

19.05.2019 What's the Pre-Games camps? | From Kid Reporters

500 Days To Go! Festival



The City of Yokohama receives assistance in writing reports from members of the Tsuzuki Junior Editorial Board, located in Tsuzuki Ward, home to Yokohama International Pool and site of the British Olympic Team's preparation camp.

This article covers 500 Days To Go! Festival held in March, 2019.
Please check it out!

It's now less than 500 days to go until the Tokyo 2020 Olympic & Paralympic Games. Accordingly, there are a variety of Games-related events held in Japan. We, junior reporters joined "500 Days to go!" Festival, an event related Tokyo 2020 Games which was held around Shin-Yokohama Park. It was on a wide scale, and we found the booth which introduces about our host town program with the UK.

Junior reporters showed their interests in one of the mini concerts which were held at the main stage. "Alchemist", Japanese duo and children from Okamura Elementary School performed "Ano Sora" composed by the duo and Japanese school children. Reporters also enjoyed the show by Games Mascots and "Foorin", the group of 5 elementary schoolers who are popular with "Paprika", the fight song for the Games used on NHK.



Reporters also had a chance to get the hands-on experience mainly related to Para sports, and they tried a wheelchair basketball and wore prosthesis for sports. It was a valuable experience which enabled kids to get familiar to Paralympic sports and warm to cheering at Tokyo 2020 Games.



Here are some feedback from junior reporters

I enjoyed some performances at the stage in Nissan Stadium. The first performance was the special live show by "Alchemist" with school kids from Okamura Elementary School. It was so impressive. The vocalist of Alchemist is physically impaired, however, he did not hide his disability and performed with his head held high and it touched my heart. The next one was the show which allows the audience to join the stage to sing and dance "Paprika" together. After the show, I challenged wheelchair basketball. It was so hard to hit the shot with my hands due to using a wheelchair. But, it gradually became easier to hit the shot once I got the hang and made it more fun. It looks so easy when I watch TV showing top athletes hitting a shot, but I realized how hard it is when I actually tried it.

Risa Sogo

I got a chance to ride on two-seated bike for visually impaired athletes to sit on the back. I sat on the back, and an event staff pedaled a bike. I was told to close my eyes halfway through to experience how it feels like and it was so scary especially when we made a turn with my eyes closed. It's so amazing that para athletes are in sync with their guides at races even they are blind.

Mirei Katai

I didn't have much chance to watch para sports before. But I had many para-related experiences like wearing prosthesis and playing a wheelchair race and a wheelchair basketball at this event. It was hard to walk with prosthesis because it felt like my leg was bouncing. At the try-out area for a wheelchair race, I tried how fast I can pedal the wheel with sitting on the sports-specific wheelchair and the staff took my time. It was very tiring to pedal the wheel to be fast. I recorded 13.7km/h at the beginning but I got tired and gradually slowed down so it was only 7km/h at the end.

Shota Suzuki

The most interesting experience of the day was to time the speed when I shoot the ball. I have tried 3 times and my best record was 48km/h. The best record of all of the day was 87km/h. I wish I could kick the ball faster to beat the record. They also have a lot more activities like a wheelchair basketball and marathon with blinders on.

Rintaro Fujie

So many booths were lined up. The most attractive experience for me was to wear prosthesis. It was very heavy and brought a little discomfort. It is incredible that the handicapped athletes with their legs walk and run with that much weight. I also tried the wheelchair basketball. It was hard to hit the goal with sitting on a wheelchair and could not make a goal, so I was so happy when I made a goal. I will give my best to support not only the Olympic athletes but also the Paralympic athletes.

Mashiro Yamada



About Tsuzuki Junior Editorial Board

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28.06.2019 What's the Pre-Games camps? | From Kid Reporters

British Swimmers Meet Yokohama! ~ 2018 Japan Para Swimming Championship



The City of Yokohama receives assistance in writing reports from everyone at Tsuzuki Junior Editorial Board, located in Tsuzuki Ward, home to Yokohama International Pool and site of the British Olympic Team's preparation camp.

This article covers 「2018 Japan Para Swimming Championship」 held on September, 2018. Please check it out!

British Swimmers Meet Yokohama! ~ 2018 Japan Para Swimming Championship

2018 Japan Para Swimming Championship was held at Yokohama International Swimming Pool in Kitayamata, and 12 young reporters were there to cheer all the swimmers. First, they checked the program schedule which was handed out at the game venue to see who are participating from the UK in the game. Once a British athlete appeared, everyone shouted "GO GB!" with the British flags in their hands, and the rest of time, they enjoyed the cheering with the calls of "Nippon cha-cha-cha!". Their shouts have surely reached the athletes.

Here are some reporters' voice.

I was surprised many of the British swimmers made a new record as they performed. I would like to deepen our friendship with England toward Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Shinnosuke Kubo

All the handicapped swimmers have performed brilliantly at the Japan Para Championship. Every swimmer was making effort to do their best. I was impressed to see them work hard with never-give-up spirit even some of them finish in last place and everyone never stop challenging even with their disabilities. I would like them to keep challenging.

Sayuki Yamada

As I watched the Japan Para Swimming Championship, I was strongly impressed by one athlete with only one arm. He (or she) finished swimming 100m, and what is more, his (or her) record was about the same as mine. It was a great experience to watch this competition.

Akari Shikata

It was the first time for me to watch handicapped athletes' sports competition. I thought it was a valuable experience to watch the live game so I have already been excited before the game began.

The United States, Canada, Mexico, Columbia, the United Kingdom, Spain, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan all participated in the Championship. I was so surprised that the athletes in every country swam so fast. Furthermore, I was amazed that there were many athletes who made the new championship record or new Japan record. Their swimming form were very nice that completely inspired me to learn by watching.

I especially focused on the British athletes (I, of course, cheered for Japan too!) because one of the British pre-games camps for Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games will take place in Tsuzuki-ku.

I hope all Japanese will support the British athletes as well Japanese athletes with the "GO GB! (=GREAT BRITAIN)" slogan to make our friendship closer and stronger.

Kiyori Tanaka

I watched the final race in the afternoon. The first thing surprised me was that there were so many people here to watch the game.

On one side of the seats, all the business people from the various organizations were watching, and the other side was filled with the public of all ages.

The photo introduces the awards ceremony for S6 100m Freestyle (Women). Maisie Summers Newton reached the podium with the powerful swimming even she is petite, and she made us a big fan of her.



Another photo introduces the awards ceremony for S10 for the same category. To my surprise, Zara Mullooly is a high school student and is only a year older than me. In 50m Butterfly (Men), a wide range of swimmers like elementary schoolers and middle schoolers participated while middle-aged swimmers performed brilliantly.



The photo below introduces the awards ceremony for S12 100m Freestyle (Men). Stephen Clegg won the first prize and set the new record. He is visually impaired but his pace was as fast as the non-handicapped swimmers. At the first game of the same category, some swimmer performed with backstroke, not crawl which reminded me the idea of thinking outside the box.



Most of the audience was Japanese since the competition was held in Japan, however, everybody supported all athletes regardless of their countries. I think it is one of the good aspects of Para sports.

Many foreign athletes won the first prize at this Championship while many Japanese also reached the podium. I expect the swimming might be the one of the sports that Japanese can win the medal at Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. There are many more remarkable swimmers across the world which makes the games tough for Japanese athletes, however, I would like to support not only the Japanese swimmers but also the foreign swimmers from all over the world.

Maka Nakajima

Reported by: Shinnosuke Kubo, Koki Kuwano, Nanako Takahashi, Sayuki Yamada, Mashiro Yamada, Akari Shikata, Riko Matsuoka, Yuri Mori, Ami Hasegawa, Kiyori Tanaka, Maka Nakajima

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01.10.2019 What's the Pre-Games camps? | From Kid Reporters | Pre-Games camps reports

Team GB Came to Yokohama International Pool (YIP)! GO GB!



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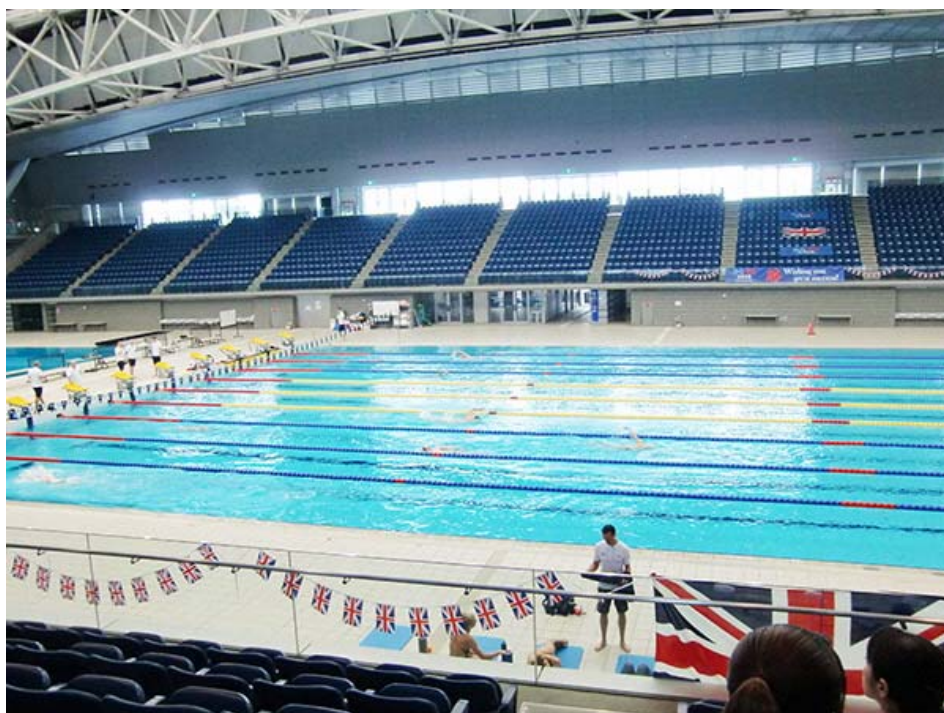
We visited the Yokohama International Pool for the open training session held by the British athletes (Team GB) who participated in the 2019 FINA World Aquatics Championships, held in Gwangju, South Korea from July 12th to 28th, 2019. We also joined them at their send-off ceremony where local students had the chance to interact with them on the last day of their training camp.

Please enjoy our reports!

[Team GB Preparation Camp on the 13th of July: Open Training Session]

We, Junior reporters observed their training by the pool. Many junior high school students in the neighborhood including athletes from local school swimming clubs were also there for the open session and enthusiastic to learn from professionals like them.

The manager at YIP explained to us that they adjusted the pool condition as to the international level competitions wherein water temperature was as low as 27°C, and pool depth was deeper than usual. In this preparation camp, the athletes had 2-hour trainings in the morning and afternoon, for nine consecutive days.



We had the time to observe the training from the audience seats. Trainings included swimming 1500M back-to-back, freestyle with one arm up, and flutter kick practices where four athletes got in sync.

They were mainly swimming at a slow pace, but once the coach timed a race, it seemed like the athletes doubled their paces than usual. When they had the time, they waved their hands at us making us very happy.

