

Seishikan Australia Meeting Held at Kongorong Summer Camp 15th November 2008

Chairman: **John von Stanke** was asked to chair the meeting. John accepted and unanimously accepted by attendees. Meeting opened at 2100.

Present: Phil Bates, John von Stanke, George Wilson, Mark Purvis, Phil Wells, Wade von Stanke, Mark Kranz, Frank Agius, Peter Kiosses (for Tom McCluskey), Mark Azzopardi, John Plant (for Carl Driesener), John Hart, Shaun Kirkby, Shannon Barton, Alba Kraatz.

Apologies: Derek Martin, Carl Driesener, Tom McCluskey, Judy Angeles.

Meeting opened 2100.

In the absence of the Secretary, Derek Martin, John Hart volunteered to take and distribute minutes of the meeting. All attendees agreed.

Items discussed:

(Item numbers as per previously distributed agenda. Agenda attached for reference.)

1) Heiji Tada Cup:

Mark Azzopardi gave a rundown on the results of the recently held event. Explained that event was predominantly for inexperienced competitors and that more experienced competitors would be paired up together.

Mark asked for expressions of interest in hosting next year's event.

Date for next year's event still to be finalised, but we should be mindful of school holidays and AKF tournaments to avoid clashes.

ACTION: All attendees to take back to their dojos for consideration.

2) JKF Gojukai/ Gokan Ryu situation recently in Fukuoka Japan:

Phil Bates Shihan gave a detailed account of the events that occurred in Japan in July and outlined the ramifications of these events and the subsequent meeting held in Kyoto between Bill Demertzis (JKF Gojukai Australia President) and senior JKF Gojukai Japan Officers. Attendees discussed what we could do and resolved that a letter expressing our displeasure be sent to JKF Gojukai Australia

ACTION: Phil Bates Shihan to draft and send a letter to JKF Gojukai Australia outlining our position.

Suggestion that we boycott next year's JKF Gojukai tournament in April in Sydney was soundly rejected. It was strongly recommended that we attend in strength, with our best competitors to earnestly try to win as many events as possible. Date of venue is 18th April, so AKF tournament organisers to be advised and asked to leave this time clear.

ACTION: All dojo heads to consider bringing suitable competitors to Sydney

ACTION: Shannon Barton, Mark Azzopardi & George Wilson to liaise with their respective state AKF bodies to ensure no tournament and/or State Training commitments clash with JKF Gojukai tournament.

Masao Tada Shihan and possibly Tsujimoto Shihan will be in Australia next year for the JKF Gojukai tournament and the possibility of gradings for high grades (up to 5th Dan) has been discussed. Anyone wishing to grade in Sydney in April will need to be a JKF Gojukai member and have grading application documentation completed well before the grading.

ACTION: John Hart to issue all relevant documentation to Dojo Heads. Completed forms to be returned to John Hart by 15th December. John will collate and send to Masao Shihan for approval and processing.

3) Update of Banking setup:

No action from last meeting as it requires the constitution to be ratified before bank account names etc can be finalised.

However discussion held on specifics that will be implemented.

John Hart as Treasurer will investigate the appropriate type of bank account and arrange to get it opened.

Each dojo is to be levied \$100 per annum. This is to be per calendar year and the first payment will become due on 1st January 2009, and is to be paid by 31st January 2009.

This was proposed by Alba Kraatz and passed unanimously.

A fee of \$5 per grading is to be paid into this account. Dojo heads can please themselves whether they pass this increase onto the students or absorb it.

ACTION: John Hart to report back ASAP on bank account options.

Dojo heads to organise payment of annual levy by end of January each year

\$5 to accompany each application for grading certificate. Phil Bates Shihan to forward these monies to the Treasurer for banking.

4) Ratification of the Constitution:

Discussion was held on the proposed amendments to the constitution prior to it being ratified. All proposed amendments were considered to be unnecessary and contingent on addressing some very minor typographical errors the Constitution as it stands was ratified by all in attendance.

ACTION: John von Stanke to proceed with the registration of the constitution.

5) Government Grants:

Shannon Barton gave a brief rundown on the different grants that were available and how to go about getting them. It was considered that we would be better off if individual dojos chased this up with their local and state authorities to see what is available.

It was further suggested that a sub-committee of one member per state be set up to investigate grants.

ACTION:

Sub-committee members, Shannon Barton (SA), Mark Azzopardi (Vic), Frank Agius (NSW) and Shaun Kirkby (WA) to meet by email and pursue this matter. Progress reports would be appreciated with feedback to all attendees.

6) Changes to “Introduction to Karate” book:

The reference concerning Shannon Barton was discussed and while it is acknowledged that Shannon started his karate career at Salisbury under Derek Martin Sensei, he is currently running the dojo at Littlehampton. To change the reference to Salisbury could potentially upset some Littlehampton members so it was decided that since both Salisbury and Littlehampton are both in Adelaide, the reference of “Shannon Barton, 4th Dan from Adelaide” was technically correct and should stay.

