

Merger formed to run pan-tuning project

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A STEELBANDSMAN and a businessman have got together and arranged a training programme in pan-tuning scheduled to start early next year.

Mr. Barry Yates, public relations officer of Belmont Fifth Dimension, said yesterday that Mr. Amral Khan, who has sponsored steelbands on overseas trips, had agreed to invest \$10,000 for the first phase of the project.

This money will be used to pay the tuning teacher, the

administrator and lecturers in the various other aspects of steelband music, such as arranging and performing standards.

The programme was drawn up after discussions between Mr. Khan and Mr. Yates, who will be responsible for setting up the classes and selecting panmen for the course.

Mr. Calvin Jacobs, who has just returned from an extensive two-year tour with the Cavaliers in Canada, the United States, Australia and the Far East, will lecture and give demonstrations in showmanship

Commenting on the programme, Mr. Yates declared: "At last my dream has come true. I know this is the beginning of a new era for steelbandmen, who have for too long been neglected."

Mr. Yates added that Mr. Khan had also undertaken to assist and train personnel to develop the project into a dynamic and vibrant one.

The course will last approximately nine months, and suc-

cessful participants will be given diplomas.

Mr. Yates said that employment after graduation would be ensured through the setting up of a co-operative to manufacture steel drums on a commercial basis for local and foreign use."