O'BRIEN AT ASCOT

Jack O'Brien of Santa Monica, member of the famed BSA wrecking crew and one of the west coast's top motorcycle riders, returns to action Friday night at Ascot Park, Gardena, for the first time in five weeks.

O'Brien, who still holds third place in Ascot expert class standings, has recovered from a broken arm suffered in a spill last month, and is ready to resume competition against Neil Keen, Stu Morley and others in J. C. Agajanian's weekly program.

Aajanian is staging a double-header cycle program this week with one of the crowd-pleasing steeplechase cards Sunday night, Sept. 3.

O'Brien will also be in the Sunday night races around the hazardous 8-turn infield course and over the hair-raising 10-foot jump.

The Sunday night program presents four of the first five finishers from the national TT championships of Aug. 27 at Peoria, Ill. These include Joe Leonard of San Jose, who won his sixth national TT at Peoria and his 27th national race; Dick Dorresteyn of San Pablo, second to Leonard; Dickie Mann of El Sobrante, third, and Dick Hammer, Lakewood, fifth.

Hammer will be going for his fourth straight Ascot steeplechase victory and defends his new 15-lap expert class record of 12:31.07, set Aug. 6.

Keen, upset last week by Morley, will be trying to start a new winning streak in the half-mile track races Friday night. Competition for the Pasadena rider will be tougher than ever, for in addition to O'Brien, the field will include Sammy Tanner of Bellflower, home from his eastern campaign.

Racing both Friday and Sunday nights starts at 8:30 o'clock, one-lap qualifying at 7 p.m. The Ascot track is at 183rd and Vermont.

Tips on Boats

Are you rope-conscious, Mr. Outboarder?

You should be, say the Mercury outboard people, because the proper selection and care of rope is one of the most important factors in the safe operation of your outboard rig.

An outboard's anchor line, for example, can be an all-purpose piece of equipment. It has many other uses besides connecting the anchor to the boat and should be chosen with care.

The anchor line should be strong enough not only to with stand the pull of the anchor but also to have generous reserve strength for emergencies. You might want to use it some day to tow a crippled boat to safety, or to secure your craft midway between piers so that a storm will not bang it against the piling.

Shun cheap ropes. Yacht manilla or nylon are the most durable and reliable and are sold in a wide variety of sizes.

Choose at least five-sixteenths-inch rope; three-eights is even better. Larger sizes require a choice between strength and bulk . . . rope that's awkward to stow is a nuisance aboard.

Learn to whip rope ends and to tie common, rope-saving knots like the "anchor bend." It's an easy one, and there are many fine booklets and texts on seamanship which will show you how to tie others.

Don't leave rope in damp lockers. Let it dry before putting it away and stow it in loose coils in a clean, well-ventilated place.

When rope gets dirty, hang it in loose coils over a rail and hose it down gently—a high pressure stream of water will only force dirt in deeper. After it dries, shake it throughly to remove any clinging dirt and grit.

Inspect cleats and chocks on your boat for sharp edges which might cut or pinch the rope. Remember too, that a manilla rope is made up of many fibers.

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