After the training, some athletes and staff took the time to answer some of our questions. Junior reporters asked questions in English they worked hard to prepare. The interpreter translated the athletes' answer for us, and the athletes gave compliments on our English, and said "You speak good English."



Q: What do you think about the pool at Yokohama International Pool?

A: Thanks to all the excellent staff of the facility, the pool condition was very nice and perfect for swimming.

Q: How much do you swim a day?

A: On daily trainings, I swim for about 12-14km a day.

Q: What made you start swimming?

A: When I was 12, a certain swimming athlete inspired me.

Q: What is the interesting thing part of swimming?

A: I have a lot of chances to travel around the world for competitions. It is nice and fun to see the world.

Q: How do you move on when you fall into a slump?

A: I review my swimming to find out what is bad and restart from the beginning.

Q: What do you eat before a competition?

A: It is different for each athlete. I try to have lots of vegetables and protein.

Reported by: Naoki Kikuchi, Sara Kobayashi, Yuri Mori, Hitoha Shimizu, Mao Shimizu,
Aika Ishijima, Ayako Adachi, Ami Hasegawa, Kiyori Tanaka and Shota Suzuki

[Send-off ceremony on 16th July]



The ceremony began with the song, "Believe," sung by the YIP Choir, which is also used for their practice. The athletes and staff were welcomed afterwards. The song was chosen to let the athletes know that they are being believed of the results of their hard work and that they can yield their best performance.

After everybody was seated, students from Kitayamata Elementary School handed message cards written for each athlete. The cards were decorated with dried flowers from Yokohama which were prepared by students from Shikinomori Elementary School. Messages for the team were then written by students of Kitayamata Elementary School. The giving of message cards was then followed by the recorder performance, "The Promise of the World," by Higashiyamata Elementary School.

They chose this song to convey the message of achieving world peace through sports. Lastly, the athletes gave words of gratitude and presented a framed message board. The ceremony ended with a group photo. The children made a runway where they sent the team off with high fives. Their hands were as big as our faces, and we were also surprised at how tall they were.

**Reported by: Yuina Tsukioka, Sara Kobayashi, Risa Sogo, Ami Hasegawa,
Kokoro Tanaka, Asumi Noguchi and Kokono Hirota.**



[Junior reporters' impression]

I was impressed that the athletes showed no sign of tiredness even though they swam long distances. I thought to myself, "These guys are really professional athletes." The team looked happy when they received farewell gifts from students at the ceremony. I hope that they show results of their hard work at the World Championships.

Ami Hasegawa, 6th grader

We welcomed the team with a song at the send-off ceremony. All athletes were tall that the folding chairs prepared for them appeared smaller than actual. I wondered if the taller the athletes were, the faster they could touch the goal panels. I want to support the British athletes, as well as the Japanese athletes. I wish they keep trying and keep doing their best.

Yuina Tsukioka, 5th grader

It was impressive that the athletes showed me a gentle smile when they passed through the runway made by the students, even though they were tired from the training that lasted until just before the ceremony. I really wish them the best in World Championships.

Asumi Noguchi, 5th grader

They showed us their fine play as a team. The best moment that showed their bond as a team was during their dive into the pool. If a diver makes a mistake, the athlete who supports the training would get injured. After seeing that, I thought, "They trust each other." I, again, realized how important it is to support one another during trainings.

Ayako Adachi, 6th grader

At the end of the send-off ceremony, British athletes passed by and I shouted, "GO GB!" from behind. Then, they replied, "Oh, Thank You!" It was a happy moment.

Risa Sogo, 6th grader

I think it was a really good experience to participate in a program where I could interact with British athletes. I found the joy to communicate with people beyond language barriers, and it gained my interest for Britain. I would like to make more opportunities to learn about Britain through the World Championships and Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

Kiyori Tanaka, 6th grader

At this opportunity, I was very impressed by the British team. As I observe their training, it was evident that they have been swimming for a very long time, yet they were so nice to wave at us and answer our questions kindly. They were also friendly to give small children athletes' card and a high five. It was a great opportunity to support the British team's training with a GO GB flag in hand. At the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics next year, I want to support the British team and contribute to the team.

Naoki Kikuchi, 6th grader

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07.10.2019 What's the Pre-Games camps? | From Kid Reporters

A Real Taste of Britain in Japan ~ the tour for British Embassy, Tokyo



The City of Yokohama receives assistance in writing reports from everyone at Tsuzuki Junior Editorial Board, located in Tsuzuki Ward, home to Yokohama International Pool and site of the British Olympic Team's preparation camp.

This article covers "A Real Taste of Britain in Japan" held on August, 2018.

Please check it out!

Tsuzuki-ku was the place selected for the British pre-games preparation camps for Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games. All junior reporters at Tsuzuki Junior News Office gained their interests for UK and visited British Embassy in Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo to seek for the opportunity of how they can support for British athletes as a host city in 2020.



Once we entered the building, we were deeply impressed by its size. We surely get lost without a guide. Inside, we found an acorn tree and a cute house straight out of a fairy tale. In its garden, we saw many cherry blossom trees and heard that some (one) of them were (was) planted by Queen Elizabeth. In addition, the swimming pool is for the staff. The tour brought us endless surprises.

The guide asked us "Is there anyone who ever visited UK?" Nobody raised his/her hand, but he said "Actually this is the territory of UK and you are all now in the UK". His answer made everyone surprised, but it surely is like the UK to see all the British-styled building and scenery.



At the ambassador's residence, the floor is all covered by red carpet, and the gorgeous chandelier is sparkling above. In the guest room, you can see the British government collection of paintings and a huge fireplace which made the building just like a castle. The beautiful furniture and mysterious decorations also impressed us.

The 1st floor is mainly used for the guests, and the gatherings take place every day. British Embassy supports our diplomacy between Japan and Great Britain and assisting British citizens who currently live in Japan. The ambassador's residence was established in this place in 1875 and was rebuilt in 1931. Also, the ambassador actually lives there.



We were welcomed with afternoon tea in the beautiful room, and began our interview with English black tea and biscuits.

Here are some reports from their interviews;

Interviewee: Mr. Greg Mulheirn, Counselor for Olympic and Paralympic Affairs

Atsuyuki Miyashita (6th grader)

Q: "What made you inspired to work at the British Embassy in Japan?"

A: I had many chances to visit various countries by working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the British Government. Among the many countries in the world, it is very attractive to work especially in Japan which has a deep bond with our nation, UK. So far, I enjoy having Japanese dishes every day.

Akari Shikata (6th grader)

Q: "Please tell me your impression of Japanese people."

A: It is wonderful that many of Japanese are very detail-orientated and perform their tasks (follow the direction) perfectly.

Kiyori Tanaka (5th grader)

Q: "Is there any plan that someone from the British Royal Family visit Japan for Tokyo Olympic or Paralympic game?"

A: It is not officially announced yet, however, there is a former athlete for Equestrian in the Royal family might visit Japan.

Maka Nakajima (9th grader)

Q: "In 2020, how would you introduce Japan to British athletes who participate in the Olympic Games?"

A: We will tell them about Japanese culture, and we would like to add that Japanese are very shy.

Shinnosuke Kubo (6th grader)

Q: "What kind of impression do your people have for Japan?"

A: Japanese martial arts, comics and dishes are very popular in the UK. Japan has advanced technology and a traditional culture. It is also attractive that the traffic is accurate which makes out travel very convenient.

Rintaro Fujie (5th grader)

Q: "It is planned that the British Pre-Games Preparation Camp for 2020 Olympic takes place in Yokohama International Swimming Pool. Is there anything we can help at the time?"

A: It's very nice to hear that! All the British athletes would appreciate your friendship. Please support the UK as well as Japan.

Mao Shimizu (5th grader)

Q: "What is the most famous sightseeing spot in the UK?"

A: Lake District is very famous for tourists. It is known as the birthplace of Peter Rabbit story. Of course, we have many more famous tourist spots. I would recommend you to visit and see.

Naoki Kikuchi (5th grader)

Q: "Would you continue an international exchange with Tsuzuki-ward after 2020 Olympic Games?"

A: We do not have any specific plan at this point, however, I am sure that will increase the chances to exchange our cultures and deepen our friendship as many British athletes will visit Japan toward the year of 2020. And I hope we can keep our friendship after Olympic Games.



Junior reporters' impression

After the interview with the counselor in this tour, I found that we have a deep connection with the UK. I would like to study more about the British culture and hope we can help introducing Japanese culture as a host town.

Maka Nakajima

I was surprised to know that the premises are the territory of the UK. Also, many of embassy staff were very nice and their guide was very simple and easy to understand. It was nice to exchange the business cards with the counselor.

Naoki Kikuchi

I found out that Japanese dishes and comics are popular in the UK. I am also happy to know that Japan is popular because Japanese technology is advanced and its combination of culture, festivals and technology. I will support British athletes at Olympic Game.

Shiho Komori

I was impressed that the size of the garden was huge and beyond my expectations. It has a swimming pool and a tennis court. I wish I could live there.

Mao Shimizu

This tour gained my interest, and I want to visit the UK. I have a friend who had lived in London so I was interested in the UK. And this tour expanded my image about the UK. I am sure many British athletes will play in Rugby World Cup 2019 and Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. I hope I can support not only the British athletes but also the British tourists who visit Japan.

Shinnosuke Kubo

I was surprised when I found out it was highly guarded and it's beyond my expectations. And it also impressed me because the site is as big as a school and the ambassador actually lives there.

Koki Kuwano

I was happy to visit British Embassy, which is actually the UK. The English biscuits and black tea were very tasty. I did not give any question because I was too shy, but it was nice to hear others' interview and answers. It was a so valuable experience.

Mirei Katai

I was impressed by the ambassador's residence. It was so wide and gorgeous, but he (she) lives a simple and plain life just like ours. At the interview, I was served with black tea and biscuits. It was fancy and I felt like a princess.

Risa Sogo

This interview gained my interests for the UK. I hope many Japanese will have a chance to know more about the UK.

Atsuyuki Miyashita

It was a big advantage to take a tour in the embassy because it is limited for the public. Both inside and outside were gorgeous and it brought endless surprises. I hope our friendship will be deeper and stronger for the time of Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

Akari Shikata

At the interview, I had black tea and chef-made biscuits. It was really fantastic inside. Thank you for the chance to have such valuable experience.

Kiyori Tanaka

I did not know much about the UK, so I studied about the details on Internet and asked my friends before the interview. The most surprising thing was its size, because I could see the Embassy when I arrived at the station, but it took 5-10 minutes to get there. And inside of the facility is so huge and fancy.

Rintaro Fujie

Reported by: Atsuyuki Miyashita, Akari Shikata, Risa Sogo, Rintaro Fujie, Kiyori Tanaka, Mirei Katai, Koki Kuwano, Shinnosuke Kubo, Mao Shimizu, Maka Nakajima, Shiho Komori, Naoki Kikuchi, Ami Hasegawa, Miyu Taoka, Kana Takeshita

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19.10.2019 What's the Pre-Games camps? | From Kid Reporters

“Shaun the sheep” panel exhibition and Yokohama International Swimming Pool



The City of Yokohama receives assistance in writing reports from members of the Tsuzuki Junior Editorial Board, located in Tsuzuki Ward, home to Yokohama International Pool and site of the British Olympic Team’s preparation camp.

