

Abdu Shafer time as Karate England Director and Performance Director – Statement of Fact

(no person has the authority to republish or reproduce this statement in any form, electronically or otherwise without prior written permission from the author Abdu Shafer)

1. 06 November 2005 elected as one of eleven directors of Karate England along with – Ticky Donovan OBE, Peter Allen, Greg Durant, Mick Dewey, Joe Ellis, Brian Philcox, Leo Lipinski, Bob Poynton, Andy Sherry and Vic Charles MBE. **Nick Halafihi appointed as CEO and finance director.** I attended 3 board meetings during November/December 05 for which I have never been reimbursed travel mileage allowance expenses approx. **£530**
2. Unanimously appointed as Performance Director by KE board along with Ticky Donovan OBE as National Squad Director both commenced employment on 3rd January 2006. Resigned as KE Board Director.
3. 14/15 January 06 - I personally paid **£3431.65** for national squad flights to attend Paris Open. **£3,000** Accommodation costs paid by **Bob Poynton** for which he has never been reimbursed.
4. 4 February 06 - I personally paid **£520.84** accommodation costs for national coaches Wayne Otto, Molly Samuel-Leporte, Willie Thomas and Ian Cole plus medical team Mohinder Surdhar and Dr. Stuart Miller to attend Cadet/Junior European Selection at the EIS Sheffield.
5. 6 February 06 - I personally paid **£11,000** flights costs for the whole Cadet/Junior Squad and staff to attend the Junior European in Podgorica, Serbia/Montenegro.
6. 24 February 06 - I personally paid **£3,306.40** for flights costs for Senior National Squad to attend Dutch Open.
7. By late March with Performance Director Travel expenses and all the flight and accommodation costs that I had personally paid, Karate England owed me in excess of **£20,000** which was finally paid at the end of March 06 without any provision for interest lost during this period approx. **£250**. All these financial problems were created by as a result of the CEO/Financial Director having failed to open bank accounts in a timely manner, not setting up proper credit facilities with service suppliers and that the payment system through the Sport England Bureau being very slow and cumbersome. In addition these delays increased costs for flights and accommodation. The CEO stated that he could not pay any of these costs from his own pocket and no other staff offered to help therefore **I was left with no alternative but to pay these costs as the national squads would probably have not attended any of these championships without these payments.**

8. During this period of January to April 06 as Performance Director I set-up an annual rolling calendar of events and squad training sessions, produced a written selection procedure and set about implementing strong foundations for national and regional squad that would hopefully serve them well for the next few years. I spent these months in conflict with the CEO about the lack of proper credit and banking facilities which had seen the necessity for Abdu Shafer to bank roll the national squad for over 3months. Further disagreements developed when the CEO allocated performance budgets to other areas in the Whole Sport Plan without any recourse or agreement with the Performance director. As Performance Director I wanted to bring these issues to the KE Board but was unequivocally told by the CEO that all staff must go through him with any communication to the KE Board.

Also, during this period as Performance Director I was tasked with all the administration of the national squads because the new non- karate staff did not know what they were doing and were relying on me to deal with or advise on all karate matters whether they were Performance Department or not. This did not ease until they appointed Sarah as office manager at the end of February and she took another month to get her bearings and get a grip of the post to such a level that the office could offer the Performance Department any proper administrative backup.

9. 24 April 06 - I was dismissed by the CEO without KE Board approval or documentation and this dismissal is subject to an ongoing litigation case
10. End of May 06 as Northern Senior Regional coach I personally paid **£1,600** for flights and tracksuits for the Northern Regional Squad to attend the European Regional Championships in Paris. These flights were booked after coaches and athletes confirmed they would pay back costs, this included **Peter Allen** who guaranteed that the **AMA** would pay for their athletes, to-date one **AMA** athlete still owes **£195** and after many requests to the athlete and **AMA** the money it still outstanding almost a year on.
11. During May – September 2006 Karate England fell into financial trouble culminating in Sport England Suspending funding. Although having resigned as KE director in January, I was invited back on to the board along with all other directors who had left. I accepted when all others refused. Despite being in litigation with KE Board I was glad to return and try to help the board to work through Karate England problems and try to save it for the benefit all the members.
12. October 2006 attended Senior World Championships in Tampere, Finland, paying all my own expenses but attended as the KE Board representative. On meeting with the National Squad Director Ticky Donovan OBE and the representative of the sponsors Cyber-Budo who had kindly agreed to cover all costs for these championships to allow our national squad to attend. It was evident that both had forgotten to bring payment for **Entry fees, Black cards, WKF affiliation and late payment fines this totalled in excess £1200 once again no-one offered to pay and I paid the full amount out of my own pocket.** To-date I have not been reimbursed.

