

'HELLO' TO FISHING ON GRAN CANARIA



CARP FISHING

Alison from 'Canary Island Carp Fishing Tours' called Round Town News to tell us that they had VIP's fishing for carp at the exclusive lakeside resort at Lake Chira and trying out the 'belly boats' which by all accounts sound to be a step up from fishing in a rubber ring.
www.costadelcarping.com

VIP DINNERS

The visiting Germans were treated to dinner at the Cofradía fish restaurant at the harbour in Mogan and another at the 'Cordial Mogan' Hotel where they were staying. The Royal Fishing Club raises money for sick children or those in poverty and uses the media to generate interest. The Gran Canarian Government and the Ayuntamiento de Mogan have been involved in the welcoming of this event to the island; an event which has created €137,580 in publicity for the flagging German tourism market.

WHO'S A CELEBRITY?

At the crack of dawn, RTN went along to the harbour in Puerto Rico to meet the crew of the Blue Marlin III as they prepared the boat for the day's tourists. Asked about who had been fishing the day before, they said they were disappointed with the previous day's fishing and the cameraman whose €50,000 camera had been splashed with sea water, resulting in an early return to try and salvage it.

"The strange thing was they weren't filming the dolphins! They asked to see dolphins so we took them to a group swimming, and they didn't take any photos or anything," said the Captain. I asked the crew if they were well dressed and I was informed that one lady had tried to board the boat in 'high heels!' The laughed when they realised the VIP status of their tourists and that they had offered them the usual humble lunch of cheese bocadillo (bun), Fanta and Heineken!

Day two and three saw different groups of VIP's who were more interested in fishing for the elusive 'Blue Marlin,' with the ex-coach of the German Hockey squad being the best fisherman, nearly catching two Marlins, one of which was a thirty minute struggle until the line broke; disappointing for the crew but gaining much respect for Hans Zach.

GERMAN ELITE

With publicity from last week's fishing trip in Germany; Holland; Russia; Poland; Switzerland and France, all target audiences to increase tourism to Gran Canaria, RTN asked a resident German boat owner, Matthias, what he thought about the excitement: "Germans aren't star struck - the VIP's won't be the reason Germans holiday here." Originally from



Hanover, he sells fishing tackle from his company Walhalla and believes that awareness of the fishing possibilities that the Canaries offers is good news for business. The Council met with 30 VIP's and Matthias explained that there were famous actors; Fritz Wepper and Sascha Hehn (acted with Farrah Fawcett in Poor Little Rich Girl); Harry Wijnvoord (Germany's Bruce Forsyth equivalent); TV's Caroline Biel; presenters; media moguls and sports personalities including Olympic medalists and Polish born boxer 'The Tiger.'

The skies maybe a little quieter now that the celebrities are no longer being ferried overhead but lets hope that European interest in the island and the fantastic fishing opportunities available continue to make a noise and keep Gran Canaria as a firm favourite on the 'sea lovers' tourism map!

www.royal-fishing.de, www.bluemarlin3.co.uk, info@costadelcarping.com

BY DEBORAH WOODMANSEY

The German Paparazzi have been having a 'field trip' over here on Gran Canaria, following members of an exclusive membership club, 'The Royal Fishing Club.' Members include celebrities, sports, political and media personalities and they have been taking part in a three day sport fishing event on the island, ferried around by helicopters, transporting them from Mogan to the lakes, in the centre of the island each day.



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