

Minutes of the Meeting Held Saturday, January 15, 2011

ISKF Headquarters

Philadelphia, PA

In Attendance:

Okazaki Shihan
Yaguchi Shihan
Frank Woon-A-Tai
Hiroyoshi Okazaki
Robert Sandler
Lois Luzi
Takamichi Maeshima (Translator)

Okazaki Shihan:

Thank you everyone for being here. Mr. Yaguchi contacted me to have a meeting with Mr. Woon-A-Tai and we will begin the meeting and Mr. Yaguchi will speak.

Yaguchi Shihan as translated by Takamichi Maeshima:

This morning Mr. Woon-A-Tai met with Yaguchi Shihan and asked why this meeting was called and Yaguchi Shihan told him that everything would be discussed at this meeting.

There are 3 points which were discussed with Mr. Woon-A-Tai this morning.

1) Caribbean meeting held at the 2010 ISKF Master Camp

Some of the things that were discussed at that meeting look very bad and as Chairman of the ISKF Technical Committee, Master Yaguchi has to take responsibility for this. Technical Committee matters must only be decided within the Technical Committee. Master Yaguchi's position is directly under Master Okazaki and Mr. Woon-A-Tai's position was directly under Master Yaguchi so before anything is reported to Master Okazaki, Master Yaguchi wanted to make everything clear with Mr. Woon-A-Tai. It is Master Yaguchi's opinion that whatever was discussed at that meeting at Master Camp, as per the minutes from that meeting was not Mr. Woon-A-Tai's job to discuss. Master Yaguchi spoke with Mr. Woon-A-Tai this morning and Master Yaguchi told him that he attended this meeting without getting permission from ISKF Headquarters and that was not good. When Master Yaguchi and Mr. Woon-A-Tai met in the morning they spoke about how to solve this problem. Mr. Woon-A-Tai told Master Yaguchi that he felt very bad that he did this without getting permission.

Master Yaguchi said one important point about having this meeting at Master Camp is that if you have 2 or more people gathered together that is not private anymore, if you have 2 clubs get together that is a regional problem, if 2 regions get together that is a national problem and if 2 country's get together that is an international problem. Whatever you need to discuss you must let ISKF Headquarters know. If a matter consists of 2 people or 2 groups it is not private anymore. Mr. Woon-A-Tai understood that concept and felt very sorry for what happened. And Mr. Woon-A-Tai is going to send a letter of apology to Master Okazaki.

Master Yaguchi is requesting a favor from Master Okazaki that regarding the meeting that was held at ISKF Master Camp to disregard as if it never happened. However, Master Yaguchi feels as though he has no right to tell the members who were at that meeting to be quiet and disregard that meeting and as a favor would like to re-form that meeting and hold it at the next Caribbean tournament which will be this August in Grenada to discuss the same topics with Okazaki Shihan present. In this way, whatever happened at this past Master Camp can be forgotten. Since this has already happened, Master Yaguchi and Mr. Woon-A-Tai must take responsibility and they discussed the next step that should be taken but nothing has been decided because whatever plans there may be, Master Yaguchi must report this to the Chairman of the ISKF – Master Okazaki and then from there they must wait. Just the two of them will discuss this topic. If you want to know the plans you must contact ISKF Headquarters. The structure of our organization is such that the responsibility to take care of these matters is from the top down first not from the bottom up. Master Yaguchi wants to handle this directly with Okazaki Shihan because Master Yaguchi is directly above Mr. Woon-A-Tai as Chairman of the Technical Committee. He will discuss this with Okazaki Shihan only how he will take responsibility for this matter. This is the action under the ISKF organization and the ISKF Technical Committee. If a problem happens within the ISKF Technical Committee or a Technical Committee member does something wrong the Shihankai will take care of it.

What happened regarding this Caribbean meeting cannot be ignored. Some people may think it is not much but it is a very important issue. There are a lot of complaints and rumors going around in the organization, and they have been going around for many years but Master Yaguchi did not have any evidence. However, last December he received the minutes from the Caribbean meeting held at Master Camp and if those minutes become official then Master Yaguchi worries about the future of our organization and that is why Master Yaguchi called Master Okazaki and requested a favor of him to have this meeting with Mr. Woon-A-Tai.