This article covers the Shaun the sheep panel exhibition and Yokohama International Swimming Pool.

Please check it out!

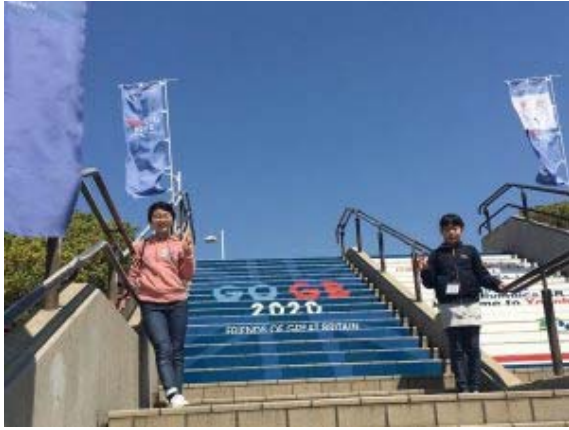
Yokohama City is the official host town for the UK for Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Shaun the sheep, a British animated TV character has become our PR ambassador to set the mood for the Team GB pre-Games training camps in Yokohama. The city has prepared 6-different-designed display panels and placed 1 at Tsuzuki Ward Administration Office and 1 at Yokohama International Swimming Pool (hereinafter referred to as YIP). We visited the ward office and YIP to see how they promoting the pre-camp.

At the Ward Office, the panel is usually displayed by the information desk of Community Promotion Division at 5th floor but the staff moves it to the main hall at 1st floor in case they have the special events for Ward-related exhibition.



The other one for YIP is displayed at the wide lobby area between the main entrance and the main pool. The display is very cute and good for the photo spot. We also found the UK-themed quiz style display panel and the brochures in the building.

And the stairs to the Pool outside the building are also decorated with GOGB paintings and the GOGB banners at the side. You can see them when you walk from Kitayamata Station. Shaun the sheep has also brought additional excitement at the local fest last year. I was so excited to hear that many more lectures and events are planned in the future to strengthen our friendship with the UK.



YIP is planned to be used as the training venue for Team GB preparation camp. We're not sure if we have the chance for engagement programs with the athletes who are busy for the training. However, we would like to interview them if possible. We have interviewed the staff of YIP about the water temperature when they have big competitions like International Championships. The answer was that they try to keep the water temperature lower than one for the public and they also change it seasonally. It was unexpected, and surprised us because we thought it was constant through the year. We gained our interests in the UK after our visit. We would like to set the mood for the Olympic and Paralympic Games as one of the Tsuzuki-Ward residents.

Reported by: Akari Shikata, Kiyori Tanaka

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26.12.2019 What's the Pre-Games camps? | From Kid Reporters

We visited the Nippon Foundation Para Arena in Tokyo and met with Prince Harry!



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This time, we visited the Nippon Foundation Para Arena in Tokyo, which is known as the base of Japan para-sports.

Britain's Prince Harry, who was visiting Japan to watch the final match in the Rugby World Cup (held in International Stadium Yokohama on November 2nd) happen to be there to interact with Japanese para athletes. Junior reporters that did not know Prince Harry's visit were so surprised by the unexpected show-up, but they did a great job to cover Para Arena. Now please check it out!

Does anyone have a plan to watch Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games to be held next year? We, junior reporters, visited the Nippon Foundation Para Arena in Odaiba this time.

The Nippon Foundation Para Arena was built to provide the place for para-athletes to strengthen their abilities, and also to allow many people to learn about para-sports in preparation for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics. The arena is used not only for the training of Japanese national para-athletes but also for those of club teams. It is one of the few valuable facilities which also allow athletes from overseas to learn about Japanese language and culture.

When you first step into the building, you will find a giant artwork on the wall. This piece was designed by Shingo Katori and made from Legos. You can see Tokyo Skytree and Tokyo Tower in the work that expresses a wish to bring the world as one which including all the town.



The arena incorporates universal design principles and made it easy for to understand. It is fully wheelchair accessible that the walkway is wide enough for wheelchair users to pass each other, and also braille blocks and slopes are equipped. Most doors are also wide and sliding-typed for sports-specific wheelchairs. In fact, we did saw wheelchair users passed through a doorway so smoothly.

We walked in the gymnasium called 'Arena' and saw some athletes were having the training of Boccia and Wheelchair Rugby.

Boccia involves throwing, rolling or hitting six red and six blue balls toward a white target ball called jack and compete as close as possible. All the athletes were taking careful aim and rolling balls. We could see how earnest they were.

It was also the first time to watch Wheelchair Rugby. It seems that there are some other detailed rules, such as teams have just 40 seconds to score a try. When I look carefully, the wheelchairs which the athletes use are different from ones we usually see, the angle of the wheels is inverted V-shaped. And the structure of wheelchairs is different between attack and defense. When athletes clashed, the echo in the Arena was so loud. I thought this is a bit of dangerous sport. I wondered if athletes were not afraid or hurt to clash and fall.

And as we were watching their training, Britain's Prince Harry has walked in the Para Arena!
And he talked to us!

Prince Harry is the patron of the Rugby Football Union. He is very passionate about sports promotion and visited Japan this time to support the match in the Rugby World Cup final.



Reporters' impressions

My image of Prince Harry is uptight in a suit and goes everywhere with a bodyguard, but the prince surprisingly showed up in casual clothes with no bodyguard. He sat diagonally forward of me and talked to everybody with a smile. He also asked me "Can you speak English?" and I answered "I can speak just a little.", but he gently replied, "That's enough." It was so impressive to see the prince nearby whom I usually watch on TV.

After a while, the prince walked towards athletes of Wheelchair Rugby and Boccia. I thought he was nice that he talks to every athlete.

I met Prince Harry face-to-face, and now I feel the closeness. At the Olympic and Paralympic Games, I wanted to support both Japanese and British teams. The attraction of sports is boundless! I'm looking forward to the next year.

Naoki Kikuchi, 6th grader

Prince Harry watched Wheelchair Rugby and Boccia enthusiastically. During the tour, he smiled and talked to the athletes who were practicing and also us who were reporting about Para Arena. I was impressed by his kind attitude and his friendly smile. He was gentler than I expected.

Asumi Noguchi, 5th grader

Prince Harry was tall and politely talked to us. The Prince asked me, "Is there a swimming pool in your school?" When I checked about it later, I found out that most schools in Britain do not have swimming pools. I was surprised because it is usual to have swimming pools in Japanese schools. I couldn't talk to Prince Harry this time because I cannot speak English. I want to study English from now on to communicate with people from all over the world.

Yuina Tsukioka, 5th grader

When the Prince walked in the Para Arena, the atmosphere changed suddenly, and my heart was pounding, but when he talked to us, he squatted down to our eye level. I felt like talking with one gentleman rather than talking to the Prince, and it was very touching!

Sara Kobayashi, 5th grader

Prince Harry was a very friendly and said "hello!" to us, the junior reporters from Tsuzuki Junior Editorial Board. I replied to him questions such as "Which country will win the final in the Rugby World Cup tonight." and "Is there a swimming pool at my school." I look forward to seeing British athletes coming to Yokohama next year.

Rintaro Fujie, 6th grader

I had a chance to introduce myself to Prince Harry. The Prince spoke to me very friendly with a smile. He was also talking friendly to Boccia and Wheelchair Rugby athletes.

I was thrilled and impressed by the unexpected opportunity to meet Prince Harry. It was a valuable experience.

Kokono Hirota, 5th grader

Prince Harry observed the training of Boccia and Wheelchair Rugby with us, which are Paralympic sports. After that, he approached to all the athletes and enjoyed talking with them. Prince Harry was tall and kind, and he spoke to many people friendly. I spoke to him a little. I was very happy, but I wish I could talk to him more.

Shota Suzuki, 6th grader

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31.03.2020 What's the Pre-Games camps? | From Kid Reporters

Welcome to Yokohama! #1 Popular Tourist Attractions in Minatomirai



The City of Yokohama receives assistance in writing reports from everyone at Tsuzuki Junior Editorial Board, located in Tsuzuki Ward, home to Yokohama International Pool and site of the British Olympic Team's preparation camp.

Today, we'll try a different style of article, introducing some nice tourist spots which we recommend in Yokohama and Tsuzuki for all of the British national team to try. Although everyone is going through difficult times and should stay home right now, we hope you will find it helpful when you visit Japan for your preparation camp next year!

Please check it out!

Cup Noodles Museum – Jotaro Yamamoto

So, what do you do when you feel hungry after a long day? Do you cook something just for yourself or do you ignore the hunger and go to bed? Here's what I do. I eat instant noodles, which are quick and easy. Today, I want to tell you about the Cup Noodles Museum where you can have fun learning about instant noodles.

Cup Noodle was originally a brand of instant noodles and rice sold by Nissin Food Products Co., Ltd., which is a Japanese food-processing company. The Cup Noodles Museum commemorates the invention of the world's first instant noodles by the company's then president, Momofuku Ando.



When you first step into the museum, you will find a giant artwork of a Cup Noodle, and lots of visitors take photos here first. Then, when you go up to the second floor, you will find many exhibits on cup noodles up to the present day, clearly showing how instant noodles were invented after President Ando came up with and developed the idea.

As you go on to the upper floor, there is a hands-on experience area where you can actually make your own Cup Noodle. This is very popular, and you can start from the basics including kneading and stretching the dough, and choose flavors and ingredients to make your own Cup Noodle.

There is also an indoor attraction called Cup Noodles Park, which offers a virtual experience of being a noodle and going through the entire manufacturing process (for 12 and under only), as well as a gift shop where you can find original items. People of all ages can enjoy and learn, so why not visit the Cup Noodles Museum and appreciate a cool aspect of Japan?

All about Nippon Maru Memorial Park – Moko Matsuyama



Nippon Maru Memorial Park is a park in front of the Yokohama Landmark Tower where there is also a huge ship called Nippon Maru. It's a hilly park, so it's good exercise to run around the area. In addition, by going up the hill you can enjoy wonderful views of beautiful trees like oaks, and also a Ferris wheel. It is a unique and breathtaking sight which can be seen only in Minatomirai. Please go and visit Nippon Maru Memorial Park. It's my favorite place!

Dockyard Garden, from the past to the future – Mirai Yamamoto



My hometown, Yokohama, is a beautiful city which has both historical and modern buildings as well as lush greenery and flowers. The symbol of Yokohama is a building called Yokohama Landmark Tower, which is located on a former dockyard.

This dockyard, known as the 2nd Yokohama Dock, is the oldest extant stone-built dock in Japan for merchant vessels. This historic dockyard was restored to preserve it for the future.



The Dockyard Garden is now surrounded by many restaurants, and it's a lively area and great place to visit with family and friends.

Moreover, a show with projection mapping is held at night. I once saw the show with "STAR WARS" projection mapping with my family, which was dramatic and impressive. It was also interesting to see the show using the latest technology set in a dockyard that has a long history. You should go there!