It was noted for the records that the “Adelaide” mentioned here was a geographical term and did not refer to the Adelaide City dojo run by Carl Driesener Sensei.

The description of pants length was discussed and it was felt that if this was included there were many other similar (non-critical) items that could also vie for inclusion. At last year’s meeting we chose to keep the rules and regulations to a small, manageable number. It was also considered that it was the instructors’ responsibility to ensure that students complied with day to day requirements such as this.

The grading curriculum was discussed elsewhere (Item 9), but it was agreed that Phil Bates Shihan would review the tendered syllabus and amend as necessary and then re-issue. Once re-issued the syllabus can be added to the introduction booklet.

ACTION: All dojo heads to ensure students presenting themselves at tournaments are suitably attired. Information available on AKF website.

ACTION: Phil Bates Shihan to review the grading syllabus and re-issue.

ACTION: Shaun Kirkby to include reviewed grading syllabus in the introduction booklet at its next revision.

7) Black Belts for Juniors:

General agreement that a black belt grading was needed to recognise the efforts of those student who are currently children.. It was felt that junior Nidan and Sandan should not be granted. The age that people could be considered to graduate to senior status was generally seen as 16 years of age, however individual cases should be treated on their own merits, with some people younger than 16 who are deemed capable, being granted Senior Shodan ranking.

The grading requirements for Junior Shodan were seen as being considerably less than for a Senior Shodan.

The issue of a white stripe through the junior blackbelt was heatedly discussed at length. Considered that a differentiation was needed between junior and senior Shodans as the grading requirements were substantially different.

Decided to retain the white stripe.

ACTION: Maintain the status quo.

8) Grading Costs:

Discussion held on what each dojo charges for gradings up to 1st Kyu and including Junior Shodan. A memo written by George Wilson Sensei, after discussion with Phil Bates Shihan outlined costs for each grade. After discussion it was agreed that these costs were suggestions and recommendations only. Each dojo is free to charge what they like for gradings. It was reiterated during these discussions that the \$5 per grading levy needed to be forwarded so perhaps dojo heads should factor this in to their grading prices.

Japanese grading costs were gazetted and were currently unchanged. Japanese gradings are quoted in yen, so the actual dollar cost fluctuates with currency fluctuations.

9) Current grading syllabus:

Discussion held on the perception that not all dojos are adhering to a standard training and grading syllabus. There has been some evidence of this where students present themselves for a particular grade and claim not to know particular components required for that grade level.

Over recent years much effort has gone into ensuring that Seishikan Australia is one unified body with all dojos teaching a uniform syllabus. Shihans have travelled all over the country to try to ensure this.

As discussed in Item 6, the grading syllabus will be reviewed and re-issued by Phil Bates Shihan. It was however noted that if individuals wanted amendments to the grading (and training) syllabus they should contact Phil Shihan and discuss their concerns.

Once the grading syllabus is re-issued it will be the standard across the country for all Seishikan Australia dojos and all gradings will be conducted to this syllabus.

10) All gradings across Australia go through the system:

Phil Bates Shihan outlined the requirement that all gradings across Australia should be conducted with Phil Bates Shihan and John Hart Shihan present. However, as this is not always possible, it is now a requirement that if the Shihans are not in attendance, the grading (of all persons graded to 2nd Kyu and above) is to be videoed and a DVD of the grading be sent to Phil Bates Shihan.

Phil Shihan signs off on all grading certificates and naturally wants to ensure that he is comfortable on what he signs off on.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Website:

The Karate Australia website created and maintained by Derek Martin Sensei has become dated when compared with recent website developments. To this end, Shaun Kirkby Sensei made some enquiries as to what it would take to upgrade Derek's website and soon came to the conclusion that the software etc used was no longer up to what was currently available out there, and a better option would be to start from scratch in conjunction with a professional web designer.

Shaun's website is currently at the stage of being test run and is realistically 6 months away from being implemented.

Shaun outlined many of the user friendly features of the modern websites and reported that he has incorporated many of these.

In addition Shaun has purchased both of the names "Seishikan.com" and "Seishikan Australia.com" and it is anticipated the new website will be found at Seishikan Australia.com.

It was universally acknowledged that Derek's website had served us well but in its present format could not compete with the more professional looking websites of some of the other karate organisations who were currently competing with us.

A vote of thanks and appreciation to Derek for his efforts with the website was passed unanimously.

A vote to allow Shaun to proceed and implement the new website was unanimously endorsed.

There was some concern that since Derek was not at the meeting he would learn of this through the grapevine. This was seen as undesirable, so it was passed that John Hart inform Derek of developments by letter as soon as possible.

Meeting closed: 2240