Master Yaguchi has some suggestions how he should take responsibility for this matter since he is directly above Mr. Woon-A-Tai and as Chairman of the ISKF Technical Committee. His suggestion is to: 1) step back from his position, 2) a temporary suspension. This will all be discussed with Okazaki Shihan. Master Yaguchi cannot make this decision; it is Okazaki Shihan's decision. Because this happened with a direct student of his, Master Yaguchi feels responsible as Chairman of the ISKF Technical Committee. The Caribbean meeting was an international meeting held without permission and Master Yaguchi feels responsible because 2 Technical Committee members were in the meeting and he feels responsible that he did not give enough instruction to them. This is not a situation that an apology is enough, action must be taken. If action is taken then those people who have been complaining will stop. Also, because Mr. Woon-A-Tai is Vice-Chairman of the ISKF Technical Committee he also needs to take responsibility and make action for attending that meeting. At the meeting earlier this morning between Master Yaguchi and Mr. Woon-A-Tai, Mr. Woon-A-Tai suggested he step back from his position, however Master Yaguchi told him he cannot decide that for himself because it is an organization matter and as Chairman of the Technical Committee, Mr. Woon-A-Tai should report to him, and Master Yaguchi will report to Master Okazaki. If Mr. Woon-A-Tai was simply a Technical Committee member, Master Yaguchi would give him one warning. But he is Vice-Chairman of the Technical Committee so Master Yaguchi is suggesting and asking a favor of Master Okazaki of how to take responsibility and he will discuss it directly with him. Mr. Woon-A-Tai has suggested he step back from the ISKF Technical Committee as well as Vice-Chairman of the ISKF Technical Committee. Master Yaguchi will discuss both of

those ideas with Master Okazaki. When Mr. Woon-A-Tai suggested to Master Yaguchi that he would step back from the ISKF Technical Committee all together, Master Yaguchi said no, you do not have to. Master Yaguchi understands how well Mr. Woon-A-Tai has taken care of the organization and he does not want to do that. He accepted this matter in full and it is a good lesson for the future. Master Yaguchi's suggestion is that Mr. Woon-A-Tai remain one of the ISKF Technical Committee members but not as Vice-Chairman of the ISKF Technical Committee. In that way he can continue to work for and develop the ISKF organization. Also, Dr. Shim must take responsibility for this as well. Since Dr. Shim is just a member of the ISKF Technical Committee and not in the same position as Mr. Woon-A-Tai, Master Yaguchi is suggesting to give him a warning not to do the same thing again. These are Master Yaguchi's suggestions and it will help to make the people stop talking and complaining about this matter. However, the final decision will be made by Master Okazaki.

2) Caribbean Karate College

Mr. Woon-A-Tai's position in the Caribbean Karate College is as the main principle. However, when Master Yaguchi and Mr. Woon-A-Tai spoke this morning, Mr. Woon-A-Tai told him that he stepped back from that position. Master Yaguchi said that as a technical advisor such as an instructor or examiner to go and visit there is no problem. There were rumors and complaints that people from other countries are going to other countries and trying to take charge of those countries and that looks bad and causes trouble. You can look at so many examples of other organizations where other regions trying to control other countries and it always causes trouble. Master Yaguchi tried to explain what happened in other organizations to Mr. Woon-A-Tai and they talked about the principle of this that you cannot take charge of other countries because of what can happen in the future and Mr. Woon-A-Tai understood. Mr. Woon-A-Tai said he is going to step back from the Caribbean Karate College but he has not sent any official letter as yet but he said he is going to step back. Mr. Woon-A-Tai will address this also in his apology letter to Master Okazaki. Since Guyana is Mr. Woon-A-Tai's home country, Master Yaguchi thinks it may be ok to help the organization in Guyana but no other Caribbean nations and have no principle position in Guyana. As technical advisor when visiting those countries would be fine but no administration. This is what Master Yaguchi discussed with Mr. Woon-A-Tai this morning but as far as the detail of how much Mr. Woon-A-Tai can do is Okazaki Shihan's decision. After this, Master Yaguchi does not want the Caribbean Karate College point discussed anymore. Mr. Woon-A-Tai's plan is that after this meeting, he will go back and send a letter to each Caribbean Karate College nation that he will be stepping back from his position in the Caribbean Karate College and he will also be sending this letter to ISKF Headquarters as well. This is also Master Yaguchi's plan so that this point will no longer be discussed.

3) One person one focus.

