champions.

In 2013, they beat Finuge to retain their senior status, in 2014 they beat Currow, in 2015, when the format was changed and the number of senior clubs were reduced from 11 to 8, they were in the play-offs but beat St Michaels Foilmore in that four team relegation scrap. So while avoiding the relegation decider, they were still in the battle.

Then in 2016, they sent Milltown-Castlemaine down to the Intermediate ranks but in 2017 they finally lost one when Kerins O'Rahilly's beat them by a few points. They played Intermediate in 2018 and obviously won Kerry and Munster before Christmas and early in 2019, they cruised to All-Ireland success in Croke Park as easily as Lewis Hamilton appears to win Grand Prix's.



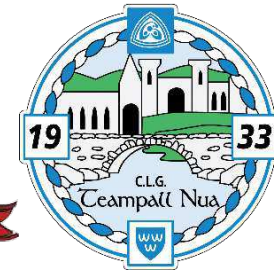
But later that year maybe tired after a long campaign or is it they just love having their supporters living on the edge, they faced a relegation dogfight against favourites Rathmore but they beat them and survived. But here we are again in 2020 and just like night follows day, Kilcummin are in the relegation decider against Templenoie. It's an incredible record (I am sure it's one they could do without) and Houdini would hardly get out of so many tight scrapes, as 2017 was their only loss.

Again they had a similar journey through the group stages as Templenoie had, losing late on to Killarney Legion by two, they lost to Stacks by two, thanks to a late Shane O'Callaghan goal and then they lost to Dingle by only three in game that didn't matter because even if they had won it,

they would lose out on the head to head with Legion. In the SFC it was one strike and they were out as they lost by too many against Mid Kerry, but Mid Kerry could be in the County Final by the time you read this.

Kilcummin have been plagued with injuries to key players like Kieran Murphy, Kevin McCarthy and Dan Moynihan to mention just a few. Brendan Kealy is a fine keeper, and their defence is solid but Donal Maher, Oscar O'Connor, Kevin McSweeney and James Nagle will have to be extra vigilant against Templenoie's dangerous attack.

Sean O'Leary and Kevin Gorman could also line out at the back but Kilcummin will need Kieran Murphy at midfield while Shane McSweeney



is a battle hardened warrior. The O'Leary's - Philip and Garry - will probably be in the half forward line while Noel Duggan is accurate from frees and play and an on song Kevin McCarthy will be hoping for

a repeat of his Croke Park performance. Throw in Matt Keane and Eoin O'Donovan and Kilcummin's attack is not too shabby.

**VERDICT:** I know it's like a broken record but this is a fifty-fifty game and when I started this preview my tip was going to be Templenoie based on the edge their intercounty lads might give them. But when you look at Kilcummin's annual ability to tunnel an escape route, it has swayed me towards them surviving after a battle and preventing a clamour to divide East Kerry in two or three! But either result would please me and I wish both sides well and hope that I haven't put the kiss of death on Kilcummin.

**PREVIEW**



# KILCUMMIN



**Brendan Kealy**



**Donal Maher**



**Kevin McSweeney**



**Oscar O'Connor**



**Enda O'Sullivan**



**Sean O'Leary**



**James Nagle**



**Kevin Gorman**



**Shane McSweeney**



**Philip O'Leary**



**Gary O'Leary**



**Kevin McCarthy (C)**



**Matt Keane**



**Noel Duggan**



**Paul O'Shea**



## FIR IONAIID

16. Keith O'Leary
17. Eoghan O'Donovan
18. Damien O'Leary
19. Mikey O'Shea
20. Chris O'Leary
21. Paul O'Riordan
22. Richie O'Connor
23. Danny Cronin
24. Dean Bradley
25. Kieran Murphy
26. Nathan McCarthy
27. Daragh Brosnan
28. Chris Moynihan
29. Darren Lehane
30. Paul Moynihan

### BAINISTÍOCHT:

Bainisteoir: Daniel O'Leary.  
Roghnóir: Sean O'Shea & Shane O'Sullivan.



## FIR IONAIID

16. Cathal Granville
17. Cian Hallissey
18. Mike Hallissey
19. John Spillane
20. Patrick Clifford
21. Danny Cahalane
22. Kieran McCarthy
23. Joseph Sheehan
24. John Moriarty
25. Daniel Crowley
26. Colm Breen
27. Dan O'Connor
28. Michael O'Sullivan
29. Conor Murphy
30. Denis O'Neill

### BAINISTÍOCHT:

Bainisteoir: John Rice.  
Trainer: Alan Devane.  
Roghnóirí: Mike Crowley, John Kieran O'Sullivan.

