
HANDING OVER TO SHIHAN OF THE KSK ACADEMY

Sensei Jim Martin is the last of the members of the KSK Academy's Shihankai being interviewed. He practices at the dojo of Cumbernauld, one the five dojo of the Scottish Shotokan Academy¹.

When did you begin with practicing karate and who were your instructors?

I began practicing karate approx. 1968 at Cumbernauld. My first instructor was Alex McGregor (dojo instructor). We had regular visiting instructors from the UK such as Sensei Enoeda, Tomita, Kawasoe and Cattle and from Europe Sensei Kase & Shirai also we had many JKA instructors from Japan who would come up to Scotland after the Crystal Palace course.

When and how did you meet sensei Kase?

I first trained with him at Crystal Palace in the late seventies he usually came twice per year.



Why did you select sensei Kase as your teacher?

I always regarded Kase Sensei as someone very special and decided to regularly train with him when he founded the WKSA.

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

I trained with him regularly at the WKSA courses and on courses out with the Academy, usually in Belgium.

Since when are you teaching?

I have now been teaching approximately 34 years and I still get nervous.

Do you think that it is possible to save the teaching of sensei Kase or will history and individual personality influence it in the future?

Yes I think it is possible to save his teaching, it must be preserved but there will always be slight individual influence by different instructors.

Now you are a representative of the sensei kase's teaching; according to you, which qualities do we need to be a good "practiser"?

Every instructor has different qualities so you must observe & listen try your best and give 100% for the instructor.

¹ <http://www.scottishshotokanacademy.co.uk/> ; photos uploaded from the site web with the agreement of Sensei Jim Martin.



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 through the body, and to root it to the ground and stabilize around the centre of gravity. It is quite a workout to introduce this sensation, isn't it? What is your opinion ?



Yes I think the outer form is the style most people choose in the beginning then they choose the instructor. As for the second part of you question it is very difficult I'm still trying my best

You belong to the circle of people chosen by sensei Kase to create the International Academy in 2002. You must be proud of that because it is a big responsibility; what's your feeling about?

I am very proud to have been chosen and to represent my country. It's a very big responsibility. I didn't consider myself good enough.

You created your own organisation kase Ha. Can you please tell us your organisation and its influence in your country?

Sensei Kase et les membres de la SSA

Our organization is called the Scottish Shotokan Academy it's not a large organization but its students and instructors are very enthusiastic and work very hard. We are members of the governing body for karate in our country and have a good reputation with them.

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

Now I think we should look to bring up younger instructors for the future that have a good understanding and to work together and continually develop and upgrade the training program.

Which are the perspectives of evolution of the KSK Academy?



Sensei Kase with members of the SSA

As stated in the ideas above to be able to evolve we must keep the system alive and not be too blinkered of what's going on around you, open your mind.

Sensei Kase was rigorous and astonished his western students because of his spontaneity. Would you please tell us an anecdote from which you still remind, among all those punctuating your own experience with him?

I didn't have that long enough & personal relationship with him like some of the other instructors to answer this question but I found him to be a very honest & sincere man & it was reflected in his karate.

Thank you very much for your answer...

You're welcome,
Regards
Jim Martin.

