



LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN (from left): Tony Capizzi, Mike Capizzi, Sal Capizzi & Jeff Langelier still love their table hockey.

# HOME GAMES

**JIM BENDER**  
Winnipeg Sun

Sal Capizzi perfectly summed up the passion for playing table hockey well into adulthood.

"Boys stay boys," said the founder of the Winnipeg Table Hockey League. "We're still young at heart."

But it seems to have become an obsession for the 46-year-old phys. ed. teacher, who now owns 17 different table hockey boards dating back to 1959, two of which he built himself. He also customized another game to look like the MTS Centre, complete with players painted in Winnipeg Jets and Atlanta Thrashers uniforms.

The league now consists of 17 players who compete in the basement of Sal's Transcona home for a trophy that is actu-

## Table hockey isn't child's play for local adult enthusiasts

ally a Tony Esposito action figure.

"We don't play for money or anything," said Capizzi, one of the Original Six, whose league includes his brother, cousins and friends.

However, the non-profit league does charge a fee of \$10-\$20 for tournaments, with all of the money collected going to CancerCare Manitoba.

Capizzi got into table hockey even though his older brother, Tony, used to make him cry by beating him at the game when they were kids. Eventually he got better, his cousins got involved and he decided

to form an official league. Back in 2003, he even designed its website, which includes league stats. The WTHL is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year.

"It's a good time," said Mike Capizzi, Sal's 34-year-old cousin, who joined when he was just 11. "It's a good time and friendly competition for bragging rights. It gets pretty intense but there is trash talk and what-not."

Sometimes, Sal even shouts out play-by-play during games.

"The games get pretty heated and everyone has an intense look when they get really into it," said Sal. "But

everyone always shakes hands afterwards. We celebrate with a beer in one hand and a slice of pizza in the other and watch a Jets game on TV. It's like a boys' night out."

Mike's brother Antonio loves the league so much that he comes in from Calgary two or three times a year to play.

"We have a great time," said Jeff Langelier, Sal's neighbour who joined seven seasons ago. "It's guys, so it gets competitive. But it's a good reason to get together and get out to do something that's not video-game related."

"Table hockey takes us all back to our childhood, and the fact that we're able to play on the older (games) is even more fun."

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# Table hockey passion keeps grown men young 0

BY JIM BENDER, WINNIPEG SUN

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From left to right, Sal Capizzi, Mike Capizzi, Jeff Langelier and Tony Capizzi play table hockey in Winnipeg, Man. Sunday November 03, 2013. (Brian Donogh/Winnipeg Sun/QMI Agency)

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basement of Sal's Transcona home.

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The 17 players also play ball hockey once a week.

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