The view from Osanbashi Pier – Riko Hiraishi



As an attractive spot in Minatomirai I recommend Osanbashi Pier. This Pier is both a domestic and international passenger terminal in Yokohama Port. Completed in 2002, the original steel pier was constructed about 130 years ago and has undergone renovation and reconstruction six times.

The best thing about the pier is that the passenger terminal has a roof garden which is open to the public 24/7. It features an eco-friendly wood deck and also a lawn area. It is popularly known as “Whale Back” because of its image of a giant whale in the ocean, and it gets busy with people when huge cruise ships arrive and leave. Because Osanbashi juts out into the bay, it provides outstanding views of all the tourist spots which symbolize the Minatomirai area such as Cosmo Clock 21, the giant Ferris wheel, Yokohama Red Brick Warehouse, Yokohama Landmark Tower, Intercontinental Yokohama Grand Hotel which is designed like a sail, and Yokohama Bay Bridge on the other side.



I especially recommend visiting to see the views around sunset. Mt. Fuji rises up behind the Minatomirai area and is lit by the fading sun; it's a breathtaking sight that will revitalize you. If you would like to get everything in Minatomirai into one picture, Osanbashi is the best place. Please visit and take photos as a memory of Yokohama.

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31.03.2020 What's the Pre-Games camps? | From Kid Reporters

Welcome to Yokohama! #2 Popular Tourist Attractions in Tsuzuki & messages to the athletes



The City of Yokohama receives assistance in writing reports from everyone at Tsuzuki Junior Editorial Board, located in Tsuzuki Ward, home to Yokohama International Pool and site of the British Olympic Team's preparation camp.

Today, we'll try a different style of article, introducing some nice tourist spots which we recommend in Yokohama and Tsuzuki for all of the British national team to try. Although everyone is going through difficult times and should stay home right now, we hope you will find it helpful when you visit Japan for your preparation camp next year!

Please check it out!

Yuina Tsukioka



Let me introduce some nice spots in Tsuzuki, Yokohama today. We have a wide variety of attractions here, from sports facilities to refreshing spots such as Yokohama International Swimming Pool, which is the most popular place in Tsuzuki, and a strawberry picking farm. There is also a huge shopping mall with many shops, where you're sure to find some favorite items or shops.



I particularly recommend the beautiful views everywhere. For example, there is a hill in Yamada Fuji Park located near Yokohama International Swimming Pool where you might be visiting around the time of the Games. Climb up the hill for an unforgettable view of the entire town of Tsuzuki.

The footbridge in Nakagawa Street is elaborate and is sometimes used as a film location. We have many other beautiful, fascinating and attractive places, so please visit when you have time. Please do your best during the Games in Japan and good luck in the Olympics and Paralympics. You can do it!

Naoki Kikuchi



Thank you for the opportunity to see your impressive and cool training at the open training session in July 2019! All of you were so kind and entertaining, and it was nice and fun to spend time together.

By the way, do you have any favorite place in Tsuzuki? While there are many shopping malls, I think Tsuzuki is a great place to live with lots of greenery such as rice paddies, fields and roads set in nature.

I was surprised to learn there is a Chinatown in the UK. We also have a very big Chinatown in Yokohama where we live, so please visit it.

Through the open training session and the interview with you, I now want to support not only Japanese teams but also the British teams at the Olympic and Paralympic Games! GO GB!

Kiyori Tanaka



I was able to learn a lot about the relationship between the UK and Japan by joining the interview for GOGB Website (Open Training Session?). In 2019, I watched the Japan Para Swimming Competition and visited the British Embassy, and this year I joined the open training session to cover the Team GB pre-camp and write news articles. Over the past two years, I greatly enjoyed interacting with people involved in the Olympic and Paralympic Games beyond the barriers of language and country.

I have never been to the UK, and there were many things I didn't know about the culture and sports. However, I learned a lot by experiencing British culture. We explored our cultural differences and similarities and discovered new things.

I haven't had many opportunities to meet people from overseas, but having joined the open training session, I now feel more familiar with British athletes, and seeing them working so hard really inspired me. I hope all the British athletes do their best at the Olympics and Paralympics.

Mao Shimizu

I love swimming and have been taking lessons since I was in kindergarten. Swimming is a big part of my life. In the summer of 2019 at Yokohama International Swimming Pool, I had a great opportunity to see British athletes who will participate in the next Olympic Games do their training, and to learn what's important for them as professional swimmers. I learned that they swim 12-14 km a day in their training and also monitor what they eat depending on their condition. I learned that's what it takes to be a true professional athlete.

I visited the British Embassy in Tokyo as a junior reporter and learned about British hospitality and culture. This visit made me feel an affinity with and interest in the UK. I look forward to seeing the British athletes compete in various sports including swimming and athletics and deliver outstanding performances. We hope Team GB will win many medals after their hard training!

Yukiteru Tsukide



Tsuzuki is the top producer of Komatsuna, or Japanese mustard spinach, in Japan. What is special about Komatsuna is that it goes well with any dish. For example, it's good for Aglio e Olio, stir-fried with dried young sardines and dried shrimp or stir-fried with pork and wood-ear (Kikurage) mushrooms. Komatsuna is rich in nutrients such as calcium, iron and beta-carotene, and contains more calcium and iron than most other vegetables.

In addition, people in Tsuzuki are very kind and helpful, so if you need help, just ask! I take swimming lessons at Tsuzuki Swimming Pool, so I would like to see a swimming race at the Olympics. I wish you all the best.

Kokono Hirota



There are many recommended attractions in Tsuzuki, Yokohama where we live. I especially recommend all the vegetables grown in Tsuzuki and the green parks. The best seasons for vegetables harvested in Tsuzuki are cabbage in spring; cucumber, potato, tomato and eggplant in summer; cabbage and eggplant in autumn; and komatsuna, spinach, radish, taro and carrot in winter.

I particularly recommend Komatsuna, Japanese mustard spinach. In 2003, Tsuzuki was the top-producer in Japan. Try our Komatsuna, it's so good!

The next thing I recommend is the many parks in Tsuzuki, which are green and beautiful. Especially, Tsuzuki Central Park has many cherry trees, which are so beautiful when they are in full bloom in spring. You can enjoy walking around the park while viewing the beautiful cherry blossoms. I also recommend Yamada Fuji Park, which has plum trees with their own beauty. The plum trees feel so Japanese. I hope you all enjoy walking in the park while appreciating the beauty of Japan, and that the Olympic Games will be a great success. I look forward to seeing you all here in Tsuzuki.

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06.11.2020 What's the Pre-Games camps? | From Kid Reporters

We interviewed Mr. Gerald Muirhead who performed at Hotch Potch Music Festival 2020, and listened to the sound of bagpipes, a traditional Scottish instrument, and saw the pipers' dress. [October, 2020]



The City of Yokohama receives assistance in writing reports from members of the Tsuzuki Junior Editorial Board, located in Tsuzuki Ward, home to Yokohama International Pool and site of the British Olympic Team's preparation camp.

Coming from the host town that welcomes the British National Teams, junior reporters have had many opportunities to learn about British culture and sports and meet people, and up to last year, had published articles on what they learned. However, this year it has been difficult to have face-to-face communication due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Nevertheless, the Hotch Potch Music Festival was held at Atrium, an event space on the first floor of the New City Hall in Yokohama, on 18th October.

This time, junior reporters interviewed Mr. Gerald Muirhead from the UK, who performed at this festival. He plays the bagpipes which is a traditional Scottish instrument.

Please check it out!

■ Gerald Muirhead, a bagpiper

Morrow Princess

We interviewed Mr. Gerald Muirhead, a bagpiper.

He said the reason why he became a bagpiper is because his grandfather was a bagpiper, and so bagpipes were familiar to him. He also said that when he went to a concert using a ticket he had won as a prize in a painting contest, he was fascinated by its traditional and cool sound.

When I asked him how many types of bagpipes there are, he said that there used to be 30 types around the world, but nowadays, just four of them, which are from Ireland, England, Scotland and Spain, are famous and have been passed down.

The Scottish bagpipes that he uses are very heavy, weighing more than 4 kg. I was so impressed to hear that he has been highly active and has had various experiences such as playing for Queen Elizabeth and also playing a part of the film music for "Tales from Earthsea" by Studio Ghibli.

I want to be a respected person like him in the future.



Mr. Gerald Muirhead with junior reporters

■ Bagpipes are fascinating!

Aisa Miyashita

We listened to Mr. Gerald Muirhead, a Japan-based bagpiper, playing the bagpipes and interviewed him. The bagpipes are a woodwind instrument using enclosed reeds fed from a constant reservoir of air in the form of a bag.

We asked him many questions in the interview.

Q: Why did you start playing the bagpipes?

A: There were two reasons. One was because my grandfather was also a bagpiper. And the second was because I was fascinated by its sound when I went to a concert using a ticket I had won as a prize in a painting contest.

Q: I've read on the Internet that you played film music for Studio Ghibli in 2006. Could you tell me which film it was?

A: It was Tales from Earthsea.

Q: What is the hat you are wearing made of?

A: It's made of ostrich feathers. It makes you look taller, so it was used by the (British) army.

Q: Is it difficult to play the bagpipes?

A: Yes. It's not like the piano where each key matches a specific musical note. It is difficult because the bagpipes are played by controlling your breathing.

Q: Are there any female bagpipers?

A: There used to be no female bagpipers, but there are now. Some 95% of all bagpipers are male. The female pipers use slightly smaller bagpipes.

There are not only Scottish bagpipes but also Irish, English, and Spanish ones. And the deer buckle on the belt and hat, which are part of a bagpiper's uniform, symbolizes "big and powerful" men. I think it is one of the country-specific cultures of Scotland where there are many wild deer.

■ Elegant Scottish culture

Minami Hashimoto

I heard Mr. Gerald Muirhead playing the bagpipes at Hotch Potch Music Festival which was held at Atrium, an event space of the New City Hall in Yokohama, on 18th October.

He showed up wearing a kilt, which is traditional Scottish Highland dress. He was wearing red tartan check plaid on a gold-edged black jacket which was gorgeous and chic.

He played five songs while explaining how bagpipes work and a bagpiper's traditional dress. "Scotland the Brave," a Scottish patriotic song, sounded brave and elegant. He told us that it was actually played on the battlefield. I was lucky to hear the well-known song "Amazing Grace." The entire space was filled with its beautiful sound, and it made me feel calm as if I were in a Scottish meadow.

He plays the bagpipes at Hotch Potch Music Festival every year with a black feather bonnet and full Highland dress. Please come to the festival next year and experience Scottish culture.



Mr. Gerald Muirhead, playing the bagpipes in traditional dress

■ The importance of passing down traditions

Airi Hayashi

I heard Mr. Gerald Muirhead playing the bagpipes at Hotch Potch Music Festival on 18th October and interviewed him. The reason why he started to play the bagpipes is because his grandfather was a bagpiper, and so bagpipes were familiar to him. He was very good at painting when he was a child and won a painting contest, winning a ticket for a bagpipe concert. After seeing the bagpiper's performance, he wanted to try playing.