# TEMPLENOE



**Mark Looney**



**Tom Spillane**



**Tadhg Morley**



**Kieran O'Neill**



**Martin Reilly**



**Gavin Crowley**



**John Rice**



**Sean Sheehan**



**Adrian Spillane**



**Teddy Doyle (C)**



**Brian Crowley**



**Josh Crowley Holland**



**Stephen O'Sullivan**



**Killian Spillane**



**Colin Crowley**



	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachaí	45m	Saor Ciceanna
1 Adh Leath					
2 Adh Leath					
lomián					



	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachaí	45m	Saor Ciceanna
1 Adh Leath					
2 Adh Leath					
lomián					



# KENMARE SHAMROCKS

**1**  
Kieran Fitzgibbon (C)

**2**  
Dara Crowley

**3**  
Tommy O'Sullivan

**4**  
James McCarthy

**5**  
Matthew Murnane

**6**  
Dara O'Shea

**7**  
Mark Crowley

**8**  
Kevin O'Sullivan

**9**  
Shane O'Sullivan

**10**  
Tom Murnane

**11**  
Sean O'Shea

**12**  
Stephen O'Brien

**13**  
Micheál McCarthy

**14**  
Paul O'Connor

**15**  
Tommy Cronin



## FIR IONAIID

16. Ray Shea
17. Fionan O'Sullivan
18. Sean O'Leary
19. Cian O'Sullivan
20. Kevin Price
21. Tom O'Sullivan
22. Rory O'Sullivan
23. Kane Reidy
24. Dylan O'Connor
25. David Cronin
26. Dan Lucey
27. Cian Hanley
28. Ciaran O'Sullivan
29. Padraig Cronin
30. Gearóid Doyle

### BAINISTÍOCHT:

Manager: D.J. Brennan.  
Selectors: John Sullivan,  
Seamus MacGearailt  
and Shane Dalton.

	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachaí	45m	Saor Ciceanna
1 Adh Leath					
2 Adh Leath					
tomlán					



# AUSTIN STACKS

**1**  
Wayne Guthrie

**2**  
Colin Griffin

**3**  
Barry Shanahan

**4**  
Jack O'Shea

**5**  
Dylan Casey

**6**  
Ronan Shanahan (C)

**7**  
Jack Morgan

**8**  
Joseph O'Connor

**9**  
Brendan O'Sullivan

**10**  
Michael O'Gara

**11**  
Ferdia O'Brien

**12**  
Greg Horan

**13**  
Sean Quilter

**14**  
Kieran Donaghy

**15**  
Shane O'Callaghan



## FIR IONAIID

16. Robbie Murphy
17. David Fitzmaurice
18. Paul O'Sullivan
19. Conor Jordan
20. Darragh O'Brien
21. Fiachna Mangan
22. David Mannix
23. Ciarán O'Reilly
24. Donagh McMahon
25. Shane Walsh
26. Paul Galvin

### BAINISTÍOCHT:

Manager: Wayne Quillinan.  
Selectors: Jonathan Conway,  
Eoin Colgan, Tommy Naughton  
& John O'Sullivan.

	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachaí	45m	Saor Ciceanna
1 Adh Leath					
2 Adh Leath					
tomlán					





# Can Kenmare Shamrocks slay another big name on Sunday?

By MURT MURPHY

**Kenmare Shamrocks face one of their biggest tests on Sunday when they play in the County Senior Club Championship Final against holders Austin Stacks in Fitzgerald Stadium and regrettably not a single Shamrocks supporter will be present on such a historic day for the club.**

Austin Stacks along with Dr Crokes have dominated this competition over the past decade winning seven finals and Kerins O'Rahilly's (2), Dingle and Rathmore with one each have managed to lift this trophy. Winning the trophy this year carries less weight than other years as the winners of the Club Championship were always on standby to represent Kerry in the Munster Club if a Divisional side won the SFC, but unfortunately in 2020 Covid has seen that carrot removed.

But both sides want some silverware in this strange season and both sides would be honest enough to admit that they are fortunate to be contesting the final but they have qualified on merit. There is little doubt that Wayne Quillinan and Austin Stacks number one target was the Senior Football Championship and they were desperately disappointed to lose to Dr Crokes in the opening round.

They say the currency used on Rock Street is All-Ireland medals but they also put huge value on SFC medals and to fall at the first hurdle really hurt a big club like Stacks. So they will be hell bent in making amends on Sunday and it is possible that Kenmare

Shamrocks could feel the backlash.

