



COCA COLA SILVER STARS seen in action last night.

A 'steelband ordeal' on at Hall tonight

By TONY MITCHELL

AN ORDEAL is what the eight steelbands for tonight's semi-finals at Queen's Hall are certain to experience.

Tonight is the toughest of all as the 1966 Steelbands' Music Festival reaches perhaps the most nervous stage.

Coca Cola Silver Stars was the last band to get the nod of approval from Adjudicator Professor John Russell last night to join the others in tonight's battle.

The eight semi-finalists are: Guinness Cavaliers and Texaco West Stars (South); Chase Manhattan Savoy's and Sandbach Syncopators (East); Pan-Am Jet North Stars, Esso Tripoli, Cocoa Silver Stars and Angostura Star Lift (West).

The edge

Starlift qualified yesterday afternoon. The soloists for tonight are Selwyn McSweeney (Sandbach Syncopators); Harold Headley (Esso Tripoli) Laldath Persad (Kintups); Michael Richards (Sundowners) and Cordell Barbour (Solo Harmonites) who qualified last night.

Barbour got the edge over Carlton Marciano (old Oak Casablanca) for the better rendition of Nocturne in E flat played by both soloists.

Coca Cola Silver stars with their tune of choice (their own composition called a Creole Melody) were found to be very effective in symphonic arrangement.

The band beautiful in tuning, had their "leg stump

grazed" in the Eine Kleine but were declared "not out" by Professor John Russell.

Solo Harmonites, one of the bands eliminated, though accurate in the symphonic parts needed a little more variety in their tune of choice—Swan Lake Ballet—and they maintained a leisurely pace with the Intermezzo.

Dixie Harps always had a controlled tone but there was a little rhythmic unsteadiness in the Eine Kleine.

Old Oak Casablanca used the bass pans effectively in their tune of choice—"Worthy as the Lamb" but the Intermezzo was a little exaggerated while they used B flats instead of B naturals in the Eine Kleine.

Tonight's semi-finals should be a better show than even the finals on Sunday if only for the reason that there will be more bands on stage.

There are a few tickets remaining for tonight's big battle which begins at 8 p.m. All bands must report to Queen's Hall by 7 p.m. for the draw.