After a while, he was awarded the Best Performance Award at the International Bagpipe Contest and became so famous that he performed for Queen Elizabeth. In addition, he played part of the film music for "Tales from Earthsea" by Studio Ghibli and said he would also like to perform at the Opening Ceremony of the Olympic Games.

Let me tell you about bagpipes. Bagpipes are roughly divided into the following four types. It is said that there used to be 30 types in the past. The Scottish bagpipes are best known and weigh more than 4 kg. The second is Irish bagpipes, which are always played sitting down and keeping the bags inflated via arm pressure. The third is English bagpipes, which are very small and relatively quiet. The fourth is the Spanish type.

By the way, the pipes which Mr. Gerald Muirhead plays are the best-known Scottish ones. I asked him if there are female bagpipers because my image is that pipers are usually men. He said there were no female pipers in the past, but nowadays, 95% of bagpipers are male and the other 5% are female. Recently, female pipers have been attracting attention because their fingers are thinner and more flexible for playing. I learned about their tradition through the interview and would like to pass down the tradition.



The junior reporters, showing deep interest in Mr. Gerald as he talked about the bagpipes

■ What I felt about the Bagpipe Show

Risa Minegishi

It was my first time to see a performance by a bagpiper and I was amazed by its power. I would like to try playing if I have a chance.

I like music so I enjoyed his performance very much.

It was a great opportunity for all of the audience in Japan, and I appreciate everybody who supported this festival.

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12.11.2020 What's the Pre-Games camps? | From Kid Reporters

[Yokohama City] We interviewed Mr. Mark Chapman, a British gardener who played a major role in Japan at the Rose & Garden Market 2020. [November, 2020]



The City of Yokohama receives assistance in writing reports from the Tsuzuki Junior Editorial Board, located in Tsuzuki Ward, home to the Yokohama International Pool and site of the British Olympic Team's preparation camp.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, various events in Yokohama were canceled. Nevertheless, the Autumn Rose & Garden Market 2020 was held on Nihon-Odori in compliance with infection control guidelines under a clear autumn sky. The Yokohama Olympics and Paralympics Promotion Division set up a PR booth for our host town program and Team GB preparation camp. Thanks to our many visitors, photos were taken for a video message to be sent to Team GB.

This time, junior reporters helped with running our PR booth and interviewed Mr. Mark Chapman, a British gardener who designed the Welcome Garden with Shaun the Sheep and Garden Bear.

Please check it out!



Shaun the Sheep, the PR ambassador to connect the UK and Yokohama, showed up.



Junior reporters with Garden Bear, the official mascot character for Rose & Garden Market

Autumn Rose & Garden Market which helps us to build an emotional connection

Mirai Yamamoto (6th grader)

The Autumn Rose & Garden Market 2020 was held on Nihon Odori on 31st October. The street was lively, with many booths. First, we helped out at the PR booth of Yokohama City for the host town program and Team GB preparation camp. The main purpose of the booth was to take photos with visitors and hold the message board, wishing Team GB good luck.

We were so busy with welcoming visitors, ranging from children to elderly, to the booth and arranged souvenirs for visitors to take home. I was a bit tired, but it made me happy to see everybody smiling.



Setting up the PR booth for the host town program and Team GB preparation camp



Seeing what the picture for the photo message looks like

We had a chance to interview Mr. Mark Chapman, who is a garden designer. The Welcome Garden he designed was so beautiful with a wonderful balance of plants of various sizes and colors. Shaun the Sheep, the PR ambassador to connect the UK and Yokohama, and Garden Bear, the official mascot, were there and looked great.

He had been taking care of a garden in the UK with his grandfather since he was 4 years old. He studied to be a designer at university, and came to Nagano, Japan for business 23 years ago. He is a head gardener, which means a leading garden designer. He taught us a lot about gardening and it was very interesting. To learn about Japan's climate, he keeps track of his garden every day.

He records various information such as the weather and temperature each day and reviews it later to produce a better garden. He sounded like a scholar. He said, "Garden design cannot be expressed by words, but can build an emotional connection. It's just like Shaun the Sheep." When I helped at the booth and saw visitors smiling, I thought his words are true, that we sometimes can understand each other's feelings without words.

What a great Head Gardener!

Kazuaki Tsunoda, 8th grader

We visited the Autumn Rose & Garden Market 2020 held at Nihon Odori, Yokohama Park and interviewed Mr. Mark Chapman. He works as a Head Gardener. It is a wonderful job as he looks after flowers even after gardening. He was born in the UK and has been using his experience of gardening built up since he was four years old and his knowledge of design acquired at university in the UK to become a Head Gardener. He has lived in Japan for 23 years, so he speaks Japanese very fluently.

I was surprised to hear that he tracked the weather every day for the first few years after starting to live in Japan. Since the climate of Japan is totally different from that of the UK and he needed to know it well, he recorded the weather day after day.

Another interesting thing is his favorite plant. It is Gunnera, known as Oibuki in Japanese. It started growing naturally about 150 million years ago and is known as the plant with the world's biggest leaf. When I heard about it, I thought there is no one like him who has been gardening for years.

In this interview, I learned about gardening and a gardener, about which I knew nothing. I found it is a very important job and would like to introduce this gardener.

We interviewed Mr. Mark Chapman, a gardening expert from the UK.

Kokono Hirota (6th grader)

In covering the Rose & Garden Market for the GOGB website, I helped the PR booth for the host town program and Team GB preparation camp and interviewed Mr. Mark Chapman, who was very impressive.

He is a garden designer and has been involved in gardening since he was a child. A garden designer must have a lot of knowledge such as the best soil for each plant, the environment, and the climate of each place. He said he can guess where plants come from when he hears their name.



He first came to Japan for business, and has lived here ever since, for 20 years. I asked him what the most memorable work in Japan was. He said it was designing the garden at the Hakuba Village ski resort in Nagano. The things he values most are learning about plants and thinking about our future, which he clearly explained with gestures. I did not know much about plants, but I learned some things in this interview and I now want to learn more about plants. This interview has also motivated me to continue looking after plants.

Mr. Mark Chapman has continuously recorded the climate in Japan since he started designing gardens after moving here. For example, he has written things like “there’s a huge difference in temperature” or “it drizzles a lot in Japan” in his weather journal. I was impressed that he gathers various information as a gardener in his journal.

I found that he tries hard to maintain a garden to make it better and increase his knowledge. I was also impressed that he thinks about landscaping for the garden in the future and plants flower bulbs to enjoy for a long time.

Yuina Tsukioka

I saw the Rose Garden and thought Mr. Mark Chapman is really talented. He decorated Shaun the Sheep and Garden Bear with flowers. I never thought flowers could be used to make mascot characters more attractive.

Morrow Princess



About Tsuzuki Junior Editorial Board

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25.12.2020 What's the Pre-Games camps? | From Kid Reporters

[Yokohama City] “A city tour to create an Accessibility Map of Yokohama as the Inclusive Host Town” – Being a friendly city for everyone



The City of Yokohama receives assistance in writing reports from members of the Tsuzuki Junior Editorial Board, located in Tsuzuki Ward, home to Yokohama International Pool and site of the British Olympic Team’s preparation camp.

This time, junior reporters of the Tsuzuki Junior Editorial Board and MM (Minatomirai) Junior Editorial Board joined us to research and gather information to create an Accessibility Map of Yokohama, covering the area around Yokohama Baseball Stadium, the Games venue in Yokohama, and The Yokohama Red Brick Warehouse, the celebration site for the Olympic Torch Relay. This was one of our efforts to learn more about being an inclusive society taking the opportunity of the Tokyo 2020 Games.

Please check it out!



Junior reporters tried out the wheelchair to research about accessibility in the city.

On December 13, 2020, we junior reporters joined in the research to create an Accessibility Map of Yokohama, covering the area around The Yokohama Red Brick Warehouse, one of the celebration sites for the Olympic Torch Relay. Before creating the map, we listened to a talk online by the disabled people who work at NTT Claruty, about psychological barrier-free movement from the viewpoint of the disabled people.

Two people, one visually impaired and the other physically impaired, talked about their experiences, and all the stories were new to us. We found out that one in every thirteen people in Japan has some kind of disability and that there are different types. For example, some are totally impaired while others are partially impaired. Some people use a read-aloud function when reading text on their PC screen, but the speed of the voice was surprisingly fast when we tried it. We also learned it's helpful to refer to a clock face when giving directions for the visually impaired, and the person told us to talk first when going to help someone with visual impairment.



Everyone listened intently to the talk on psychological barrier-free.

In the afternoon, we were divided into four groups, Zou-no-hana area, Bankoku Bridge area, Shinko Pier area and Bashamichi area, to walk and research using MaPiece. MaPiece is an app used to create an accessible map. The app lets you measure angles and slopes of crossings with your tablet PC: wheelchair users can go up slopes of 2-3 degrees, but over 5 degrees is hard for them, while a height difference of over two centimeters is also a barrier for them.

We added information to the map on our tablet PC such as the existence of traffic lights, acoustic traffic lights, one-way streets and yellow braille blocks.



They toured the city using the MaPiece app.

We shared roles and took turns to check the accessibility from the viewpoint of a wheelchair user, to assist a wheelchair user, to write down everything the group notices and to input information into the MaPiece app. After the research, we tried to use a wheelchair. We covered all the area to be researched and finally completed our tour with no troubles. After the tour, we gave a presentation to everyone about what we had found in our research. We hope the finalized map will help all the people in the world.

Covered by:

Tsuzuki Junior Reporters – Rinka Asaya, Yuki Ogawa, Atsuki Sawada, Michiaki Hasegawa,
Airi Hayashi, Aisa Miyashita, Yuika Mori, Morrow Princess,
Marina Yamada

MM Junior Reporters – Ren Kobayashi, Minami Hashimoto, Jotaro Yamamoto,
Mirai Yamamoto

Comments and feedback by junior reporters++++++

I tried a wheelchair for the first time and found that climbing and descending height differences with a wheelchair is very difficult, even if it's so low that you don't notice it. And I got motion-sickness, just like being carsick, after using a wheelchair for a long time. Joining the research tour to create a map brought lots of discoveries, and I learned how the disabled people feel.

Marina Yamada, 6th grader

I learned a lot in this tour for making an accessibility map. One lesson was that pay-phone booths are too narrow to get into with a wheelchair. Some of them have no slopes but steps, while others are too narrow to squeeze in. Since pay phones are important in an emergency, they should be made wheelchair accessible.

Atsuki Sawada, 6th grader

I had an opportunity to use a wheelchair in this tour and found that things which are natural to me can become barriers to the disabled people. For example, bulletin boards in the city are positioned at normal eye level, but that's too high for the disabled people, and the reflection makes the boards hard to read during the day. I also checked traffic lights and whether they're acoustic or not. I hope our study will help at the Olympics.

Rinka Asaya



Junior reporters learned a lot in this tour with the disabled people.

This tour was a really valuable experience. I realized how hard it is for the disabled people to go out and learned about the current city surroundings. I also learned that garbage and fallen leaves could sometimes be barriers. I would like to pick up garbage to make our city barrier-free.

