

NOW DESPERS KNOCKED OUT AT THE HALL

By TONY MITCHELL

THE 1966 triple crown champions, West Indian Tobacco Gay Desperadoes, will take no further part in the Steelbands' Festival.

Last night at Queen's Hall they failed to survive as Pan-Am Jet North Stars and Chase Manhattan Savoys were sent through to the semi-finals by Professor John Russel, the Adjudicator.

At the afternoon session, Esso Tripoli and Sandbach Syncopators also got through. Although the playing of Gay Desperadoes was "imaginative and exciting" with "Brazil" — their tune of choice — and the Intermezzo showed "good tuning", they were not so good with the Eine Kleine as the "timing was wrong."

The adjudicator was "especially pleased to note that bands had corrected faults of the preliminaries and it was nice when people listened to what their uncle tells them."

Tune was just right

He was, at the time, referring to Pan-Am North Stars whose selection of "Poets and Peasants" (same tune of choice as Sandbach Syncopators) was "just right, with a sensational and sensitive tone" which always kept the audience interested.

Chase Manhattan Savoys were very musical with the Intermezzo and they "got right on the very nerve of the tempo" in the Eine Kleine for a "dignified, classical and very satisfying performance."

Schezando, the other eliminated band, would have to do something about the tuning of the pans, Professor Russell pointed out.

Soloist Harold Headley of Tripoli with the "right style and accuracy" qualified for the semi-finals.

This evening at 4.30, the four bands on stage will be Angostura Starlift, Carib Tokyo, Hilltones and Melotones, Soloists will be Michael Hamilton (Schezando) and Laldath Persad (Kintups).

The night session will spotlight Coca-Cola Silver Stars, Old Oak Casablanca, Solo Harmonites and Dixie Harps of Tunapuna. Soloists will be Cordell Barbour (Solo Harmonites) and Carlton Marcano (Old Oak Casablanca).

And it was announced by the Steelband Association, that tickets are still available for tomorrow nights semi-finals but Sunday night's final is a sell-out.

