

TORREVIEJA TOASTMASTERS CLUB LAUNCHED

After many weeks of preparation, John and Alison Forster's hard work came to fruition as the demonstration evening to launch the Torrevieja Toastmasters Club arrived and around fifty people attended. 'Toastmasters' is for everyone of all nationalities and last Friday at the Hotel Laguna, on urb. Doña Pepa there were toastmasters from Mallorca, Madrid, Cadiz (Rota) and more locally, from the recently formed Las Palmeras Club, who meet at the Olympia Restaurant, Mil Palmeras.

After John welcomed his guests, the evening got under way with 'Toastmaster of the Evening', Ralph Arroyo, ATM (Advanced Toast Master) from the Mallorca club. During the evening, various Toastmasters took the lectern with prepared speeches, which were evaluated by both Distinguished (DTM) and Competent (CTM) Toastmasters. Alison delivered her 'Ice breaker' speech and Eamon O'Gara (CTM) from the Las Palmeras club, as well as being an evaluator during the evening, was also presented with a certificate which showed that their club already has achieved 'Charter Status'. To receive this status there must be

over twenty members.

'Toastmasters', originally the brainchild of Dr. Ralph C. Smedley in 1903, when he became Director of Education at a YMCA centre, was set it up to help educate the older boys in communication skills. It wasn't until 1924 when he assembled a group of men in the basement of the Santa Ana YMCA that 'Toastmasters', as we know it today, was formed and it now boasts over 9,000 clubs with 193,000 members in eighty different countries.

'Toastmasters' is there to help even the most timid person to develop confidence and self assurance in public speaking and this accomplished by a program of carefully designed, progressively more challenging projects, delivered in a non-threatening atmosphere of encouragement and mutual growth. Toastmasters isn't just for business people who need to address an audience as part of their occupation, it is also for the nervous person who may just fear being the centre of attention at a private function, and gets tongue tied when having to make the smallest of 'Thank you' speeches. It may

take a few meetings to achieve this but as long as you attend regularly you will achieve your goal.

The meetings are aimed to be fun as well as helping to overcome certain phobias you may have and 'ice breakers' are always the prime target at the start. There is usually a 'Word of the Day', 'Thought of the Day' and a 'Jokemaster', all of which were covered last Friday. There was even someone on hand to count how many times 'Ah's' and 'Um's' were used. Joanne Whitlock,

Membership Vice President from the Madrid branch, did detect a few uttered by one or two speakers.

Although 'Toastmasters' is a non profit making organisation, it is necessary to cover the cost of the initial pack, the monthly magazine and the charge for the venue of the weekly meeting. This is covered by ar

outlay of €100, which can be spread over the first few meetings. John and Alison's, 'Toastmasters' will be held Tuesday evenings at the Hotel Laguna. For more information please phone 96 679 1668 or on e-mail john@thenlpcentre.com The Las Palmeras club meet at the Olympia Restaurant the first and third Saturdays of each month, from 10am to noon. For further details contact Eamon on 96 676 5017 or on 105 007.



Alison with visiting Toastmasters