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## A night of double success for Ken Philmore

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LIKE his northern counterpart Len "Boogsie" Sharpe, musician Ken "Professor" Philmore continues to carve his own niche in the annals of the steelband movement.

Also creating history, in similar fashion to Phase II Pan Groove is Vat 19 Fonclaire. Last Sunday night, Fonclaire, playing Philmore's arrangement of Boogsie's *Fire Down Below*, secured its ninth title in 16 years in the South/Central Zone Panorama competition.

Performing second on the night's programme, Fonclaire set Skinner Park ablaze with its fiery performance and was awarded 266½ points, an increase of 8½ points on its preliminary score. In addition to its nine South/Central Zone titles, Fonclaire has placed second on five occasions and third once.

For Philmore of Pleasantville, it was a night of double success, and one on which he got the

## Fonclaire look for national title

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better of Boogsie, his arch-rival from Woodbrook. For Panasonic Connection, his other band in the final, Philmore arranged Denyse Plummer's *The Champ*, scored 260 points and copped the second place.

Asked how he felt about his success, Philmore said: "I am feeling great, as well as very happy that my music is appreciated by the judges and the public. I have given Fonclaire the best of me. It's the best I've done in my career. Once they perform the music as it was meant to be played there's no stopping us. *Fire Down Below* is a beautiful piece of music. When I heard the piece, and with a little insistence from the band's captain (Milton "Wire" Austin) I immediately knew that this would be the one I wanted to arrange for Fonclaire."

Commenting on Fonclaire's historic ninth victory, Austin said: "The next thing on the agenda is the national title. We have never won a national title before, and the closest we've reached was in 1975 when we placed second with *Spree*. I think that we have a good chance, based on the comments we have received and the improvement in the scores since the preliminary."

Sunday night's show started with a performance by Antillean All Stars with Boogsie making his debut as the band's arranger. Playing Baron's *Somebody*, the band placed fourth with 247 points. Coming after the Fonclaire/Philmore performance was Trintopec Deltones, playing Boogsie's arrangement of *Free Up*. Deltones was awarded 244 points and secured the fifth berth in the placings. The results of the 1989 South/Central Zone Panorama Final are:

1. Vat 19 Fonclaire — 266½
2. Panasonic Connection — 260
3. Kalomo Kings — 258
4. Antillean All Stars — 247
5. Trintopec Siparia Deltones — 244
6. T&TEC Motown — 240
7. Trintoc Sun Valley — 228½
8. Tropical Angel Harps — *Eire Down Below* — 226

Judges at Sunday's show were Richard Tang Yuk, Jocelynnne Pierre, Ann Marine Osborne, Merle Albino de Coteau and Joselyn Sealey. Next round of the competition will be the National semi-final, scheduled for the Queen's Park Savannah on Thursday night. Sixteen bands will vie for 11 places to challenge defending champions Phase II Pan Groove in the National Final.

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