

Ebdon's belief in his pedigree research has led to him holding some lofty ambitions.

"I don't see why with those targeted mares Harbour Law couldn't have a minimum 70 per cent winners to runners," he says. "I'd love to think there's a possibility – with the genetically compatible mares – that he could perhaps have ten per cent stakes horses to runners, which would put him in the major league."

"It's important to reach for the stars and my goal for Nick and Jackie and for Batsford Stud is for him to become the number one dual-purpose stallion in Europe."

TO THAT end, Ebdon has been helping source mares for Harbour Law. "I bought some yearlings and other mares for Nick and Jackie and selected some from their existing broodmare band," he says. "I'd say that between those who have been bought and those already owned, Harbour Law will see 20 to 30 what I consider to be very genetically compatible mares.

"I've really enjoyed going to Tattersalls, being there incognito and people wondering what I'm doing there. But it's important I'm there. Any pedigree consultant will tell you that they're able to see things you can't see just on a catalogue page; we're looking at eight or nine-generation pedigrees, for superior reinforcements, full-brothers, full-sisters, paying close attention to damlines."

Batsford Stud's Alan Varey cast an expert horseman's eye over Ebdon's selections "to make sure I wasn't

A stallion in the making Harbour Law facts and figures



● **Colour/pedigree** Bay by Lawman out of Abunai (by Pivotal)

● **Age** 6

● **Race record** Won three of eight starts, including St Leger-G1; also 2nd Queen's Vase-L and 3rd Gold Cup-G1

● **Best Racing Post Rating** 116

● **Standing** Batsford Stud, Gloucestershire

● **Fee** £4,000

making any clangers", and the snooker maestro is confident that with repeated matings to Harbour Law his purchases will produce the goods.

"One of the things I say to all my clients is that it's important to try a mating at least twice," he says. "Mendelian genetics tell us that around one in every four matings will

result in a horse inheriting recessive genes and so have little or no ability – but the brother or sister could be a champion."

An awful lot of thought has gone

into Harbour Law's stallion career. For other breeders to take advantage of such a carefully considered project, the cost is just £4,000 a cover.

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3. Higher rated than Showcasing

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