

USPE Shooting

European Police Championships (EPC) 2015

The 2015 EPC was due to be hosted by Turkey but was cancelled for reasons best known to themselves (possibly financial and possibly with the ISIL terror problems 'next door' in Syria)

Russia offered to step in to host the 'missing' event and the dates **17th to 22nd July, 2017** were adopted to replace the Turkish cancellation.

The venue was arranged in Kazan which is about 450 miles east of Moscow, the third largest city in Russia and situated on the Volga River; internet searches and Google recce's showed it to be a very picturesque city and a host city for the forthcoming football World Cup. The range to be used was a purpose built range of international standard which had hosted the shooting events of the World University Games 4 years earlier.

A team was hastily arranged, the invitation was accepted and the process to acquire visa's was commenced. With 6 to 8 weeks before the proposed departure (we couldn't confirm flights etc until we had the visa's) the first visit to the Russian visa office in London was made. Armed with a written personalised invitation, the visa was refused, the grounds being that the organisers had not registered or notified the event to the Embassy.

Given the lack of a visa the GB team reluctantly had to withdraw. It appeared that a large number of nations had the same problems - so the organisers appear not to have known

And that folks, was that.

Only 15 nations turned up for the event, most of them bordering Russia. Scores were well down on the expected USPE results – or is that “sour grapes”?