

## A Compact Touring from Toyota

by Ian Lynas

One vehicle ideal for a family or a business user is the UK built Toyota Auris Touring Sports; a versatile and compact number which offers a wide choice of power units.

In earlier times it is likely that it would have been given the name Estate or Shootingbrake; Touring Sports seemingly is more trendy, but after all what is in a name the important factor is the vehicle itself.



I spent a few days in company with a Touring Sports and not only did I find it a practical vehicle but one with a generous load carrying area.

My test vehicle was not an in fashion hybrid, which grows in importance day by day for Toyota, but a petrol unit allied to an automatic transmission. If I got tired of the transmission doing the work for me, a case of slipping to the manual setting and enjoying the sportslike paddles on the steering wheel.

I have to admit that I am growing more and more fonder of automatic transmissions; I do hope that it is not an

age thing.

To be truthful modern automatics are simply so good that why not go the little extra and have one and in many cases they turn out to produce better economy figures than a manual gearbox.

The already noted engine choices, an all-new 1.2 litre direct injection turbocharged engine joins the existing petrol line-up and there is a new 1.6 litre D-4D and the 1.4 litre D-4D has been substantially upgraded to give best-in-class CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the 90bhp power category. Every engine in the range now meets Euro 6 emissions regulations.

Northern Ireland drivers tend to favour diesel power so with this Toyota there is certainly choice with engines that should prove easy on the wallet.

The smaller capacity diesel engine according to figures from Toyota can achieve eighty plus miles per gallon, that of course is a figure achieved under ideal conditions, no reason that you could achieve sixty miles per gallon plus.

The exterior styling is fresh and thoroughly modern with a new-look front and rear, giving Auris a more prestigious and sophisticated road presence.

On board, the sensory quality of the cabin has been significantly raised with a redesigned dashboard, premium quality trims and surface finishes and a new 4.2-



inch colour TFT multi-information screen, this is available on all hybrids and higher grade models.



Further benefits from suspension and steering revisions improve ride comfort, handling and driver involvement. I have to say that some of our roads are in desperate need of attention and while they are good in one respect, providing an idea of the quality of a vehicle's suspension, I in company with all would prefer smoother driving surfaces.

In this respect I was pleasantly surprised with the quality of ride of the Touring Sports.

I must also point out that performance is adequate rather than sportslike.

Also worth noting that noise levels have been reduced over the previous

Auris models and I was able to enjoy the in car entertainment.

Summing up a good all rounder with the usual good build quality that we have come to expect from Toyota.