Airi Hayashi, 5th grader

Can you see any barriers in the streets and crossings you usually take? We joined the tour to create an accessibility map.

I tried using a wheelchair. It was easy to move forward when someone pushed the wheelchair, but it was hard to go up a slight slope when I tried it on my own. In addition, vending machines are too high for wheelchair users to reach. You might think the city is well-designed for the disabled people, but, through the eyes of them, I felt it is still not good enough and there is lots more to do. I hope the city will be more accessible in the future.
Aisa Miyashita, 5th grader



Measuring the slope by MaPiece with the smartphone placed on the ground.

I tried using a wheelchair and researched the accessibility and inaccessibility between Bashamichi Station and The Red Brick Warehouse. During the tour, one of the staff showed us an area designed to be accessible and it certainly was better compared to other areas, but it was not good enough: there were stairs and crossings without acoustic traffic signals. I hope the whole area in Yokohama will be made accessible and safe for all kinds of the disabled people so they can go out comfortably.
Michiaki Hasegawa, 5th grader



At the review after the tour. Each group gave a presentation about what they had learned.

About Tsuzuki Junior Editorial Board

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06.03.2021 What's the Pre-Games camps? | From Kid Reporters

[Yokohama City] We introduced our activities under the "GO GB" slogan at the Junior Media Symposium 2021 in Yokohama [February, 2021]



The City of Yokohama receives assistance in writing reports from the Tsuzuki Junior Editorial Board, located in Tsuzuki Ward, home to the Yokohama International Pool, which is the training venue of the British Olympic Team's preparation camp.

This time, junior reporters covered their presentation and panel exhibition at the Junior Media Symposium 2021 in Yokohama organized by members of the Tsuzuki Junior Editorial Board and Minato Mirai Editorial Board.

Please check it out!

The Junior Media Symposium 2021 in Yokohama was held at Atrium, an event space inside the new Yokohama City Hall, on February 28th.

This Symposium aimed to introduce people to the appeal and value of the junior members' various activities by junior members and introducing our work at Tsuzuki Junior Editorial Board and Minato Mirai (MM) Junior Editorial Board was also another major goal. On the day of the Symposium, children in Ishinomaki, Chiba, Iwate and the U.S. also joined in the Symposium as guest speakers via Zoom.

At the Symposium, we exhibited some panels including our newspapers published in the past, local papers, our work materials and GO GB panels which introduced Yokohama, the host town for the U.K. We also displayed an Accessibility Map, covering the area around the Yokohama Red Brick Warehouse, one of the celebration sites for the Olympic Torch Relay, which junior reporters also helped to create.

The Symposium limited the number of participants due to COVID-19, but about 80 people joined us at the Atrium, and our YouTube live stream got 300 views.

The Children played a key role at the Symposium, and the MC were Minami Hashimoto, one of the junior reporters at Minato Mirai Junior Editorial Board and Yu Momozaki, a 21-year-old businessman who is a former junior reporter. Please check out some of their presentations about their Olympics and Paralympics related articles as below.



At the Media Symposium

We, junior reporters helped out at the PR booth of Yokohama City at the Autumn Rose & Garden Market 2020 that was held on Nihon-Odori. We asked visitors to hold message cards with good luck messages in photos to be sent to Team GB. Many people were looking forward to the Olympics and Paralympics and joined our photo shoot.

We also interviewed Mr. Mark Chapman. He designed the Welcome Garden and decorated Shaun the Sheep and Garden Bear with flowers. I was impressed by how he made mascot characters so attractive with flowers.

Morrow Princess, Speaker



Junior reporters are interviewing Mr. Mark Chapman.

I am really looking forward to the Olympics and Paralympics. I will cheer for both Japan and the U.K. at the Games. And I would also like to cheer for the U.S., where my father works.

We, junior reporters joined in the research to create an Accessibility Map of Yokohama, covering the area around The Yokohama Red Brick Warehouse, one of the celebration sites for the Olympic Torch Relay.

We were divided into four groups and researched using MaPiece. MaPiece is an app used to create an accessible map.

The map is finally completed, and we brought them today. Please check it later.

We hope this map will help all the people in the world.

Airi Hayashi, speaker



Panels which introduce junior reporters' activities in GO GB and approaches to Inclusive Society.

Furthermore, junior reporters at the Ishinomaki Children's Newspaper (Ishinomaki Hibi Kodomo Shinbun) and Yotsukaido Kodomo kisha Club introduced their activities followed by the survey results report related COVID-19 pandemic. We've had such great feedback, and it was picked up by major newspapers such as the Tokyo newspaper, the Yokohama Economic Times, the Asahi Shimbun and the Yomiuri Shimbun.

The following are the comments by junior reporters about the Junior Media Symposium.

I participated in this Junior Media Symposium and found something in common after the presentation by junior reporters in each community. It is that everybody is trying to spread the appeal of their town through their activities. I was reminded of that the junior reporters' activities are so valuable. After our presentation, the real journalists asked us some questions at the press conference. I tried my best to answer all the questions. I would like to learn more about Tsuzuki ward and for everybody to know about Tsuzuki ward.

Yuki Ogawa



Session at the Symposium. Former junior reporters attended the Symposium online

At the Symposium, the real journalists asked some questions to us after our presentation. Through the Symposium, I felt like it is important to have a varied viewpoint.

Yuzuki Taoka

At Junior Editorial Board, we've been taking various approaches to cover and interview people online via Zoom while taking COVID-19 countermeasures in these difficult times. We would like to continue being creative to cover and report, no matter the circumstances.

Fumika Hirose

I was happy to be able to give a presentation even in these difficult times. My presentation went as I had hoped, and it seemed all the junior reporters also enjoyed the Symposium.

Risa Minegishi

In the presentation by Mr. Ota at Ishinomaki Hibi Kodomo Shinbun, he told us that the reason why Kodomo Shinbun started is that children who experienced the Great East Japan earthquake wrote "death" in their pieces of artwork at a workshop. I learned children's hearts are also deeply hurt after the earthquake. I would like to report on things like this.

Morrow Princess



A junior reporter, giving a presentation online.

It was really fun to give a presentation in the situation like real press conference at the Symposium this time. I also made new friends there and had a great time with them. We all worked together and prepared for the Symposium, and I felt fulfilled at the end of the Symposium.

Rinka Asaya

I am happy that many people now know about junior reporters. And it was also a good opportunity for myself to improve my presentation. I enjoyed a lot.

Airi Hayashi

About Tsuzuki Junior Editorial Board

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24.03.2021 What's the Pre-Games camps? | From Kid Reporters

Being a supportive and caring society for everyone – Our impression after viewing an online seminar titled “Thoughts on the Diverse Society – Message from a British Paralympian”

"Thoughts on the Inclusive Society - Message from a British Paralympian -"



■ **Time:** 17:30 - 18:30,
March 19 (Fri.), 2021

■ **Speaker:** Susie Rodgers MBE

Olympic & Paralympic Promotion Division, City of Yokohama
Cooperation: The British Council

UK IN JAPAN



On March 19, we held an online seminar titled “Thoughts on the Diverse Society” in cooperation with the British Council and invited Ms. Susie Rodgers, a British Paralympian, as a speaker for the seminar. Here are some of comments and feedback from junior reporters who participated in the seminar.

Please check it out!

I participated in an online seminar titled "Thoughts on a Diverse Society" by Ms. Susie Rogers, a British Paralympic gold medalist. It was just an hour, but her talk covered a wide range of fields and was a valuable experience.

Ms. Susie Rogers is Paralympian who competed in the butterfly and the freestyle. She made splendid achievements such as winning three bronze medals at London 2012 Paralympics and not only a gold medal but also two bronze medals at the following Rio 2016 Games. After her retirement, she speaks globally on "Inclusion" and also advises and supports the disabled people as an adviser for the Disability Advisory Panel of the British Council. In the meanwhile, she, as a swimmer, works as an Ocean Ambassador for the Marine Conservation Society to protect the ecosystem.

"Inclusion" is the idea to ensure that every disabled person takes part in every field such as education, employment, leisure and society and to provide support and system necessary to realize that, and it means to embrace and coexist with all people, both those with and without disabilities. Ms. Rogers often used the word "Inclusion" in her talk which inspired me to think we should remove the barriers not only for the disabled people but also for the injured, the sick, the elderly, children and expectant mothers including ourselves.

She also mentioned it is important to promote barrier-free minds in addition to physical accessibility and functionality. To practice this, it is important to interact with more and more disabled people to learn about them. And to watch cool athletes at Paralympics would be the good start to know more about the disabled people. Ms. Rogers hopes that we apply the positive attitude of the Paralympic Games, where many different people come together and work together for its success, as a role model for our daily lives.

Unfortunately, I am not eligible to work as a volunteer for the Tokyo 2020, Paralympics, however I would definitely join the volunteer activity for the Paralympics if I have a chance.
Minami Hashimoto

We junior reporters had a chance to ask some questions.

Ayaka Hirose

Q. What inspired you to be a Paralympian?

A. I used to watch the Paralympic Games on TV and felt there are great opportunities for the disabled people. When I found out London would stage the Paralympic Games, I wanted to compete in the Games in my own country. So, I worked hard to make my dreams come true.

Q. What did you do to win a gold medal? And what was the thing that you struggled with to win a gold medal?

A. It was hard to recover from many injuries and illness. I completely thought my training was going well, but hard training sometimes caused sudden illness and interrupted my training. Over four years between the Games, I did everything I could to leave a legacy. In that situation, my family was always there for me and supported me all the time. I was not alone; I was competing as a team. I could not have done this without the support from my coach and other staff members.

I was thinking too hard about how I can support disabled people when I see them, and I ended up staying away because I did not know how to help them.

The most impactful thing Ms. Susie said was to focus on the people themselves, instead of focusing on their disabilities. This message inspired me to interact more with the disabled people and make efforts to realize a fair world with no racism or prejudice.

Michiaki Hasegawa

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02.08.2021 What's the Pre-Games camps? | From Kid Reporters

We interviewed Mr. Tim Jones, camp director of the British National Swimming Team and Mr. Yoshida, director of Yokohama International Swimming Pool.



The City of Yokohama receives assistance in writing reports from members of the Tsuzuki Junior Editorial Board, located in Tsuzuki Ward, home to Yokohama International Pool and site of the British Olympic Team's preparation camp.

This time, junior reporters interviewed Mr. Tim Jones, camp director of the British National Swimming Team and Mr. Yoshida, director of Yokohama International Swimming Pool, the training site for the British Swimming and Diving Olympic Teams.

Please check it out!

■ “Olympism” practiced at Yokohama International Swimming Pool

Jotaro Yamamoto

“GO GB” is the slogan of Yokohama City, Kawasaki City and Keio University, the host towns of the British National Team for Tokyo 2020. “GO” means “Good Luck” and “GB” is the abbreviation for Great Britain, which is the name of the island that belongs to the UK. The message is intended to cheer on the teams.

Today, we visited Yokohama International Swimming Pool in Tsuzuki ward. Yokohama City is the host town of the British National Team, and the pool is the training site for the British Swimming and Diving Olympic Teams.



