

Hole of the

■ No. 12

**The Golf Club at Redlands Mesa
Grand Junction, Colo.**



Month

No Easy Pickings

The 12th hole at The Golf Club at Redlands Mesa in Grand Junction, Colo., is a stunningly beautiful hole that can fool golfers into thinking it's easily conquered. The 151-yard par 3 appears to be easy pickings from the tee.

But there's a 4-foot deep pot bunker behind the green and it's also protected by a steep-faced bunker in front. Whatever you'd normally hit, you want to take at least a club less, says superintendent Andrew Nikkari.

"It's an incredibly shallow green," Nikkari says. "If you end up on the hill behind the hole, it's going to be a difficult shot. You want to make sure you hit the green."

Nikkari says the most difficult maintenance challenges on the hole are those protective bunkers. Originally cared for with hover mowers, the superintendent credits the crew with figuring out that rotary mowers do a better job.

"You can't adjust the hover mowers as accurately as you'd like," Nikkari says. "But the crew figured out a different way of doing things that made the job easier and more accurate. My crew is pretty resourceful!"

Remember to play the Major Challenge at www.majorchallenge.com.

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