

2021



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GAA

WHERE WE ALL BELONG

**2021 Kerry Petroleum  
Intermediate Club  
Football Championship  
FINAL**



**NA GAEIL  
v  
BEAUFORT**

**LUACH: €2**



**WWW.KERRYGAA.IE**

**Ionad:** Fitzgerald Stadium • **Dáta:** Saturday 4th December

**Réiteoir:** Brendan Brosnan (Glenflesk)

**Tosnú:** 1.45pm • *Extra Time & Result on the Day*





# Beaufort favourites to carry on the 2021 trend against Na Gaeil

By MURT MURPHY

**IT is a game that would take centre stage most weekends except it has been trumped by the all Tralee SFC Final and rightly so but Na Gaeil would like to be up there with Austin Stacks and Kerins O'Rahilly's in the town of Tralee and they might well be shortly after 3pm today.**

But Beaufort has similar ambitions so today's IFC final promises to be a cracker and it could go either way. Beaufort are favourites but despite being missing key personnel it would be foolish to write off Na Gaeil. However the stats and trends favour Beaufort because in 2021 both teams who lost the 2020 finals have gone to win the 2021 versions. In the 2020 Junior Premier Final Gneeveguilla lost in dramatic circumstances to Ballydonoghue in September but last month they gained compensation by

defeating Skellig Rangers in the 2021 final. In late August Castlegregory lost out by a wide margin to neighbours Annascaul in the 2020 Junior Final but again they regrouped and reached the 2021 final where they took Firies apart, proving again that they didn't want to suffer the pain of another final defeat.

So that brings us on nicely to the 2020 Intermediate Final where Spa blitzed Beaufort and had enough in the tank to withstand a stirring second half Beaufort comeback. So instead of folding their tent, Beaufort harnessed the hurt of that defeat and are back in the final so will history repeat itself and make it a hat-trick of wins for teams who competed in two finals in the one year because of Covid.

While the Na Gaeil players were helping St. Brendan's to a SFC semi-final only to lose out to Austin Stacks in the most heartbreaking circumstances, Beaufort

were winning two Mid Kerry SFC games and are poised to play Laune Rangers in the final.

So the preparations of both sides have been markedly different and well though the Na Gaeil contingent played with St. Brendan's, nothing beats playing as a team so its advantage Beaufort on that front.

There is history between the sides as they met just three months ago in the semi-final of the 2020 IFC and Beaufort came out on top. So today's final will mark the fourth Championship meeting between the sides over the last five years with Beaufort leading 2-1 and that includes the 2018 Premier Junior Final that saw Beaufort get up from the canvas on a couple of occasions before going on to win an epic in extra time (4-13 to 2-18). Both sides have won All-Ireland Club titles so it is clear that both have quality and there should be very little in it.

Beaufort have no major injuries and their manager Eanna O'Malley reflects on how their preparations have gone. "I feel while losing the final to Spa hurt, we were more disappointed to lose to Rathmore in the opening round of the Club Championship the week after. Everything else was knockout after that and we had to regroup to win our next two games and make the quarters" he said. They then beat Kilcummin and Rathmore who were senior sides back in 2019 and this was another feather in their cap.

This is their fifth game in Fitzgerald Stadium since last year so it is a home for them so they will have no fears of the venue. Beaufort has a very strong side but they will be relying for big games from Mike Breen, Sean O'Brien, Ronan Murphy, Liam Carey, Cian Dennehy and Jack O'Connor.

Na Gaeil has a number of issues preparing for this game and in fact their preparations were badly impeded by nine players being involved with St. Brendan's in their SFC run to the semi-finals. Then they were hit with an injury to their main man Diarmuid O'Connor who did serious damage to his hand and if absent, then this could be a mortal blow to their chances of winning. Then throw in a wedding which takes their captain Eoin Doody and wing forward Kieran Finch O'Donovan out of the mix (Best Man and Groomsman man at a friend's wedding) and one can see that Na Gaeil are in trouble with naming their best starting fifteen.

But any side that has the three Barry brothers - Jack, Andrew and Fergal, Stefan Okunbor, Enda O'Connor, Damien Bourke, Devon Burns, Dan Goggin and Darragh Carmody are a side that might well raise their game for absent friends and give the final a right rattle.

**VERDICT:** Beaufort just has the edge but be very wary of a wounded group.



PHOTOS: KERRY'S EYE



# NA GAEIL



**1**  
Devon  
Burns



**2**  
Enda  
O'Connor



**3**  
Niall  
O'Mahony



**4**  
Damien  
Bourke



**5**  
Fergal  
Barry



**6**  
Andrew  
Barry



**7**  
Eoin  
Doody (C)



**8**  
Jack  
Barry



**9**  
Stefan  
Okunbor



**10**  
James  
O'Connor



**11**  
Dan  
Goggin



**12**  
Diarmuid  
O'Connor



**13**  
Tomás  
Ó hAiniféin



**14**  
Jamie  
Lowham



**15**  
Darragh  
Carmody

## BAINISTÍOCHT:

Jerome Stack, Mossie Whelan,  
Niall Lucey & Niall O'Meara.



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## FIR IONAIÐ

16. Aidan Quirke
17. Kieran Dineen
18. Eoin Walsh
19. Oisín Maunsell
20. Ryan O'Neill
21. Dan O'Connor
22. Dara Devine
23. Darragh Reen
24. Jack Bourke
25. Ger O'Connor
26. Declan Cooney
27. Jack Sheehan
28. Cian Devine
29. Liam Og Kingston
30. Kieran O'Donovan
31. Tadgh Reen
32. Dara Sheehy
33. Eoghan Sheehy
34. Jimi O'Sullivan
35. Ruari O'Sullivan
36. Seamus Looney
37. Shawn Duggan
38. Shane Daly
39. Paul Daly
40. Diarmuid Herlihy
41. Luke Barrett

# BEAUFORT



**1**  
Seán  
Coffey



**2**  
Ger  
Hartnett



**3**  
Seán  
Kelliher



**4**  
Kieran  
O'Sullivan



**5**  
Ethan  
Coffey



**6**  
Nathan  
Breen



**7**  
Seán  
O'Brien



**8**  
Mike  
Breen



**9**  
Ronan  
Murphy



**10**  
Fergal  
Hallssey (VC)



**11**  
Pádraig  
Doona



**12**  
Ciarán  
Kennedy



**13**  
Liam  
Carey (C)



**14**  
Jack  
O'Connor



**15**  
Kieran  
Dennehy



## BAINISTÍOCHT:

Eanna O'Malley, Mike Moriarty, Maurice Foley,  
Kevin O'Brien, Donal Coffey, Gary Tangney,  
Killian Lynch, Micheál Foley.  
**Physio:** Dylan Vaughan.

KERRY



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- Liam Lynch - Tralee Area 087-6189655
- Eamon O'Sullivan - St Kierans Area 086-8299584**
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