

Remarks by H.E. Mr Hiroshi Suzuki,
Ambassador of Japan to the UK,
at the Awarding of the Ambassador's
Commendation to Jockey Club
on 17th April 2025

Baroness Dido Harding (ダイドー・ハーディング),
Distinguished guests,

Good afternoon. Thank you for having me and my wife Eiko to very historical Jockey Club room where, more than 250 years ago, the rules that formed the foundation of modern horse racing were formulated.

I have the privilege of awarding the Ambassador's Commendation to Jockey Club in appreciation of its outstanding achievements, including the formation of a multi-layered network through horse racing between Japan and the United Kingdom.

Horse racing knows no borders. It is illustrated by Auguste Rodin (オーギュスト ロダン), who won the Epsom Derby in 2023 and whose father is the great Japanese stallion 'Deep Impact (ディープインパクト)'. When Auguste Rodin raced in the Japan Cup last year, there was a lot of excitement among Japanese fans, something that I believe is testament to the power of horse racing to 'bridge' the two countries.

Furthermore, the jockey of ‘Deep Impact’(ディープインパクト) is Mr. Yutaka TAKE, who is one of the most famous jockeys in Japan. He always says that he wants to ride in and win the Derby at Epsom Racecourse at least once in his life!

Horse racing is not only an event, but also a “nexus” that brings people together. My predecessors have been invited to countless events by the Jockey Club and enjoyed meeting all of those connected to its work.

Other notable achievements of the Jockey Club include its showcasing of products like the Japanese Melon to horse racing professionals, and

its contribution to the promotion of Japanese culture through the Japan-Britain Cherry Tree Planting Project.

I would like to thank you once again for your cooperation in the Embassy's activities, and I would like to reflect on the Jockey Club's achievements to date. Congratulations and best wishes for the future.

Congratulations!