

REMARKS BY H. E. MR. HAYASHI HAJIME.



I am delighted to be here in Oxford with you all today at the Oku Memorial Trophy rugby event. It is heart-warming to know that the intense passion for rugby exhibited by Ambassador OKU Katsuhiko, who was tragically killed in the line of duty in Iraq in 2003, has touched and inspired his friends and colleagues as well as younger rugby players from both Japan and the UK.

Katsu Oku was well known for his attachment to Oxford as well as his passion for rugby. I have no doubt that he would be very grateful for today's occasion, a precious opportunity to commemorate and celebrate his life, and I deeply appreciate the efforts of the organisers in making it a much-anticipated annual event.

This year, the Oku Memorial Trophy rugby event has the added element of the planting of cherry trees as part of the Sakura Tree Project. This is one of the flagship initiatives under the Japan-UK Season of Culture to foster an amicable bilateral relationship, which Katsu Oku worked so enthusiastically to bring about. I am fascinated that, thanks to the efforts of everyone involved in this project to plant over 7,000 cherry trees all over the UK, such trees are likely to become a part of the lives of the British people. As they mature and blossom each year, I trust they will bring joy to people across the UK and remind them of the deep friendship between our two nations and peoples. The pandemic and lockdown brought us so much sorrow and pain, but I believe, as our presence here today suggests, that we have largely overcome the hardest and the most difficult part. I hope we can remember today's occasion as a significant milestone on the road to a brighter future. I am quite sure that such a vision would perfectly accord with Katsu Oku's personality.

Thank you for your attention, and enjoy the match!

Hayashi Hajime HAYASHI Hajime, Ambassador of Japan to the UK

MESSAGE FROM REG CLARK



After a very enjoyable day of covid-restricted touch rugby at the Richmond Athletic Ground in April, it's a pleasure to be able once more to stage full contact 15 a side rugby, and to return to Oxford and our traditional timing for this event. Today is also special as Ambassador Hayashi says above in that we will be using the occasion to plant some cherry blossom trees at Iffley Road in memory of Katsu Oku courtesy of the Japanese government's Sakura Project, to whom many thanks. I would also like to take this opportunity to offer our condolences on the recent sad passing of Katsu's mentor, and great friend of OURFC, Hiroshi Hibino – the guiding light behind Waseda University RFC for

many years. The relationship between OURFC and WURFC, which Katsu did so much to develop, gets stronger as the years go by and how gratifying it must have been to Mr Hibino that they were Japanese university champions once more in January 2020. It's now 18 years since Katsu was tragically taken from us whilst on diplomatic duty with the UN post-war reconstruction programme in Iraq – his legacy, however, in the form of the 2019 Rugby World Cup in Japan, which he did so much to bring about, and the respect, love and affection which he still inspires in so many people and places, lives on.

A big thank you today to all participants, players, referees and spectators - and especially to Tim Stevens and all at OURFC for hosting the event.

Reg Clark

OKU TROPHY PAST RESULTS

20/09/2004	Waseda University 25 Oxford University 9 Chichibunomiya Stadium, Tokyo	07/12/2013	Vincent's/Hertford 57 London Japanese 0 Kew Occasionals 48 Vincent's/Hertford 22 Kew Occasionals 31 London Japanese 7 Iffley Road, Oxford
26/11/2005	Kew Occasionals 31 London Japanese 28 Richmond Athletic Ground	13/12/2014	Vincent's/Hertford 24 London Japanese 10 Kew Occasionals 47 Vincent's/Hertford 10 Kew Occasionals 42 London Japanese 10 Iffley Road, Oxford
25/11/2006	New York Japanese 7 London Japanese 0 Kew Occasionals 30 New York Japanese 5 Kew Occasionals 25 London Japanese 7 Richmond Athletic Ground	13/09/2015	Oxford University 26 Waseda University 7 Kew Occasionals 63 London Japanese 7 Iffley Road, Oxford
24/11/2007	Kew Occasionals 31 London Japanese 19 Richmond Athletic Ground	15/05/2016	Waseda University ROB 31 Kew Occasionals 32 Kami-igusa, Tokyo
10/12/2008	Kew Occasionals/OURFC 1988 XV 48 London Japanese 26 Richmond Athletic Ground	03/12/2016	Kew Occasionals 48 London Japanese 21 Richmond Athletic Ground
28/11/2009	Kew Occasionals 44 London Japanese 31 Richmond Athletic Ground	02/12/2017	Hertford College 24 London Japanese 12 Kew Occasionals 21 Hertford College 7 Kew Occasionals 29 London Japanese 7 Richmond Athletic Ground
04/12/2010	Hertford College 31 London Japanese 15 Vincent's Club 21 Kew Occasionals 7 London Japanese 15 Kew Occasionals 5 Vincent's Club 5 Hertford College 0 Iffley Road, Oxford	11/03/2018	Oxford University 27 Waseda University 19 Iffley Road, Oxford.
03/12/2011	Hertford College 19 London Japanese 5 Kew Occasionals 50 Vincent's Club 5 Vincent's Club 39 London Japanese 10 Kew Occasionals 50 Hertford College 7 Iffley Road, Oxford	17/11/2018	London Japanese Veterans 23 Commons & Lords 19 Kew Occasionals 33 London Japanese 10 Richmond Athletic Ground
08/12/2012	Kew Occasionals 35 London Japanese 12 Vincent's/Hertford 29 London Japanese 24 Kew Occasionals 31 Vincent's/Hertford 7 Iffley Road, Oxford	18/09/2019	Waseda University 0 Oxford University 3 Kami-igusa, Tokyo
		07/12/2019	Kew Occasionals 43 London Japanese 24 Richmond Athletic Ground

TOUCH TOURNAMENT

- Hertford College
 - OURFC Old Boys
 - Kew Occasionals
 - London Japanese
 - Commons & Lords.
- Richmond Athletic Ground, April 17th 2021**

OKU MEMORIAL TROPHY

奥 記念杯

RUGBY TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2021



日英両国の絆が、
ラグビーを通じて強めてくれた
奥 克彦君のご遺志とともに、
未来に継承されることを祈ります。

May Japan and United Kingdom,
with the bonds through the Game of Rugby
and the will of Mr. Katsuhiko Oku,
forge a finely-woven relationship toward the future.

表 石川

1PM KICK-OFF
OURFC, IFFLEY ROAD GROUND

PARTICIPATING TEAMS



LONDON
JAPANESE



OXFORD
UNIVERSITY
WHIPPETS



KEW
OCCASIONALS



HERTFORD
COLLEGE

SPONSORS





Photographs courtesy of Anthony Lynn