

Troubled range to try limited-flight balls

By NEIL RITCHIE

GOLFERS may soon be practising with rather odd balls at New Plymouth's golf range.

Owner Paul Scimone is bringing in a trial shipment of two types of limited-flight balls in a bid to please neighbours who have complained to the Planning Tribunal about errant balls escaping from the Borrell Park range.

"If it works, we may not have to do anything more with our netting at all. I can airfreight in 20,000 of these limited-flight balls and we may be back to using tees and woods," Mr Scimone said.

He intends importing Spalding LF balls and Sayang balls from Korea for testing at the range.

Such balls were popular in Asia and could be safely used on small ranges. Because of their different composition, they did not go as high

or as far as normal golf balls.

The Planning Tribunal last month delayed the question of closing the golf range until later this month and directed Mr Scimone to stop golf balls flying over the mesh fences on to roads or neighbouring properties.

Mr Scimone promised to realign the golf bays away from the neighbouring Sunley St, prohibit the use of wooden clubs except when children, women or senior players were

practising, not to have tees in the bays, and to investigate the feasibility of installing a curtain across the range to catch wayward balls.

He said Asians successfully operated small driving ranges by using the limited-flight balls. Golfers could still accurately gauge the length and direction of their drives.

"I am doing all I can to make this range a safe and attractive place for golfers and nearby residents and businesses," Mr Scimone said.