Online interview with Mr. Tim Jones, camp director

First, we interviewed Mr. Tim Jones online. He visited Japan with the team as camp director. His main responsibilities are spotting young talent and designing the perfect schedule for the athletes. The team including athletes is staying at Hiyoshi Campus in Keio University. One of the interviewers asked him about the meals for the athletes, and his answer surprised me because he said it is a mix of half Japanese and half British. I thought the team would prefer their usual meals to maintain performance. But his answer reminded me that Olympic values encompass not just human development through sports, but also world peace. Of course it is important for the athletes to deliver their best at the Games, but I found that respecting multiple cultures is one approach toward peace.

Incidentally, Tim told us that his favorite Japanese food is dumplings.

In the second half, we interviewed Mr. Yoshida, director of Yokohama International Swimming Pool. He is more cheerful and friendly than I had imagined. Preparations for the camp at YIP began five years ago, and the staff at YIP work together with employees of Yokohama City, Tsuzuki Ward and travel agencies to support the Olympic team. It is already hard enough to provide the best possible environment to meet the athletes’ requests, but extra precautions for Covid-19 countermeasures were needed due to the pandemic this year. However, Mr. Yoshida said with a smile that he feels honored to support the British National Swimming Team and hopes YIP will be a lucky place where they will win medals. Amid such difficult times, the staff supporting the team must remain positive like Mr. Yoshida.

Yokohama International Swimming Pool is the site of the pre-Games training camp for the British National Swimming Team. On July 28, in the middle of the Olympic Games, we interviewed Mr. Fumio Yoshida, director of the Pool, and Mr. Tim Jones, camp director of the British Swimming Team.

Yokohama International Swimming Pool is the largest swimming pool in Japan. The floor height is adjustable, and the water depth can be increased to 3.5 meters deep.



A venue tour of the Yokohama International Swimming Pool

It has seating capacity for 4,000, and the 50-meter main pool is used as a sports arena in the fall and winter by placing panels on the floor. Mr. Yoshida said the staff must check carefully not to miss any tiny cracks on the floor when it is converted to an arena.

There are also a 5-meter-deep diving pool and a 50-meter sub pool in the facility, and the sub pool can be divided into two 25-meter pools.

Yokohama International Swimming Pool is taking strict Covid-19 countermeasures including health management, body temperature measurement, hand sanitizing, disinfection of equipment, ventilation and the 3Cs.

Mr. Yoshida said, "If a British athlete wins a medal, I will be so happy, as if I had won it!"

Tim is a retired swimmer and used to swim 6 kilometers, 6 hours a day. He travels around the world through swimming, but said it was hard to come to Japan due to the pandemic.

By the way, his favorite Japanese food is dumplings.

I was surprised when I first learned that the floor of the main pool is adjustable.

Unfortunately, I could not interview any athletes, but I talked with the director and was impressed by how much they train every day. I really hope the British athletes win medals at Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

Today, I interviewed two people who closely support the Olympic team.

The first one is Mr. Tim Jones who visited our hometown, Yokohama, for the pre-Games training camp as camp director.

One role of the camp director is to discover young talent, and the most important role is to support athletes so they can perform their best at the Games. Tim is a retired swimmer of the British National Team and used to support the Olympic team as a coach. I think he is able to bring out the best of athletes because he knows what to do from his experience as both an athlete and as a coach.

The Olympic swimmers of the British Team train up to 6 hours a day. Tim and all the other staff who support the athletes work very hard to help the athletes do their best, such as by providing a well-balanced diet and practicing infection control against Covid-19 by creating "bubbles" and communicating with the locals online. It sounds very tough.

At the end of the interview, he said it is important to believe you will win and focus on the race. I learned that it is also important to keep a positive attitude in life and move forward.

The other person we interviewed was Mr. Yoshida, director of Yokohama International Swimming Pool, one of the sites for the pre-Games training camp of the British National Team.



Interview with Mr. Yoshida, director of Yokohama International Swimming Pool

Mr. Yoshida also supports the British Olympic athletes like Tim and provides the best possible environment where all the athletes can make final preparations at Yokohama International Swimming Pool.

For example, staff at YIP have been making preparations and arrangements for five years and arranged the pre-Games training camp for the FINA World Championship two years ago. Regarding Covid-19 countermeasures, they use the latest technology including circulators to create a safe and secure environment. Thanks to their efforts, YIP earned an excellent reputation as the camp site. Mr. Yoshida himself said it was a great honor to host the British training camp.



A venue tour of the Yokohama International Swimming Pool

In addition, Yokohama International Swimming Pool has a lot of secrets. There are three swimming pools here: the main pool, the depth of which can be adjusted up to 3.5 meters deep; the sub pool, where a wall can be placed to divide the pool into two 25-meter pools or one 50-meter pool; and the diving pool with a depth of 5 meters. All of the pools are adjustable to meet respective requirements. Between May and September, it is used as a swimming pool, and between October and April, it is used as a sports arena by adjusting the floor height and placing panels on the floor. In summer, aquatic classes such as swimming, artistic swimming and diving are held, and in winter, other sports classes such as soccer, dancing and tennis are held. As a result, the facility is used by many people all year round.

At the end of our interview, Mr. Yoshida revealed some special news: he is planning to exhibit the autographs of the British swimmers who participated in the camp and show some photographs of the training camp. I will definitely come back to see them.

Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympics – The Olympic Games were held in a completely new format after the one-year postponement and with no spectators due to the pandemic. And now the Paralympic Games will begin.

Around the world, various negative opinions about the Olympics and issues with the government were reported on the Internet. And the Games itself faced many hardships. But after I interviewed two people who supported the British Team's camp, I learned that supporting someone warms everybody's heart and makes the world a better place.

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28.09.2021 What's the Pre-Games camps? | From Kid Reporters

It was so impressive to see all the athletes try their best in each stage at Tokyo 2020!!

The City of Yokohama receives assistance in writing reports from members of the Tsuzuki Junior Editorial Board, located in Tsuzuki Ward, home to Yokohama International Pool and site of the British Olympic Team's preparation camp.

This time, junior reporters wrote about how they enjoyed Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympics which were held with no spectators and amidst recommendations to stay home to watch the Games on TV.

Please check it out!

I cheered the team on with my family!

Seika Uchino

My family and I started making glass art at a local center in Kita-yamata to cheer the athletes who had their training at the British National Swimming pre-Games training camp at Yokohama International Swimming Pool in Tsuzuki ward. These decorated the pool side windows for the athletes to see, showing some popular tourist spots in Japan and expressing people cheering the team on. I drew the pictures of the Great Buddha of Nara and children cheering the team on.

I actually saw the glass art decorating the windows when I visited Yokohama International Swimming Pool for the interview. The window, of course, caught the athletes' eyes and gave them strength.

At the Olympic Games, I watched the Men's 100m Breaststroke final, in which Rio 2016 gold-medalist Adam Peaty participated.

Right after the race began, all the swimmers were neck and neck, but after the turn, he conquered the race with incredible speed. His powerful swimming was so cool.

Team GB Swimming won four gold medals at the Olympics and eight gold medals at the Paralympics!

My father applied for the volunteer staff for Tokyo 2020 and supported the Games as one of drivers. He drove around the city for Mr. Kipchoge, the athlete from Kenya who won the gold at Tokyo 2020, and officials from El Salvador. We could not go out for fun due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but my family and I enjoyed Tokyo 2020 during both the preparation and the Games.

Men's Wheelchair Basketball – Great match between Japan and Great Britain

Jotaro Yamamoto

It's been 11 years since I started playing basketball at the age of eight, and I am still playing as a club activity at my high school. I usually watch the games of Japanese Professional Basketball "B. League" and NBA on TV, but this year, we had Olympic and Paralympic Games which are held only once every four years, so I watched the Olympics and Paralympics rather than B League and NBA.

I was especially fascinated with the Wheelchair Basketball. The reason why is not only that Japan reached semi-final but also that everything was new, impressive and respectable because I usually watch only the games by non-disabled athletes.

Japan competed against Great Britain in the Men's Semi-Finals. The British Team is the one of the powerhouses in Wheelchair Basketball and was even a world champion in the past. Passing was so quick by all the athletes of the British team and with their excellent performance, they easily managed to score back the points Japan put a lot of effort into scoring.

Japan, in the end, managed to win the Semi-Finals, but Great Britain had beat Spain in the Bronze Medal Match prior, and Spain had beaten Japan at the group stage game. So, the Semi-Finals could have gone either way.

I only focused on the Wheelchair Basketball, but both Olympics and Paralympics had fascinated many of us this year. Thank you for sharing the impressive moments with us! I'm also looking forward to see the British team at the Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games!

The Unique Paralympics

Minami Hashimoto

After the Olympics, the Paralympics began with the opening ceremony on August 24. Ms. Yoshie Kris, who was responsible for all four opening and closing ceremonies of Tokyo 2020 as a creative director of the comprehensive planning team, is a director of SLOW LABEL, based in Zou-no-Hana Park, which facilitates disabled people and artists working together and develops collaborative products. Zou-no-Hana Park is a place that I often go to for a walk, so the ceremonies felt familiar to me. All the participants performed freely, making full use of their unique talents. It was more splendid and impressive than that of the Olympics and ended in the blink of an eye.

I was so proud because one artist from Yokohama was involved in such an honorable ceremony. And it made me to cheer on all the athletes who were in the venue.

Now, I would like to introduce a great athlete that caught my eye at the Paralympics. That is Ms. Sarah Storey, a UK para road cyclist. She was born without a functioning left hand. She is a former para swimmer and now compete as a para cyclist and has won 12 medals at 4 Games. I was impressed by her brave and ambitious attitude. She switched to cycling when she was 27 and has continuously worked hard. She now even competes in able-bodied cycling races. She might compete in both Olympic and Paralympic Games in the future. Her go-getter and powerful attitude is so respectable.

