

## JSKA traditional Karate or Money?

### My reaction to the accusation of this Organization

A few years ago Hans Muller from Switzerland approached me to become a member of the JSKA, run by one of the last living karate legends, sensei Keigo Abe. In the first place I had absolutely no intension to join that group, as I was already too much involved with WJKA. Eventually Hans convinced me, I joined and after a few months the certificates were delivered. In perfect detail, I also received a bill for 3000 euro to be paid for affiliation, registration and recognition of existing dangrade. So far no problem, payment was done and I was even promised a place in the JSKA Shihankai. After a few months however the problems started. The first email I received, dated January 25<sup>th</sup> 2008, told me that I was removed from the Shihankai.(?)

**Jan  
just had this form Japan:**

Dear Sensei,

Please find here a communication from Abe Sensei:  
Shihankai members are selected by the JSKA Chief Instructor, Abe Keigo Sensei, and appointed by the JSKA President SHIOZAKI YASUHISA  
The purpose of the Shihankai is to serve as advisory panel to the JSKA Chief Instructor. For the present time, there is no such thing as "Technical Committee."  
Abe Sensei selects the Shihankai members depending on the following standard:  
These instructors have produced a large number of students taking their Dan grades from the JSKA and Abe Sensei; it is expected and it must be sure from the Shihankai members that they shall persevere in their efforts in the future.  
Knobel Sensei made a question on the reason why he is not actually a member of the JSKA Shihankai, the reason is given above.  
Sensei, please kindly transfer this communication to the persons concerned.

With best regards,  
Marie

My reaction to this email was as follows:

It took me a while to understand what was written in this email and it hit me really hard. Actually if I understand what this Marie woman (girl, secretary or whatever) is writing is that:

1. My technical ability and knowhow is depending on how much money I bring into the JSKA.
2. A person who hardly can tie his belt but has a lot of money (c.q. students) entered in the JSKA, has more technical knowhow than a teacher who has international recognition, does a lot of international courses and trains his bud off to keep in shape.
3. Respect for a high graded member depends on how much money he brings in.

I must say that I am really disappointed in the above mentioned statement and find it hard to believe that this comes straight from Abe sensei. However I ask you, Hans and my fellow high ranked colleagues for your advice. I have some bad thoughts about this and I ask you all to convince me that I am wrong about the following.

1. In my opinion this statement is an insult to all of us, who life in a small country with no governmental support and who still try to get people interested to become a member of such an Organization. I do not even mention the years of hard training, suffering and family fights just to follow the international scene and try to keep up with changes in Karate.

2. I have to convince my students that it is not true, that I am no longer in the Shihankai due to the fact that I do not bring in enough money to keep that part of Japans economy floating

3. I have to convince my higher ranked members that it is not true that JSKA is not a Fundraising Organization, but a Karate Organization, as I expected it would be.

I can keep on going with those thoughts, but I think I will stop here. At the moment I am convinced that I made a very big mistake to enter the JSKA. You Hans asked me to become a member and after a long period of hesitation I agreed. Please do not make me feel sorry about this decision.

I have, at last, a list with people who wants to become a member. I have a list of about 35 people who wants to enter the WC. A few of them wants to do grading and training. I have a list of people who wants to re-register their high grades. What do I tell them?

I am hesitating now and actually I want to tell them that entering is not for SPORT, but for raising money. Sorry, but at the moment I feel like this. I am very disappointed and insulted and if you all cannot convince me that I am wrong, I must and will reconsider my membership.

The reason? I did not bring in enough money. The email made me believe that technical knowledge was depending how much money I would bring in. After several emails with JSKA HQ it was more or less rectified. Believe it or not I was a member of this Shihankai again. However the first fight had started.

During the WC in Manchester all Shihankai members were installed and received an official certificate. Nice, but I was almost forgotten. That made me start having second thoughts about this group. I really got the feeling " they want you in, but actually they do not want you" .

Problems really started in Portugal during the presentation of the next WC to be held in 2010 in Portugal. There should have been a Shihankai meeting in which, we as members, had a saying and decision would have been made. After the introduction we were told that Abe sensei had absolutely no idea what the Shihankai was all about and that all decisions already had been made. More over the Portugal Organization forced all members in a rip-off program by asking a lot of money from JSKA members in order to be able to participate. Once you all receive the invitation, you will see what I mean. Pay what they ask or you cannot enter. We calculated that we could go to Portugal, stay in a hotel and participate for half the money they offer. A rip-off of the first degree.

