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## HANDING OVER TO SHIHAN OF THE KSK ACADEMY

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Now, everybody knows all that the KSK Academy represents for us. **Dirk Heene**, technical responsible for the Shihankai and President of the Executive Committee did us the favor of answering to our questions, thus opening news columns in the magazine.

### *FSK-Ha : When did you begin with practicing Karate and who were your instructors ?*

Dirk Heene : « It was around 1965 that karate became popular in Belgium and I made my first steps In Wado Ryu and Kyokushinkai. In 1966 Sensei Kase came to Belgium invited by the National Judo Federation .Later Sensei Kase went definitively to France and Myasaki. Sensei took over the job .From 1968 I trained under Myasaki. Every year I followed the international courses with sensei Kase, Shirai, Enoeda and many others.

### *When and how did you meet Sensei Kase?*



I first met Sensei Kase in 1970 in the European championships .He was refereeing my Kumite and kata. So I met him as a referee. In the same year I did my first Christmas-Course in Paris in the dojo from Mister Plée. There I learned Tekki nidan and Empi.

### *Why did you select Sensei Kase as your teacher?*

His pedagogical approach and his nonconformism was completely different then the other JKA- instructors. I studied physical education at the Ghent University and he corresponded fully to what I was learning

### *Did you follow him regularly or have there been cuts in the relationship with him, and why?*

I started to follow sensei Kase from 1980after my competition period, because he explained and showed me clearly the evolution and the Budocontent of karate, after competition. Before that period I only followed 2 or 3courses a Year; but from 1980 I met Sensei Kase every month almost.

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***Since when are you teaching?***

I already had a karate group in 1968 as part of a boyscouts organisation. I really started to teach in a dojo from 1969 and at the Ghent University from 1970.

***Today you are a representative of the teaching of Sensei Kase. According to you, which qualities do we need to be a good practiser?***

Daily practice and self critics with an open mind for information and development are important. But also, telling the people the relationship with Sensei Kase and his meaning in our evolution.

***The Kase-Ha school is a way of research in the Shotokan style .Do you think the morphology indicates the style one is choosing? For example: “the open hand allows the cosmic energy to enter into the body and to root the body to the ground and stabilise around the centre of gravity .It is quite a workout to introduce this sensation isn’t it ? What is your opinion?***

The physical and mental approach of Kase Ha can be done by everyone who wants to progress in karate. The esoteric and philosophical part is rather linked to the intelligence of the karateka and the charismatic capacity of the instructor.

***You belong to the circle of people chosen by Sensei Kase to create the international Academy in 2002. Do you know whereon he based to make this choice?***



About this question sensei Kase discussed a lot with me after his Heartattack. He fell very week and was looking for support. Finally he took the decision in Discretion, and it remains a secret he took in his grave.

***You created your national organisation Kase-ha .Can you tell us about your organisation and its radiation in your country?***

When the WKSA was created, we created immediately the Belgian Karate Shotokan Academy (BKSA) that still now remains the representative body of the KSK. We exist now for 17 years and our dangrades were always taken by Sensei Kase. The profile of Kase’s teaching continues in the gradingsyllabus and our dangrades are recognised by the Belgian Karate Federation. We represent in Belgium Shotokan Ryu Kase Ha as a Ryu and have about 3000 members.

***According to you, which are the factors to develop the Shotokan Ryu Kase Ha?***

The most important factor is to remain together as a strong group with a strong Mind. But we have to respect the freedom and the independence of each group. Clear examinations and finally a good level will attract real karatekas. And if people still come and train together in freedom we are on the good way.



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*Do you think that it is possible to save the teaching from Sensei Kase or will history and individual personality influences it in the future?*

If there is a clear profile of the instruction from Sensei it can be saved. Most of the memory of his teaching remains in our hearts, and not in a bible. Already now there are many different opinions .We may not forget that Sensei Kase Himself changed a lot .His instruction in 1980 was different than in 1990. To my opinion we must save his instruction from the last 15 years by putting it down on paper and carry on and develop keeping the fundamentals in our teaching. Therefore, the Gasshukus are important.

*Which are the perspectives of evolution of the KSKA?*



On my opinion we have to remain a group from advanced karatekas (3 dan and up). This group should stay the flag of the ship. This group must be stronger and better than automatically people will join. Our public relations should improve as well as the financial support. We should look for international sponsoring. Now still everything remains to local

*Sensei Kase was rigorous and astonished his Western pupils by his spontaneity; would you like to tell us an anecdote that still reminds you off him?*

In 1992 we were for a 5 days course in Olsztyn in Poland .Daily we had breakfast in the local Novotel .Many nice ladies were hanging around to look for those strangers. When Sensei Kase saw me watching the beauties he asked me:” Dirku, what do you think?” A little bit surprised I answered: “Sensei, I think they are beautiful.” He answered quickly: “Dirku, don’t think beautiful or not beautiful... but think... dangerous or not dangerous!!!”.

*Thank you very much Dirk, for your answer...*

