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Golden Apple is sure to tempt Tenpinners

Situated in the Eastern Mediterranean at the cross roads of three continents and the third largest island in the Mediterranean Sea, Cyprus is affectionately referred to as THE GOLDEN APPLE. Ancient legend says that this was the home of Aphrodite, goddess of love and beauty and the island's strategic location has shaped its history and civilization throughout the centuries. With 9000 years of legend and tradition, Cyprus is an island with a history that even predates the long and fascinating history of Tenpin Bowling.

Archaeological evidence points to bowling's existence for around 7,000 years with the discovery in an Egyptian child's grave of bowling balls, pins and other implements for playing a game decidedly similar to our modern tenpins. Bowling has survived and grown into the world's second most played sport, with over 100 million participants annually.

The bid by Cyprus to host the second Commonwealth Tenpin Bowling Championship was destined for success. The beautiful island has a mild, typically Mediterranean climate, with abundant sunshine even in winter and little rainfall. Moderating weather with nature at its best in February offers the perfect environment for visitors from every corner of the Commonwealth – a group of 72 countries representing over a third of the world's population.

Originally scheduled for late 2004, the II Commonwealth Tenpin Bowling Championship was rescheduled to February 2005 following the sport's inclusion on the program of the Commonwealth Youth Games, to be held in Bendigo, Australia in December 2004.

The 2005 Commonwealth Tenpin Bowling Championship will take place in Paphos, at the state of the art Cosmic Bowling Center. This Brunswick equipped, 18-lane centre is the larger of two centres in Paphos, a thriving coastal city situated on the southwest coast of Cyprus.

Following the inaugural Commonwealth Tenpin Bowling Championship held in Stirling, Scotland – another city steeped in history – an association of national Federations representing numerous Commonwealth countries was formed with the specific goal of staging biennial Commonwealth Championships that will ultimately meld into the official Commonwealth Games program.

Under the auspices of the international Commonwealth Games Federation, officially endorsed Commonwealth Games Gold, Silver and Bronze medals are awarded to the winners and placegetters of Singles, Doubles, Teams and Masters events in this unique Championship that attracted participants to the first Championship from 15 countries, ranging in size from the huge expanses of Australia, Canada and India to tiny island nations including Guernsey, Malta and The Bahamas.

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"Cyprus is the new jewel in the crown for bowling" said Roger Christofides, President of the Cyprus Bowling Federation. "Mr Giannis Anthimou, proprietor, and his staff at the Cosmic Bowling Center, are ready to offer their hospitality and knowledge to all visitors and clients. It's a fantastic sport center, including a pro-shop offering an array of bowling accessories and the services of two professional Ball Drillers" he added.

The Cyprus Bowling Federation will host the Championship, on behalf of the Commonwealth Tenpin Bowling Federation, from 14-20 February 2005. Further information regarding the Championship can be obtained from Roger Christofides, email roger@cyprusbowling.com or visit the following website for more information about Cyprus: www.cyprustourism.org.

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