One person should have 1 responsibility not multiple thoughts. If he tries to take care of multiple businesses by himself, each task will suffer because you cannot take care of everything 100%. One person - one job. Master Yaguchi's life experience is that in the past he has seen many people try taking care of multiple businesses and the businesses failed and the entire organization split. Master Yaguchi's suggestion or favor to Mr. Woon-A-Tai is to put all of his effort to help the Canadian nation – ISKF Canada. All of these points were discussed earlier this morning between Master Yaguchi and Mr. Woon-A-Tai and he tried to explain all of this so that everyone can understand Mr. Woon-A-Tai's position. We need to all work together. This is Master Yaguchi's opinion and no decision has been made yet and before a

decision is made Master Yaguchi is asking Master Okazaki to please understand what his opinion is also. Master Yaguchi asked where Mr. Woon-A-Tai's main loyalty is and Mr. Woon-A-Tai said he has been a direct student of Master Okazaki for 40 years. When the ISKF split from the JKA many groups stayed JKA but Mr. Woon-A-Tai did not change. His loyalty remained with Master Okazaki so when Master Yaguchi asked Mr. Woon-A-Tai where his loyalty is, Mr. Woon-A-Tai said his loyalty is with the ISKF.

Those are all Master Yaguchi's points.

Okazaki Shihan:

Bob and Lois, do you have any other information you would like to add? This is for the future of our organization.

Ms. Lois Luzi:

I have a couple of questions/points that directly impact ISKF Headquarters.

- 1) In the minutes from the Caribbean meeting held at the 2010 ISKF Master Camp, it stated that each Caribbean country was to pay to the Caribbean Karate College an initial fee of \$150 and then an annual fee of \$100. That is a concern. When we were JKA, Okazaki Shihan fought with the JKA not to have the country fee to save the countries money. He knew some of the Caribbean countries could not afford it and he felt very strongly about the JKA/WF fees and this is almost the same thing. I understand the contribution to the Caribbean Karate College, however it then also becomes in competition with the ISKF. We only charge \$50 per club and we keep it down especially for the Caribbean countries and if there is another fee they have to pay it will be in competition with the ISKF annual club dues. If they do not have both fees, who do they pay? We did not know anything about that fee and how do we explain that other fee when the Caribbean countries ask us about it and what do we do if they say they cannot pay annual ISKF club dues because they are paying the fees to the Caribbean Karate College. If it is a donation, and they want to donate then they can donate whatever they can afford. But that is a lot of money to ask from each country and as I said we fought against the JKA/WF country fee for that reason. This is one point that needs to be cleared up because it directly impacts ISKF. It is in competition financially with ISKF.

Mr. Frank Woon-A-Tai

First of all, over the last couple of years I've been stepping back from the Caribbean Karate College. Although I reluctantly attended the meeting, I originally said I was not going but they asked me to go. I never chaired the meeting; all of the meetings are chaired by Dr. Shim and Mr. Turnbull. I did not look at it as if people would talk as if it were a secret meeting because we have been meeting at Master Camp for the last 30 years. As I told Yaguchi Sensei today, they do not get a chance to meet often so they meet at camp. But it was not my idea to charge that money. Absolutely not.

Ms. Lois Luzi:

If it is in the minutes it makes it official. It is great that they have the opportunity to get together at Master Camp as Okazaki Shihan says to share ideas. That is a great thing. However, when policies such as finances or the instructor trainee program or that sort of thing is discussed, someone from ISKF Headquarters should be in attendance because there is a bigger picture that needs to be taken into consideration. For instance, these fees affect the bigger picture. And these

fees are a lot of money and if any policy is made for an annual fee to be owed it needs approval. I do not know who made that decision, and if as you said there is another meeting in August, what happens with these fees. That is a concern. Are these people going to be notified that they no longer have to pay that fee? These are specific things that really need to be addressed. And as I said, because it is in the minutes it makes it official.

Mr. Frank Woon-A-Tai:

I completely agree with you from your point of view. To me it wasn't a concern at the time but I can certainly see the concern of the ISKF if they cannot pay their ISKF fee but pay the Caribbean Karate College fee. I can certainly speak to Dr. Shim and advise him what to do.

