

Success for the "Make 'em laugh" Brigade

The move to develop a cruise atmosphere in the mailships' tourist class—"funship tourist" as some have called it—began on board *Windsor Castle* in mid-1975. Early reports indicate that the new entertainment programme has been enthusiastically received by passengers.

Cruise purser Robbie Rutt (with entertainer Peter Glenn and second purser Geoffrey Shallcross) went over to *Windsor Castle* when *Reina del Mar* was withdrawn from service in April. Now he tells CLANSMAN that he and his colleagues have been nicknamed the "Make 'em laugh" brigade, and along with the nickname they have received generous help and encouragement from the other officers and members of the ship's company.

Explaining the new programme that has been built up, he writes:

"Our current programme commences at 07.30 in the morning with a 'deck hike', and continues throughout the day, culminating in our main entertainments in the evening. I realised that a different approach had to be made to entertainments, for the facilities on board were very different from those we had on the *Reina*. We have found that several entertainments have to be run simultaneously in the evening, to cater for differing tastes and because it is impossible to accommodate a full complement of passengers in one public room. The large crowds of the *Reina*'s Coral Lounge are no longer possible. They are missed, certainly; but I think that in our *Windsor Castle*

Seasonal greetings— but no cards this year

B&C directors decided not to send out the usual Christmas cards for 1975. So just before Christmas they placed the following advertisement in the *Daily Telegraph* and *The Scotsman*:

"The chairman and directors of the British & Commonwealth Shipping Company Limited regret that, owing to the economic crisis, they will not be sending Christmas cards this year, but would like to take this opportunity of wishing their friends and colleagues a happy Christmas and hopefully a prosperous year in 1976."

CLANSMAN joins in offering seasonal greetings to all readers, and looks forward to giving continued service during a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

programme we are now providing an even more diverse programme than we did in *Reina del Mar*.

"On the South African coast again there is a full evening programme with most of our evenings turning into something of a gala night. With the experience gained from our association with Thomas Cook, we have been able to improve on the organisation and publicity of the facilities and excursions in our ports of call. It all adds up to giving our passengers a full and enjoyable day".

Robbie concludes that he believes the new entertainment efforts being made in both classes will improve still further the popularity of the flagship.

■ The "Make 'em Laugh" Brigade on board *Windsor Castle*. Discussing the day's entertainment programme with cruise purser Robbie Rutt (behind desk) are Bill Fleetwood (purser catering), Geoff Shallcross (second purser), entertainer Peter Glen and bandleader Jimmy Skene. Picture: Transocean Photographic.

