

<b>Committee(s):</b>		<b>Date(s):</b>
Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum	For Information	12 <sup>th</sup> May 2014
Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	For Information	2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2014
Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee	For Decision	9 <sup>th</sup> June 2014
<b>Subject:</b>		<b>Public</b>
Outdoor Triples Table Tennis Table		
<b>Report of:</b>		<b>For Information</b>
Superintendent of Hampstead Heath		
<p><b><u>Summary</u></b></p> <p>At the 2013 'Give It A Go' Festival, the UK's first indoor triples table tennis table was launched and proved very popular. This Report sets out a proposal to purchase, install and launch the world's first Outdoor Triples Table Tennis Table at the 2014 'Give It A Go' Festival. The table will then remain a permanent feature on Parliament Hill, and will help us to engage with younger audiences in an exciting new sport that promotes social interaction and well-being.</p> <p>The new table will cost £2,700, discounted from £3,600, but we expect the positive benefits of the table for our local community, as well as the substantial enthusiastic media attention it will attract, to far outweigh the initial costs.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Recommendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee supports the proposal to purchase and install the world's first Outdoor Triples Table Tennis Table as a permanent feature at Parliament Hill.</li> <li>• That the comments of the Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum are conveyed to the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee at their meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2014.</li> </ul>		

## Main Report

### Background

1. Outdoor table tennis, or ping pong, is growing in popularity across the UK. Many Open Spaces now house permanent tables, including four in the North London Open Spaces managed by the City of London. Tables in Queen's Park and Golders Hill Park are very popular with our harder-to-reach groups, including young families and young people.

2. Table tennis is a well-used tool for engaging with young audiences and is popular in the youth sector, including youth clubs, sports engagement organisations, and play practitioners.
3. In March 2014, the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee visited Golders Hill Park, where they were shown the standard doubles table tennis tables. The Committee asked the Leisure and Events Manager to explore the possibility of purchasing table tennis tables for the Parliament Hill area as a way to engage with younger audiences. At the time, the Leisure and Events Manager was in negotiation with the T3 Company to evaluate the possibility of hosting a triples table. This Report looks at how best to achieve this.

### Triples Table Tennis – T3

4. The triples (3-a-side) version of ping pong is currently only played in a town called Wollongon in Australia, where the game's inventor Gunter Arnt lives. There were no tables available for purchase until 2013, when the design and construction of the T3 table was pioneered in London by the T3 Company (Appendix 1).
5. Six players compete in two teams of three around a circular table. Its unusual design and specially constructed nets are the foundations of a game that can be fast and fierce. Triples ping pong allows players a far greater range of shot directions, exciting angles and longer spectacular rallies. The table can even accommodate 12 players if required (Appendix 2).
6. The T3 *indoor* table was officially launched at the Parliament Hill 'Give It A Go Festival' on the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2013. This was the first time triples ping pong had been seen or played in the UK and it proved to be a show-stopper. The success of the launch confirmed that there was a gap in the sport for this innovative new game (Appendix 3).

### **Current Position**

7. While table tennis is popular at many other Open Spaces managed by the City of London, no provision for the growing sport exists in the Parliament Hill area.
8. T3 tables have many advantages over traditional doubles tables, including inclusivity – the ability to accommodate more players – and as a result, they are highly sociable. They provide an excellent method for involving our local community in an exciting new sport, which promotes social interaction and well-being, particularly for young families and young people who are often under-represented on the Heath.
9. The Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum were consulted on the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2014 and fully endorsed the proposal, especially recognising the benefits that it will offer to young people and families.

### **Proposals**

10. The proposal is to site the T3 table next to the tennis hut and to the left of the tennis courts at Parliament Hill. This location will ensure that the T3 table is in keeping with its surroundings.
11. The table will be supplied and installed by the T3 Company, a local London organisation. The installation will be overseen by the Leisure and Events

Manager and the Operational Service Manager to ensure minimal disruption to our services.

12. The table will be installed in time to be launched at the 2014 'Give It A Go' Festival on 20<sup>th</sup> July. The launch will brand the table as the 'World's First Outdoor Triples Table Tennis Table'. The launch and lead-up promotion will be supplied by the T3 Company, working in partnership with Wonderberry Marketing. The PR promotion will include a 13-week social media lead-up campaign, as well as celebrity endorsements and presence on the day.
13. The proposal also allows us to build on the success of the 2013 'Give It A Go' Festival, which provides an ideal legacy for this year's event.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

14. This proposal supports the **City of London Corporate Plan 2013-17 Key Policy Priorities KPP5** – *"Increasing the impact of the City's cultural and heritage offer on the life of London and the nation."*
15. **Hampstead Heath's Management Plan: Towards a plan for the Heath 2007-2017**, cites as one of its missions: *"To maintain to a high standard the recreation and sporting facilities on the Heath for the enjoyment of all members of the community."*

### **Implications**

16. A £3,660 T3 concrete table can be purchased by the City at a discounted price of £2,700 (excluding VAT), covering delivery, positioning and installation of the concrete. In addition the Leisure and Events Manager has secured sponsorship from Wonderberry to supply Bats and Balls for the first year, making a further potential saving of £250.
17. We anticipate the cost of its installation will be far outweighed by the benefit the table will bring to the local community, including engaging with our younger, under-represented audiences. The Leisure and Events Manager will work with coaches in the area through social media and PR to promote its use while as part of the launch, the T3 Company will bring along several international players and coaches to publicise the triples game, table tennis in general and the 'Give It A Go' Festival.
18. Maintenance costs are expected to be minimal. Normally outdoor tables need just a wipe-down after bad weather and are then ready for play. Queen's Park has had two outdoor tables for four years, which have not cost more than £100 in total to maintain.

