

Things down to a pattern: adjudicator

By TONY MITCHELL

A PACKED Queen's Hall heard Professor John Russell announce last night, "Bands No. 1, 3, and 4 will go into the second round."

And the roar of the crowd was almost deafening as they knew that Western-based Coca Cola Silver Stars, Angostura Starlift and Shell Invaders had qualified for the next round of the 1966 Steelbands' Festival.

Before dealing with each band singly, Professor Russell told the large crowd present that after hearing 37 bands, things "were settling down to a pattern."

Referring to the afternoon session (Pan Am North Stars and Esso Tripoli were the qualifiers), he wished to emphasise that he liked a mixture of both soft and loud playing.

"Soft playing is part of music but it must be communicative to the audience," he said. "It is important to get the message across. Keep the softness alive. That is the end of my sermon."

Soft playing

The adjudicator liked the "unusual arrangement" of the Silver Stars — facing inwards on stage. Their own composition "A Creole Melody" was "very thorough and was filled with subdued playing."

There was pre-occupation of soft playing with the first test piece — "Intermezzo" in E flat and their was a special sound

with the "Eine Kleine."

Starlift's tune of choice — "A Child is Born" — was quite accurate while the first test piece was a neat performance with "excellent sustaining by the ping pongs."

The second test piece was treated as a concerto with the solo parts emphatic.

Invaders also had a special sound. Excellent tempo and rhythm notes accurately played was Professor Russell's summing up of the tune of choice — the fourth movement of "Eine Kleine". However, the first test piece needed more edge while the last was "neat."

Lester Persad was the only soloist to get through to the next round.

Tomorrow the Tobago bands will be judged at the Scarborough Community Centre.



● SHELL INVADERS, who, together with Coca Cola Silver Stars and Angostura Starlift, qualified to the quarter-finals, seen during their presentation last night.