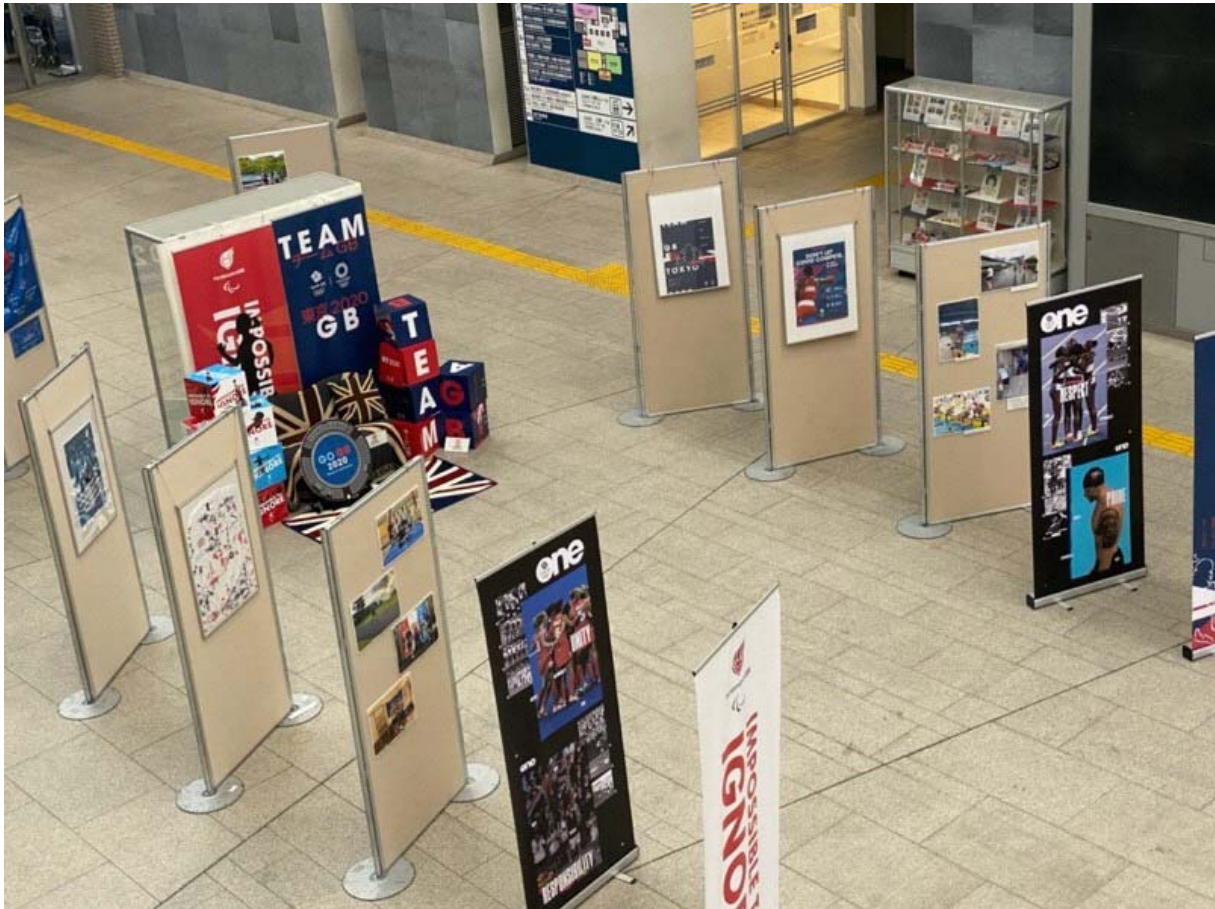
At the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics, many athletes competed with a great and unique style, and it was pleasant news during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I would like to thank to all the athletes who competed in Tokyo 2020 for sharing the impressive and exciting moments with us.

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GO GB 2020 Team GB Exhibition



The City of Yokohama receives assistance in writing reports from members of the Tsuzuki Junior Editorial Board, located in Tsuzuki Ward, home to Yokohama International Pool and site of the British Olympic Team's preparation camp.

This article covers the GO GB 2020 Team GB Exhibition which was held at Tsuzuki Ward Office. Please check it out!

At Yokohama International Swimming Pool in Tsuzuki Ward, the pre-Games training camp of the British National Swimming Team for Tokyo 2020 Games was held. In October, I visited the GO GB 2020 Team GB Exhibition which was held at the public hall on the 1st floor of the Tsuzuki Ward Office after the Olympics and Paralympics.

All the flags, sofas, and other decorations that had been used at the training venues, the Games venues, or the Olympic Village were on display in the hall. The staff of Yokohama City explained that all these decorations had been brought from the UK, and were probably used to motivate the athletes. The Union Jack rug was so cool.



There were also pictures from the training camp and official uniforms on display, which brought back a lot of memories of this summer.



I am glad to know that these decorations will be stored and carefully protected at the Museum of Yokohama Urban History on Nihon-Odori. It was a pity I could not meet the British athletes face to face due to the pandemic, but I was happy to see the decorations that had been actually used by the team.

Seika Uchino



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07.11.2021 What's the Pre-Games camps? | From Kid Reporters

A Thank-You Party for Yokohama Host Town Supporters at the British House Yokohama



The City of Yokohama receives assistance in writing reports from members of the Tsuzuki Junior Editorial Board, located in Tsuzuki Ward, home to Yokohama International Pool and site of the British Olympic Team's preparation camp.

This article covers the Thank-You Party for volunteers who supported the British National Olympic and Paralympic athletes.

Please check it out!

We joined the Thank-You Party for volunteers ("supporters") who supported the British National Olympic and Paralympic athletes recently.

We headed to the British House Yokohama, which is located up the hill from Motomachi-Chuukagai Station. It has many rooms, and one of them on the 2nd floor is renovated like a bedroom, which we used on the day.

Many decorations were on display on the 1st floor, and some of them had been signed by athletes. The Thank-You Party was held in the room next to the exhibition room, and was attended by 28 supporters.

Some of them were university students, and others were older than our parents. Some had applied for the position because they lived close to Yokohama International Swimming Pool, while others had lived in England for a few years and wanted to give back.

At the party, there was a slide presentation on a screen about the volunteer activities, followed by a lottery and a video message from a staff member of Team GB and Paralympics GB. According to the presentation, the supporter activities lasted for 52 days, including orientation sessions and online seminars.

For the lottery, each supporter made a speech in front of everyone in order of the lottery drawn in advance, and received a gift, which was placed in a bag made from the Team GB flag banner.

The following are some of the supporters' comments:

"I gained a lot of experience."

"I learned a lot of English."

"I had a lot to learn."

Other comments included:

"I didn't know if I was much help, but now I feel proud."

"I was glad that no one from the team became infected with Covid-19."

Further comments included:

"I realized there are no borders in sports."

"It was fun to cheer for both the British and Japanese teams."

"One of the British gold medalists said in his interview that he won the gold medal thanks to the supporters, which made me feel so happy."

Another person said that the most impressive thing was that some athletes climbed stairs two or three at a time like a true athlete!

In the video messages from Team GB and Paralympics GB, the athletes expressed their gratitude, such as "The training camp was great" and "We really appreciate your support."

I heard that they had taken various countermeasures against Covid-19 for the camp, and at the hotel where the team stayed, some areas were closed to other hotel guests to prevent contact with other people.

The training camps were held at Yokohama Stadium, International Stadium Yokohama, Yokohama International Swimming Pool, Kawasaki Todoroki Stadium, and Yokohama Country Club. I was especially surprised to hear that the marathon runners had trained at Yokohama Country Club.

All their comments made me want to become a volunteer for the Olympics and Paralympics. There are lots of different kinds of competitions, so I hope to become a supporter when I turn 18.

Reported by Shintaro Inoue, Aisa Miyashita, and Momone Akatsu

Photos



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13.01.2022 What's the Pre-Games camps? | From Kid Reporters

A look back on the activities as junior reporters by members of the Tsuzuki Junior Editorial Board

The City of Yokohama receives assistance in writing reports from members of the Tsuzuki Junior Editorial Board, located in Tsuzuki Ward, home to Yokohama International Pool and site of the British Olympic Team's preparation camp.

This is the last report by junior reporters; they wrote about their impressions of their activities as junior reporters over the last four years.

Please check it out!

The Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games postponed to 2021 were finally held, giving MM junior reporters opportunities to interview people and report on the Games. Especially, Yokohama was a host town for the pre-Games training camp of the British National Teams, so we could report various news including interviewing PR and venue staff and their strategies under the "GO GB" slogan, learning about British culture and creating an Accessibility Map of Yokohama.

Due to the Covid-19 global pandemic, it was not possible to host 'complete' Olympics and Paralympics. However, both the athletes who tried to achieve their personal best even amid the restrictions and all the staff who supported the Games with ideas and creativity were outstanding. It was a valuable experience for us to feel directly the energy of people who worked at the actual site.

I realized once again that the Olympics and Paralympics were a great opportunity for people who were born and raised in Japan to experience different cultures and interact with people from around the world.

Cross-cultural understanding is the first step toward world peace. I was able to talk with people from overseas (via a translator), which gave me a sense of tension which is hard to express, and I was thrilled. It was a pity the Games were held without spectators although it was a great chance to meet people from around the world. I would like to interview people and report about live, dramatic Olympics and Paralympics again when I grow up.

Jotaro Yamamoto

I joined in the research to create an Accessibility Map of Yokohama, covering the area around The Yokohama Red Brick Warehouse, one of the celebration sites for the Olympic Torch Relay.

This allowed me to learn about disabled people and to see the city, which I usually walk around without thinking, from a totally different perspective. Also, I have become more interested in Paralympic sports and impressed by the power of para-athletes which exceeds that of non-disabled people.

Yuki Ogawa

My experience as a junior reporter made me more interested in the Olympics and Paralympics and watching the Games. I wish I could have talked more with the British athletes.

Michiaki Hasegawa

I learned about British culture by interviewing Mr. Gerald Muirhead, a bagpiper. His performance was amazing. Having become more interested in it, I now want to learn more about British culture and special things.

Aisa Miyashita

I covered the Olympics and Paralympics as a junior reporter and learned about lots of sports which I didn't know before. Para-athletes are grouped into many different categories, and I never got tired of watching the Games with so many exciting events.

Mei Hashimoto

It was a pity that the interview with the British team was held online, but I was happy to feel so close to them.

Hiryu Orishimo

I interviewed Mr. Tim Jones, camp director of the British Swimming Team, and learned about meals and training programs during the camp. It was a valuable experience.

Momone Akatsu

I had joined some interviews and reported on the Tokyo 2020 Games and the British National Teams. At the "500 Days To Go Festival – 500 days to go until the Tokyo 2020 Games" which was held about three years ago, I experienced wearing a prosthesis and playing wheelchair basketball. I learned how to walk with a wobble with the prosthesis and how difficult it is to move around a narrow space in a wheelchair. I also had a chance to see a live show of "Alchemist" singing "Ano Sora" and "Foorin" singing "Paprika" which really cheered me up.

Also, I was lucky to see Britain's Prince Harry. We joined the exchange program between Prince Harry and the wheelchair basketball athletes aiming to compete at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. Prince Harry kept good eye contact with everyone and smiled while talking, and I was impressed with his gentlemanly manner.

The experience of interviewing Mr. Gerald Muirhead, the Scottish bagpiper, also left a deep impression. The beautiful melody of "Amazing Grace," which he performed in traditional dress with black and red tartan check plaid, was captivating.

Tokyo 2020 was held with no spectators due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and we had to watch the Games on TV, but when I saw the British athletes competing, I felt an affinity with them because they had visited Yokohama for their training camp, making me realize that the Olympics were really being held in Japan. By serving as a junior reporter, I directly learned the power of sports and fascinating British culture. I really appreciate the valuable opportunity.

Minami Hashimoto

About Tsuzuki Junior Editorial Board

Tsuzuki Junior Editorial Board started out life in 2009 as a commemorative project in Tsuzuki Ward to mark the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Port of Yokohama, and the 15th anniversary of the creation of Tsuzuki Ward. Today, junior reporters ranging in age from the 5th grade of elementary school to high school students go out and collect news materials, which they use to write articles. They cover not only Tsuzuki Ward but the City of Yokohama as a whole, giving full play to their perspectives and abilities as children.