Rumania to most of the present generation is an Eastern Bloc country bordering the Black Sea, with strong ties with its neighbour, the Soviet Union. Although it lies behind the Iron Curtain, the bars are more akin to wire netting as trade and tourism between east and west develops year by year.

Formerly the classical Dacia and Scythia Pontica, as those who spent an industrious generation are akin to wire netting as trade and tourism between east and west develops year by year.

The sole importers of the Dacia range are Dacia Concessionaires Ltd, Dilton House, Station Road, Westbury, Wilts. TECHNICAL

Golf Greenkeeping tested the middle of the range truck, the 4x4 Duster Hard-Top, priced at £4,650 (ex VAT). A week’s trial on the 4x4 Duster Hard-Top, and I am not ashamed to admit I shed a little tear of regret when the seven days passed all too quickly and it had to go back.

As a general purpose golf course truck, the Dacia Hard-Top is ideal for moving equipment around the course or taking machinery for repair. It is just as ‘At Home’ on rough terrain or on the road. For normal road use it is driven in two-wheel drive, turn a hand operated screw on the front wheels and the mode becomes four-wheel, ready to be engaged in either high or low ratio by a lever, forward of the gear handle.

A tow ball and electrics are standard as is the ‘Roo Bar’ on the front, not only to brush away kangaroos that might have escaped from local zoos, but more practically to protect the bonnet from bumps and scrapes.

Out on the course, the Duster went everywhere it was asked, including the steepest gradient we could find. Using the high ratio four-wheel drive it climbed from a standing start, a notoriously wet part of the fairway without the vestige of wheel slip, or a mark on the turf.

The 1400cc Renault engine is quiet and adequate for the job, but Dacia Concessionaires have told me a diesel version will be available towards the end of the year.

In addition to the manufacturers standard 12 month warranty, a second year’s cover is included free of charge on all Dacia Dusters with the option of a third year also available. The unlimited mileage covers all major mechanical and electrical components.

All Dacia Dusters are treated with Swedish system Dinol anticorrosion protection. The five year warranty applies to all treated areas including underside, box sections, sills and doors.

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