Ms. Lois Luzi:

- 2) The reason I am bringing up these points is because everything comes here to ISKF Headquarters. Problems, questions, complaints and we need to be able to know how to address them. Another issue is the Online Instructor Trainee Course. The charm of the ISKF is that we keep the guidelines, the tradition and the hard work. If the Caribbean Karate College is offering an online Instructor Trainee course, then other people in other countries will do that and not put in the work, the time and the formality of the way it was originally structured within the Instructor Trainee Program. That is one of the things one of the countries brought up to us. And one of the things that were mentioned to us is that if they pay more money than they get their instructor qualifications quicker. This is also a concern. We are doing things by the ISKF Rules and Regulations and if other groups within our own organization are doing it their own way again it is in competition with the ISKF. It waters it down for one thing and if a country is offering it on the speed track for more money it takes away from our reputation and the other countries will want to do it online. They will want to get their qualifications quicker.
- 3) Along those same lines are the judge's exams. The way it was reported to headquarters is that if you go to a Caribbean event or a Canada event to take the judges exam you do not have to take the written exam. We've never seen any grades sent to ISKF Headquarters from any of those events when a judge's exam was given. We do not know what the written grade was if there was a written exam.

Mr. Frank Woon-A-Tai:

Regarding the online Instructor Trainee Program, again, it is not my idea. I know it sounds like I am trying to escape responsibility, but honestly it is not my idea. I really do not know anything about it. I don't want it to appear that I am shifting the blame to someone else and he is not here to defend himself, but it is Dr. Shim's idea to run it that way in the Caribbean Karate College. I have nothing to do with that. With respect to Canada, there is a written test for the judge's exam. I don't know anything about the Caribbean, but within Canada there is a written test that Bernice Hughes uses. After every examination the result of the written test is on the practical paper which we give to Sensei to see.

Ms. Lois Luzi:

Are they the same written exams that ISKF Headquarters uses?

Mr. Frank Woon-A-Tai:

Yes, they are exactly the same.

Ms. Lois Luzi:

On the minutes from the Caribbean meeting held at Master Camp, it states that instructor trainee reports can be submitted to the regional director for grading. That may make it easier for ISKF Headquarters, however, when the reports are sent here to ISKF Headquarters we also require a copy of the signature sheet from the practical classes. This is proof that all requirements have been met to take the Instructor exam. We state this in our Master Camp brochure to send all of this to ISKF Headquarters in order to take the instructor exam at the ISKF Master Camp. If rules are changed for other regions, quality control will be lost especially if ISKF Headquarters is not consulted to analyze the larger picture.

Mr. Frank Woon-A-Tai:

Again, I did not know anything about this.

Ms. Lois Luzi:

It has been reported several times to ISKF Headquarters that you made an announcement at that Caribbean meeting at Master Camp that you were the next Chairman of the ISKF and when you become the Chairman you are moving ISKF Headquarters to Toronto. It was also in an article that was submitted by one of your students when you were hosting the first ISKF World Shoto Cup in Canada. As far as we know here at headquarters, this has never been said nor planned.

Lastly, it was reported to us that when Hiroyoshi Sempai went to St. Vincent, he was told by them that they heard it was his last visit and that no instructors/examiners from ISKF Headquarters would be sent to the Caribbean in the future.

Mr. Frank Woon-A-Tai:

I never said that I was the next Chairman of the ISKF at the meeting and I also did not see that in the article.

Ms. Lois Luzi:

I took that portion out of the article before we printed it in the ISKF Spotlight because it was not true. All I ask is that before any changes are made, before any meetings are held or anything is said; please try to look at the bigger picture and how everything that is done affects everyone world-wide. Not just Canada or the Caribbean. We must preserve the tradition and quality of our organization under the guidelines of Master Funakoshi. Think about how things are perceived by others. The presumption is that if you are overseeing a meeting, then you are approving what is said and if you approve it, it is also assumed that it is approved by the ISKF.

Mr. Frank Woon-A-Tai:

Sensei, when Mr. Nishiyama split from us, I gave ISKF my full support. When we split from the JKA I had a meeting with you and I pledged my loyalty and I also said I would support Hiroyoshi. Health wise I do not have the ambition to head anything.

Mr. Robert Sandler:

I did not know about this meeting being held at Master Camp. In the future, if there are any meetings being held at Master Camp it should be brought to my attention or to Okazaki Shihan. A representative from ISKF Headquarters should be at all meetings in the future so that this type of things does not occur again.

