

The Accredited Judges Trainers met on the 13 February to consider a request from the WTLC to offer guidance on the “Down on the move” exercise.

In the interest of clarity, they recommend that judge give competitors marks out of 5 for the Heelwork and marks out of 5 for the “Down on the move”, and this should be reflected on the score sheet before being totalled.

For all the Working Trials exercises the description in the regulations does not differ between Open and Championship Trials. It is the judge’s job to set a test which is appropriate to the stake being judged. For example, in an Open test it would be possible to have the “down on the move” as a completely separate exercise and in a Championship test incorporate it within the Normal pace heelwork.

The important point to note is that the judge should make it clear when the “down” is going to happen.

We recommend that suitable comments are included in the Guidance to Judges document and that the regulation remains as is for a period of at least 12 months to give time for it to “bed in”.