I really felt tricked into that money greedy Organization and upon return in the Netherlands I withdraw from JSKA.

Dear All,

After long consideration I have decided to resign from JSKA Shihankai and to finish my membership with the JSKA.

JSKA has lost credibility in my eyes and has become too much money related.

Also the personal interest for own profit of some of the Shihankai members is disgusting. Last but not least I learned that the Shihankai is a farce and was only mend to be an attraction gimmick to get high ranked Gaijin into the JSKA.

This made me decide to leave JSKA.

I will now put all my effort into the WJKA and the Organizations WJKA is cooperating with.

Best Regards  
Jan Knobel  
8th dan  
President WJKA

JSKA did react with an email, which said that I was already fired before I resigned (?). No word what so ever from HQ about the reason why. Not even after JKA NL wrote an email.

Dear sensei Abe

We, board of JKA the Netherlands & sensei J.G. Knobel, wants to know the reason of resignation of sensei Knobel & the organisation JKA the Netherlands from the JSKA ?  
What did we do ?

Please explain....!!!!!!!

Is it the normal procedure in Japan that you inform everybody about this matter and not inform the person himself ?

Until now the message below is the first message about resignation that we and sensei Knobel receive from you !!

Payment.

We have paid our affiliation fee and Dan fees

We want you to refund us all the money a 2100 Euro we have paid to JSKA to our account ING bank 1497142 attn. to Mr. J.G.Knobel, Bredaseweg 42, 4702 KV Roosendaal, Netherlands.

Regards

Board of directors JKA the Netherlands

until I wrote the following email and received the professional (?) answers from the PR lady.

From: Marie, PR Manager -

Sent: Sunday, June 07, 2009 1:55 PM

To: jka

Subject: from JSKA Japan - 090607 - Re: att. to Headquarters

I could just fax this mail to Abe sensei and you can be sure sensei saw it by the time you will receive this.

----- Original Message -----

From: jka

To: JSKA Japan

Sent: Friday, June 05, 2009 11:00 PM

Subject: att. to Headquarters

Dear Sirs,

On behalf of JKA/JSKA the Netherlands, its members and myself I write you this email out of discontent and disappointment.

On May 22nd JKA/JSKA NL administration has send you an email about their expel from the JSKA.

You, being HQ, have ignored this email and have refused, up till now, to respond to this email.

No, you mistake, your mail was passed exactly the same day to Abe sensei, and I am sure Abe sensei saw it because sensei called just after it had been forwarded. But as Abe sensei did not required any reply to be sent, none was sent. This is the way it works here, and after all, at that time, you were no more a JSKA affiliate.

JKA/JSKA NL does not know, why her Organization is expelled from JSKA.

Only Abe sensei can answer you.

It would speak of manners if you, as HQ, would respond to that email.

There it is, don't cry.

I myself do not know why this decision was made and why I was expelled from JSKA. Mr. Carruthers was ordered to remove my name from your website on the 20th of May. His exact words spoke of astonishment and disbelief, as he himself did not know or understand this sudden action.

Why do you try to involve other persons ? You cannot defend your case yourself? Be a man, and a gentleman, if you can. Nobody has nothing to do with none of it, and as i told you before, only complaints received straight here from the concerned person at JSKA Japan are considered, otherwise it is just somebody's word against somebody else's word.

Yet did you put on your website that I was removed from JSKA starting 18th of May. So the decision was anti dated to make your Organization look good or to cover up my email dated the 21st of May in which I resigned from JSKA.

No, Abe sensei called me the Monday 18th around 2-3 pm, i believe, straight back from Europe, to ask that your name be removed from affiliates, Shihankai and Dan holders. I sent a mail to the web master on the spot, but as he was busy, he could finally do the job only the Wednesday night i think, Japan time. There is no problem with that. If you had controlled yourself and let it go, your dismissal would not have been written black on white, you can blame only yourself about that.

Your way of handling matters is very disrespectful and is typical for the way you, as HQ, ignore and disrespect your members.

