

# Off The Fringe

## Greens Damage Drama at PGA Championship

BY SETH JONES

Wednesday night damage steals headlines at otherwise pristine Atlanta Athletic Club.

**J**OHNS CREEK, GA. — All week the players had been raving about the conditions at the 93<sup>rd</sup> PGA Championship, especially the perfection of the new Diamond zoysia fairways, at the Atlanta Athletic Club. But a Wednesday night mishap suddenly stole the headlines, and the maintenance crew found themselves on the Golf Channel at a moment they'd rather not have been seen.

Two greens mowing mishaps gouged two different spots on the No. 14 green. Yes, two different mowers, within moments of each other, both had mishaps. Another mishap strangely happened a short while later when the crew had moved on to the No. 17 green.

"Something occurred that I've never seen before and I can only speculate on what happened," Ken Man-

gum, director of golf course and grounds, told the world via a Thursday press conference broadcast live on the Golf Channel. "Nothing mechanical. No operator error... and we've checked the mowers, we've checked the people, we've checked everything."

The only answer Mangum could think of was that a spike in humidity Wednesday evening caused the mower brush to grab and dig into the green.

When Mangum arrived at the 14<sup>th</sup> green to survey the damage on Wednesday at approximately 7 p.m., the look on his face was sheer terror.

He didn't scream or shout, though — he went into damage control mode and looked for a way to fix it.

The crew quickly went to the driving range with a sod cutter and took some of a target green to replace the damaged areas. Within an hour the areas were fixed with new turf.

"We got some sod. Sod it,

water it, tamp it down, go home. You won't even be able to tell it happened," Kasey Kauff, superintendent of the Highlands Course at Atlanta Athletic Club, told *Golfdom*

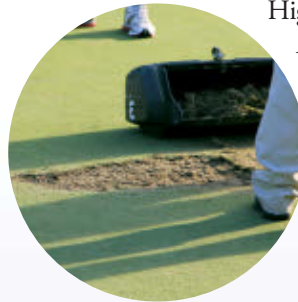
that evening. The damaged areas were played as "ground under repair" (Rule 25-1) for the entire championship.

Overall, players raved about the course condition.

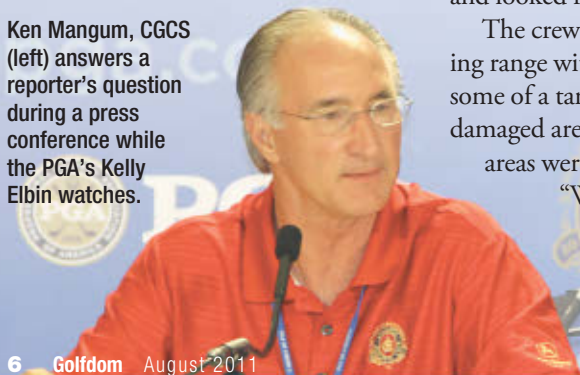
"I don't think we've played a course in this good of shape all year," Jim Furyk told *Golfdom* on Tuesday before the championship. "You have to stand on a fairway to see. They're like carpets.... It's as good of fairways as I've ever played on, ever."

Mangum was proactive against further incidents by removing the brushes from the greens mowers.

"It's a little bit like cutting yourself with a razor on your wedding day," Mangum said. "But it'll be fine, and our team did a great job of repairing it." ■



Ken Mangum, CGCS (left) answers a reporter's question during a press conference while the PGA's Kelly Elbin watches.



PHOTOS BY: SETH JONES

# DuPont Addresses Imprelis Issues with New Web Site

**I**n a proactive move, DuPont has created a Web site for those in the lawn care industry who are concerned about the company's herbicide Imprelis.

The new Web site, [www.Imprelis-Facts.com](http://www.Imprelis-Facts.com), was created in response to public concern that the herbicide, used for broadleaf weed control on golf courses, sod farms, athletic fields and other turfgrasses, may inadvertently be harming trees.

With the Web site, DuPont says it intends to make it easy for customers to report their concerns with and acquire the

latest news about Imprelis.

"DuPont is fully committed to making sure that our valued customers are satisfied with our products, and to ensuring the responsible stewardship of those products," the company emphasized in its welcome letter on [Imprelis-Facts.com](http://Imprelis-Facts.com).

"We regret any injury to trees that our herbicide, Imprelis, may have caused," the letter continued. "We have reached out to lawn care professionals who have reported concerns, and are committed to work-



ing with them to promptly and fairly resolve any problems associated with those products."

Customers can report concerns with Imprelis in the "Contact Us" section of [Imprelis-Facts.com](http://Imprelis-Facts.com). DuPont says it also plans to launch a toll-free hotline on Monday, August 1, and encourages customers to check the Imprelis-Facts Web site for updated information.

## Jacobsen tapped for Old Tom Morris Award

PGA Tour winner and esteemed golf course designer Peter Jacobsen has been chosen to receive the 2012 Old Tom Morris Award by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

The award will be bestowed during the 2012 GCSAA Education Conference at Celebrate GCSAA!, presented by Syngenta, Feb. 28 in Las Vegas.

"Peter has done much for the game of golf, and he has been an advocate for golf course superintendents," GCSAA President Robert M. Randquist, CGCS, stated in the association's press release. "He has also been quite giving of himself for charitable events. He is a perfect fit for the Old Tom Morris Award."

GCSAA's most coveted accolade, the Old Tom Morris Award is presented annually to one who "through a continuing lifetime commitment to the game of golf has helped to mold the welfare of the game in a manner and style exemplified by Old Tom Morris," the association stated in the release.



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