But Kenmare Shamrocks are no shrinking violets and will be well up for the challenge on Sunday and they appear enjoy the tag of underdog but they are well capable of taking a big scalp. In fact the reason they made the final was they scored a late goal in the final seconds in what was virtually a semi-final to take out Dr Crokes, arguably, the biggest and most successful senior club side in Kerry over the past decade.

But they had been sailing close to the wind in this Club Championship anyway, when you look at their results. They beat Kerins O'Rahilly's by two points in the first group game played at a neutral venue (2-9-0-13). Then they travelled west to perform a smash and grab raid on neighbours Templenoe in a game they looked like losing but deep in added time, a Paul O'Connor last gasp goal, saw them win by a point (3-6 to 1-11).

Crokes had been impressive with two wins in the group and travelled to Fr Breen Park favourites to take out Kenmare Shamrocks and qualify for another final. But having trailed for most of the game and fact were two adrift going into injury time, Kenmare Shamrocks drew level and again in the 67th minute (they love that number), when Kerry star Sean O'Shea kicked over the winning point (2-12 to 1-14) and Kenmare Shamrocks were in the final.

Ironically and regrettably the two stars of that game Dan McCarthy (Shamrocks) and Tony Brosnan (Crokes) are now facing lengthy

spells on the sidelines and all in the GAA family wish both players speedy recoveries. So Kenmare Shamrocks have played some very good football along the way but they also enjoyed a share of good fortune.

Some would say that their name might be on the cup but Kenmare Shamrocks will not be thinking that way. Again in the SFC they beat Shannon Rangers in the opening round but just failed against Mid Kerry in the quarter-finals not helped by the fact that Sean O'Shea basically played on one leg!

Meanwhile in the other group Austin Stacks mixed the average, when they drew away with Dingle (1-12 to 1-12), with the ugly when they required a late Shane O'Callaghan goal set up by Kieran Donaghy to get past plucky Kilcummin at home, winning 2-5 to 1-6, with the good when they crushed Killarney Legion 2-13 to 0-8 and in the proceed go through to the final on a better scoring difference than Dingle who finished level with them on five points. When it came to the SFC they showed great battling qualities against Dr Crokes but lost out in extra time.

So both Kenmare Shamrocks and Austin Stacks have shown indifferent form in championship this year but whoever wins on Sunday will not worry too much about stats or the form book.

Austin Stacks have been solid enough at the back with Valentia's Paul O'Sullivan fitting in nicely with Barry and Ronan Shanahan, Jack Morgan and Dylan Casey. Midfield could be a key battleground and Stacks midfield pairing of the second O'Sullivan brother Brendan and the very impressive Joseph O'Connor, have been dominating that area in recent games and if Stacks are to win the two lads must continue in that vein. But Kenmare have Kevin O'Sullivan and Fionan O'Sullivan

playing mighty football in that region as well, so sparks should fly, though I would imagine short kick-outs might be the order of the day.

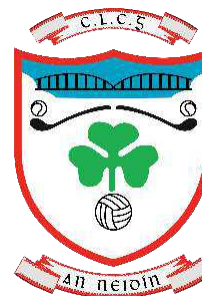
Stacks still look to Kieran Donaghy for inspiration up front but Greg Horan is back, Micheal O'Gara is a promising young footballer, Shane O'Callaghan definitely has an eye for goal, Ferdia O'Brien, David Mannix if starting and Darragh O'Brien all know where the posts are. We cannot forget young Sean Quilter either.

Kenmare Shamrocks have some very good and tenacious defenders in Dara Crowley, Dara O'Shea, James McCarthy and Shane O'Sullivan while Kieran Fitzgibbon is a very competent keeper. But upfront Kenmare have three outstanding attackers in Sean O'Shea, Stephen O'Brien and Paul O'Connor but the loss of Dan McCarthy is a major drawback.

They are predators in the inside line and if they can carve openings they will score goals.

Kenmare Shamrocks are a strong side from one to fifteen, who retain the ball well, not afraid to mix it and have a number of potential match winners.

**VERDICT:** It's a difficult one to call as both sides form has been a shade indifferent but both sides are capable of posting big totals. The battle at midfield should be intriguing and I am tempted to side with Kenmare. But is Seanie O'Shea fully fit? Is Stephen O'Brien back to full fitness? What about the strength of both benches. Will rising young Stacks star Sean Quilter start or come in as an impact player. I think he might just swing it late on so Austin Stacks get my tentative nod.



It's a difficult one to call as both sides form has been a shade indifferent but both sides are capable of posting big totals.

PREVIEW

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