Mr. Frank Woon-A-Tai:

I am sorry about all of this. I offer my humblest of apologies. I have and always will pledge my loyalty to Okazaki Shihan. I pledge that to you. I am contented to continue what I am doing in Toronto. I am in the process of building a new headquarters in Toronto as ISKF Canada, not for the ISKF overall. This has the potential to bring in 1000 members. In regards to the Japan Karate Association name being on our checks, the name change has succeeded in Ontario but not in the other provinces. They need permission to change the name on the bank drafts, and the name cannot be changed until all of the provinces get permission from the Canadian government. I have always done my best to promote the ISKF.

In regards to sending an instructor to the Caribbean, there was a meeting with Okazaki Shihan where he said that the regional directors in the Caribbean would do the testing to help save money for them. In the Northern Region that is Mr. Garry Turnbull and in the Southern Region it is Dr. Dexter Shim.

Okazaki Shihan:

It should be 3 regions: Northern, Central and Southern. I was not aware of this change. And I was never told. Every year we send a letter for all the countries to request a visiting instructor to plan the yearly schedule. Even though Mr. Turnbull and Dr. Shim are helping during the year to help them financially, those countries should still be inviting an instructor from ISKF Headquarters at least once a year.

We must always think about the benefit for all of our members and I always try to take into consideration what is good for the majority of our members. We must do this to continuously develop in the future. I know it depends on the country and if they can they like us to send an instructor.

Mr. Frank Woon-A-Tai:

One instructor used to go to all of the Caribbean Islands. That is why different regions were formed to coordinate different instructors to go to the Caribbean regions. The Bahamas are having some problems and Mr. Turnbull is supposed to help them. They need guidance and if you want me to I can speak to Dr. Shim.

Ms. Lois Luzi:

It is great that you are building a large headquarters in Canada and it will bring in many new members. However, we are not about numbers, the ISKF is about keeping the quality, integrity and tradition of Master Funakoshi's principles. If we change that we will be no better than franchise karate schools. We have requests from other countries daily wanting to join the ISKF, and we do not always accept some of them if they do not want to follow the ISKF Rules and Regulations.

Okazaki Shihan:

We always follow Master Funakoshi's principles in the Dojo Kun and the Niju Kun. The ISKF Technical Committee must educate the members of the ISKF this very important point and that we are a martial arts organization. Organization wise, the business aspect is very important because without business and the economy, we cannot do anything. People can tell what is a

martial art and also differentiate the business aspect. At the ISKF Technical Committee meeting held at Master Camp I always say that it is up to the Technical Committee that they must explain to their students and instructors what is a real martial art, it is the ISKF Technical Committee's responsibility to explain this. Some countries are very interested in the principle of the ISKF – and our main principle is to help bring peace to the world. Each country and region may have a different way to develop. However, the ISKF Technical Committee must explain this principle to their students and instructors for the future.

Mr. Frank Woon-A-Tai:

I always check with you Sensei, I never knowingly go against you.

Okazaki Shihan:

If there is ever a concern, you can always contact me or Mr. Yaguchi.

Mr. Frank Woon-A-Tai:

If you want me to, I can try to fix this and advice the Caribbean countries.

Okazaki Shihan:

Is the Caribbean Karate College doing ISKF karate? Are they ISKF?

Mr. Frank Woon-A-Tai:

They are all ISKF; it is part of the curriculum in the schools.

Okazaki Shihan:

Why doesn't the Caribbean Karate College use the name ISKF?

Mr. Frank Woon-A-Tai:

Because it is in the school system. They cannot use the name because they are funded by the government and other styles would complain and want the government to fund them as well. The government would not give us permission to use the name and they are donating land and other styles would want land donated as well.

Okazaki Shihan:

Does the Caribbean Karate College have By-Laws?

Mr. Frank Woon-A-Tai:

I thought we had it but I am not sure it was approved. Last year we were supposed to have elections but we did not.

Okazaki Shihan:

You should have By-Laws so that if other styles wanted to join they would understand they have to do things the ISKF way.

Mr. Frank Woon-A-Tai:

Just as we got it in the educational system in the Caribbean we are trying to get it in Canada. It goes a long way.

Okazaki Shihan:

We are not just Pan-America now. We are world-wide and we may have a regional headquarters in each region of the world so that if countries are interested to join ISKF, those regional directors can research and see what kind of group they are. But we must all work together to make this a successful ISKF organization within the principles of Master Funakoshi.

Respectfully Submitted By:

**Robert Sandler
Secretary General**

Assisted By:

**Lois Luzi
Executive Administrator**