13. 29 October 2006 EGM called by the members through **Peter Allen** and organised by **Terry Wingrove** who both stated that they were responsible for the cost of the venue, Terry collected monies for lunch from association representatives who attended. On leaving I was presented by the hotel with a bill for venue costs totalling **£418.90** for which I was forced to pay on my credit card. No one has offered to repay me although they have been made aware of the situation.
14. During September 06 – January 07 the remaining KE Board members worked tirelessly to try to rectify the problems of KE with the majority of the work being done by **Bob Poynton and Abdu Shaher**. **Bob** in particular did enormous amounts of work day and night while he was dealing with a family bereavement. The KE board had numerous meetings with Sport England producing documentation and revisions of the Whole Sport Plan in an attempt to restart funding and at all times we believed that this was possible. Despite this, it was only in a meeting on the 4 January 2007 that it was made absolutely clear that no funding would be forthcoming from Sport England following the KE Board's failure to get member association to input membership fees. This left the board with no alternative but to look to liquidate the company.
15. End November 06 I travelled to Bisham Abbey office as the Board was asked to vacate the offices and remove all documents and equipment. I loaded as much I could in my Ford Galaxy and took it to the North –East where the KE Board had agreed to set up a temporary office. Normal mileage travel allowance expenses for a trip from Middlesbrough – Bisham Abbey – Middlesbrough would have been **£205** without cost of a removal van. Although a skeleton staff had been covering the office since September and claims of negotiations with creditors, and forensic accountants looking at the KE accounts I found no agreements with creditors and no report from any forensic accounts and none were passed on to me.
16. During December I looked around for possible office venues and found Redcar Station Business Centre where the KE board agreed to set up a temporary office, which opened on the 2nd January 2007.
17. The KE Board agreed early January 2007 to utilise any remaining monies in the KE account to cover the costs of the Redcar office set-up and running costs and this to be transferred into Abdu Shaher account so that he could pay them. This was made necessary because KE Board did not have 2 signatories for the KE current account because all the directors that had resigned.
18. 13 January 2007 I attended the squad selections at Bisham Abbey as KE Board representative informing all athletes, coaches and parents of the current situation with KE and the financial ramifications in relation to the Cadet/Junior Europeans. Since late November I had been attempting to finalise KE accounts, but was unable to because the cheque stubs were missing. On trawling through the offices at Bisham Abbey the cheque stubs were found in a locked draw. I then loaded up my Galaxy with everything that was left in the office and took it to Redcar. Normal mileage travel allowance

expenses for a trip from Middlesbrough – Bisham Abbey – Middlesbrough would have been **£205** without cost of a removal van.

19. 26 January 2007 the KE Board informed Sport England that at end of play that day Karate England (2005) Ltd had ceased trading and that the KE board would inform all member associations after the weekend. The KE Board informed all on Wednesday 31 January that it had ceased to trade.

20. February 2007 I attended the Cadet/Junior Europeans as Head of Delegation covering all my own costs the same as all athletes, all coaches and all referees. Again I paid all **entry fees, Black cards, affiliation fees and late payments fines total £2003.57 which the 4 remaining KE Board members agreed they would pay.** All Staff travelled to this championships knowing that the KE Board did not have **Indemnity insurance.**

21. Finally during the period when I came back to help the KE board from September 2006 to March 2007. I may have been the main point of contact and the person to communicate to all members, staff, squads and parents what was, or was not happening with KE, but all decisions were made by the board as whole. At **NO** time did I make any decisions unilaterally, as I did not have the power to do so. I merely implemented or communicated what was agreed by the whole board, of which I was one member.

Breakdown of Redcar Office costs paid by Abdu Shaher.

Redcar Office Expenditure		
office costs Jan 07	£552.36	
Accountants fees	£503.35	
Staffing costs	£204.17	
Staffing costs	£70.00	
Staffing costs	£105.00	
Staffing costs	£198.00	
Staffing costs	£35.00	
On-site computer work	£270.25	
On-site computer work	£50.00	
Fax Modem	£25.00	
office costs Feb 07	£560.57	
Entry fees and Affiliations		€2805
fees for Junior Europeans	£2,003.57	€1.4/£ conversion
March storage rate	£235.00	
April storage rate	£176.25	Stored booked
May storage rate	£176.25	for 2 months
Total	£5,164.77	
Monies Paid into Abdu Shaher Account		£3,300.00
Balance due Abdu Shaher		£1,864.77

1. This e-mail and any files or documents transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the intended recipient. Unauthorised use, disclosure or copying is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify the sender at the above address and then delete the e-mail from your system.
2. If you suspect that this e-mail may have been intercepted or amended, please notify the sender.
3. Please note that this e-mail and any attachments have been created in the knowledge that internet e-mail is not a 100% secure communications medium. It is your responsibility to ensure that they are actually virus free. No responsibility is accepted by Sender for any loss or damage arising from the receipt of this e-mail or its contents
4. No person has the authority to republish or reproduce this statement in any form, electronically or otherwise without prior written permission from the author Abdu Shaher