### **Conclusion**

19. Table tennis is growing in popularity across the UK but currently no provision for it exists at Parliament Hill. The installation and launch of the 'World's First Outdoor Triples Table Tennis Table' at the 2014 'Give It A Go' Festival on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2014 will generate positive media attention for the Parliament Hill area, as well as engaging our local community in an exciting new sport that encourages social interaction and inclusivity.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – T3 Table Tennis tables

Appendix 2 – T3 Table Tennis table specifications

Appendix 3 – Examples of media coverage at the 2013 T3 launch

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## Appendix 1: T3 Table Tennis Tables



T3 Table Tennis (all weather)

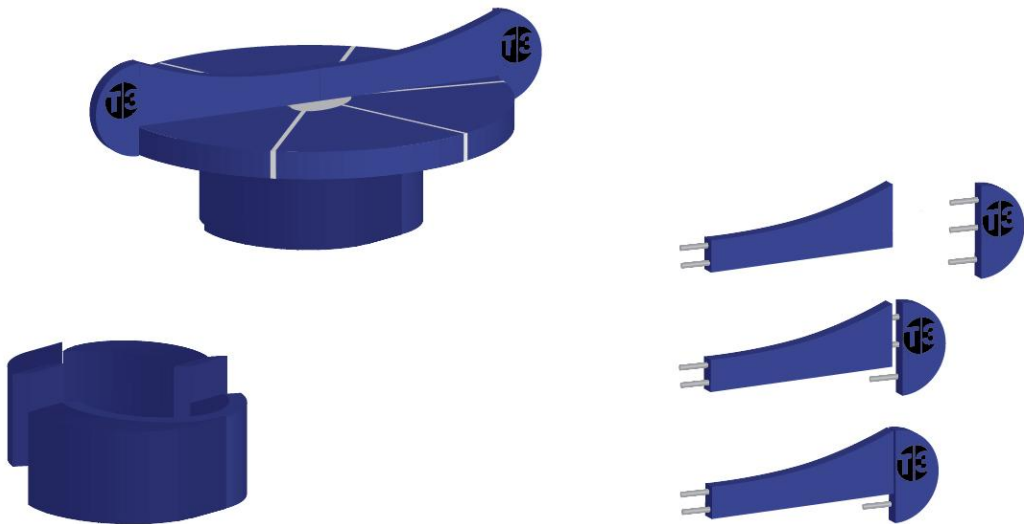


T3 Table Tennis (all weather)

## Appendix 2: T3 Table Tennis Specifications

The T3 is a round all-weather permanent Ping-Pong Table, designed for a 3-a-side version of table tennis/ping pong.

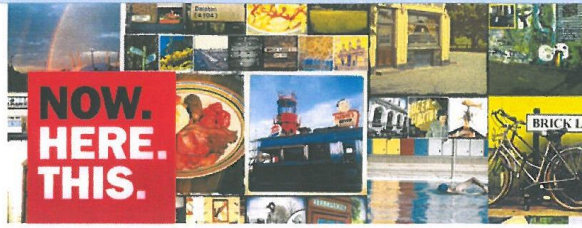
- Constructed of coloured concrete and steel
- Fixed in position (no moving parts)
- Colour options e.g. black/white, green/white, blue/white finish + special requests
- A white dome shaped centre piece (to enable ball rollback during play)
- Circular base
- Table base can be personalised



### Size:

- Diameter = 2.74m
- Height = 0.76m
- Table top thickness = 10cm

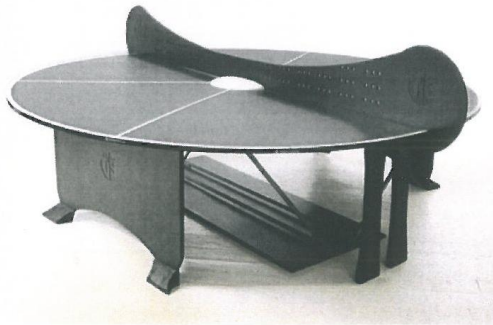
## Appendix 3: Examples of media generated by the 2013 launch of T3 tables



*The Time Out London blog: your daily guide*

### **Fancy a three way? Get triple the table tennis at this week's ping pong events**

Posted at 1:30 pm, September 6, 2013 in [Fun London](#), [News](#)



If you haven't yet caught on to London's ping pong craze, the prospect of playing five of your friends at the same time might just convince you. This unusual three-way ping pong table is doing the rounds at the 'Give it a Go' sports festival at Parliament Hill Fields this Sunday, aimed at giving families the chance to try their hand at several new sports. Playing six-a-side on a table like this is very popular in Australia, apparently. Once you've got the wiff waff buq, practise your skills at Rich