I don't know about that, why should anybody be ignored or disrespected ? All affiliates are the same for me, and all mails are processed the same.

To support the above, let me remind you the email, which was send by HQ about my membership in the Shihankai. I was not allowed in the Shihankai because I did not bring in enough money.

Again you understand nothing, the mail was written by Abe sensei himself, translated as it was, and was clear enough that among other requirements to be admitted to the Shihankai, one was, yes, to register Dan with the JSKA. If you file as neatly as i do, you can verify yourself. Now, if your bad will turn it into something else, that's your business. You were the only one, to my knowledge.

My reaction to that email was clear.

Crying, as usual.

I believe that you as HQ and some of the Shihankai members are misleading Abe sensei. It is my honest believe that emails addressed to Abe sensei are purposely translated wrong to discredit members.

Don't make yourself tired, i have no concern and no responsibility about the mails contents coming from any side, and consequently, your mails, and anybody else mails, are translated just as they are, why you cant understand that? My job is to pass them as they are, and this i do, like it or not.

Especially in my case I am convinced about that.

You mistake, you are nothing special and your mails were always processed just the same as everybody else mail.

It is my believe that certain Shihankai members have put me in a bad daylight and that Abe sensei has no idea what really is going on.

You mistake again, Abe sensei thinks for himself.

I could go on with arguments but I will keep that when I publish my findings about JSKA HQ and her way of dealing with Abe sensei and JSKA members on the internet.

her ? you mean me ? again you mistake, either people talk for themselves or Abe sensei talks for himself, i have nothing to do with it except to pass it as it is.

I respect Abe sensei highly, maybe more than some of the Shihankai members, and without a problem I accept his decision.

Hakuna Matata.

As the President of the WJKA I will support JSKA as before, because I believe that all Shotokan Organizations should be one again.

Inch'allah.

As a private person I will tell people to stay away from JSKA and not to get involved. I even will urge them to leave JSKA, the reason should be clear

You are very nervous and i can see that you are not exactly afraid of paradoxes.

The way HQ and some of the Shihankai members have played this game is to me unacceptable.

You understand nothing, there is no game nowhere, it was Abe sensei decision, why do you try also to reject blame on others ?

HQ has accepted JKA/JSKA NL, its members and my money. Now, without notice, we are expelled, but you still keep the money.

Acceptance of affiliation or dismissal depends only on Abe sensei decision, HQ has nothing to do with it.

You, as HQ, disregard and ignore our email, not even acknowledge receipt.

Now you have it, i am sure perhaps more than you ask for.

Very unmannered, unprofessional and disrespectful behaviour.

So be it, but there is nothing to be done about that; i am at Abe sensei and JSKA affiliates service only.

I advice you to transfer the amount we have paid, being 3124 Euro to our account as soon as possible

This depends on Abe sensei alone.

I also advice you to remove the announcement about me on your website.

This also depends on Abe sensei alone.

For your information, Naito sensei, who has as well received all your previous mails, will of course also receive this one.

Also, from now on, send your communications directly to Abe sensei fax, like that you can sleep on your two ears about what arrives to Abe sensei. I will forever refuse to translate any of your mails, this is the last one, a guarantee for you.

If not, JKA/JSKA NL and myself will publicly accuse your Organization from stealing and committing fraud.

Shikata ga nai.

I await your answer and money transfer.

You await Abe sensei reply, nothing else to do.

Marie, PR Manager

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Japan Shotokan Karate Association

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Tel./Fax: +8 1 3 - 3 9 4 4 - 3 5 7 4

You can judge yourselves by the way HQ answers what kind of an Organization JSKA is. To me this lady is a disaster to JSKA and if Abe sensei has agreed, so she says, with this kind of answers than I am really concerned about this Organization, which has absolutely no respect for higher ranks or positions.

I warn all Karate Organizations who want to be a part of JSKA or are a part of JSKA, that if you do not bring in enough money, you will face the same problems and you will be treated the way I was. A good friend of mine in South Africa experiences the same problems already thanks to a shihankai member.

To me JSKA is not a Traditional Karate Organization but a Traditional Money related rip-off Organization. Be warned, I have heard enough of these kind of stories. Until this date there has been no reaction, explanation or money refund.

Jan Knobel  
8th Dan WUKO