CLAIMS

1. A ball toy having
   a. a solid, resiliently flexible body penetrated by a bore,
   b. bearing means mounted to the body within the bore,
   c. a shaft mounted to the bearing means to define a rotational axis of the body relative to the shaft,
   d. bore closures for each end of the bore, operatively connected to respective free ends of the shaft,

   whereby the body is able to spin on said axis relative to the closures and the shaft, when the closures are held in a pinching manner by a user using one hand.

2. The ball of claim 1, wherein the bearing means comprises a rolling element bearing having an outer ring securely inserted into the body and an inner ring for revolving relative to the outer ring and secured to the shaft, enabling the shaft to be co-rotatable with, the inner ring.

3. The ball of claim 2, wherein the closure means are connected in fixed relationship to said free ends of the shaft to form a unitary assembly.

4. A ball according to claim 2 or claim 3, wherein the shaft is adapted to remain free and able to rotate independently of the body during deformation from bouncing action of the ball.

5. The ball of claim 4, wherein the shaft is resiliently deformable to a relatively small extent in sympathy with the bore, when the body is subjected to bouncing impact.

6. The ball of claim 5 wherein the shaft is possessed of stiffness greater than that of the body.

7. The ball of claim 6, wherein the shaft is made of a thermoplastics compound.

8. The ball of claim 7, wherein the compound has a hardness on the Shore D durometer scale in the range 75 to 83.

9. A ball according to claim 7 or claim 8, wherein the shaft is manufactured from material having a tensile strength in the range from 10000psi to 12000psi.

10. The ball of claim 9, wherein the compound is formulated from polyoxymethylene (“POM”).

11. The ball of any one of the previous claims, wherein the body is adapted to exhibit enhanced bouncing ability by comprising a thermoplastic rubber.

12. The ball of claim 11, wherein the rubber has a hardness value in the range 34 to 50 according to the Shore A hardness scale.

13. The ball of claim 12, wherein the hardness value is in the range from 38 to 47 according to the Shore A hardness scale.

14. The ball of any one of the previous claims, wherein the bore closures at each end of the bore comprise caps preferably made of thermoplastic rubber (TPR).

15. The ball of claim 14, wherein the caps have a hardness value that exceeds that of the body.

16. The ball of claim 14, wherein caps have a hardness value in the range 40 to 60 according to the Shore A hardness scale.

17. The ball of any one of the previous claims having an outer surface comprising a plurality of discontinuities.

18. The ball of claim 17 wherein the discontinuities define facets.

19. The ball of any one of the previous claims, wherein the bearing means comprises first and second roller bearings connected to the shaft and located along the shaft in spaced relationship to each other.

20. The ball of any one of the previous claims, wherein the bore has a lining along at least a major portion of its length.