

1992

The Meadowlands • August 1, 1992 • Purse \$1,104,000

Alf Palema Emerges from Crowd

A record 27 trotters dropped in the box for the 1992 Hambletonian, but the race was without a clear standout. Per Eriksson, who won the jewel the previous year with Giant Victory, had four sophomores entered. Of those four, King Conch had the most credentials.

The eliminations went in three fields of nine. In the first, Valley Boss Bi won in 1:56³, the filly Armbro Keepsake was second, and Ships Watch third. Favorite Magic Lobell went on a break in the stretch while on

the lead, and didn't make the cut. The second division went to King Conch in 1:56⁴, with Herschel Walker and Rising Light next in line. The third contest was captured by Baltic Sonata, with Alf Palema second and Sirocco Spur third.

The nine lined up again for the final, with the winner of that dash capturing the coveted crown. King Conch turned back a challenge from Baltic Sonata, and then held off Armbro Keepsake at the head of the lane. Valley Boss Bi went on a break, and Herschel Walker was making a move.

The one moving fastest of all, however, was Alf Palema, as driver



- Alf Palema was the last horse bred by George Alexander, whose Chestnut Farm raised and bred only trotters. It was the first Hambletonian winner bred by Alexander, who was a director of the Hambletonian Society and a member of its Executive Committee. The mare, Highland Bridget, was sold privately in foal with Alf Palema in the dispersal of Alexander's horses at the time of his death in 1988.
- Alf Palema was voted Trotter of the Year.
- Largest number of starters (27) in the Hambletonian which necessitated three elimination divisions for the first time.
- Alf Palema became the first starter to win the Hambletonian by winning only one heat – the final.

Mickey McNichol found a slim opening on the rail. Eriksson had pulled the colt's shoes after the first heat, and the barefoot boy got up to score over his stablemate by a head in 1:56³. King Conch held on for second, with Herschel Walker third.

ALF PALEMA, b c, Speedy Somolli—Highland Bridget, by Super Bowl
Driver: Mickey McNichol Trainer: Per Eriksson
Owner: Karl-Erik Bender, Imlaystown, NJ and Per Eriksson, Parkland, FL
Breeder: George M. Alexander (Chestnut Farm), IL
Groom: Jenny Göstavsson
Sale History: Highland Bridget was sold privately while in foal. . . x x 2 1

KING CONCH, Speedy Crown — Conch, by Bonefish
Driver: John Patterson, Jr. Trainer: Per Eriksson
Owner: The King Conch Stable . . . x 1 x 2

HERSCHEL WALKER, Super Bowl — Double Coverage, by Speedy Crown
Driver: Berndt Lindstedt Trainer: Jan Johnson
Owner: KGB Stables and Kapp-Ahl USA . . . x 2 x 3

ARMBRO KEEPSAKE, Super Bowl — Armbro Fern, by Speedy Crown
Driver: John Campbell Trainer: Chuck Sylvester
Owner: Armstrong Bros . . . 2 x x 4

BALTIC SONATA, Baltic Speed — O B's Sonata, by Songcan
Driver: Jack Moiseyev Trainer: Ray Vaughan-Thomas
Owner: Irving Levit . . . x x 1 5

- Alf Palema was actually the lesser member of the Swedam Stable (Per Eriksson) entry. King Conch, the 1991 Breeders Crown and divisional 2-year-old champion, was the pre-race favorite. He cut the mile and was just beaten as his stablemate slipped up the rail. Trainer and co-owner Eriksson admitted that no one was more surprised than he at the result of the photo.
- Alf Palema may be the only horse ever to win the Hambletonian racing barefoot – without horse shoes.
- Alf Palema is named for a leading salesman in co-owner Bender's roofing company.

Also competed: Rising Light x-3-x-6, Valley Boss Bi 1-x-x-7, Ships Watch 3-x-x-8, Prince Keith x-x-4-9, Sirocco Spur x-x-3-10, Pleasure Prince 7-x-x-ro, Magic Lobell 9-x-x-ro, Dedicated Yankee 6-x-x-ro, Program Speed 5-x-x-ro, Dungeness 4-x-x-ro, Super Cobra 8-x-x-rox, Guardian Angel x-4-x-ro, Swagger Hanover x-5-x-ro, Super Clever x-7-x-ro, Baltic Striker x-6-x-ro, Jack x-9-x-ro, Craxi x-8-x-ro, Giant Force x-x-7-ro, McCluckey x-x-6-ro, Keystone Ludwig x-x-9-ro, Tarport Mark x-x-5-x, Dutch Lobell x-x-8-ro.

TIME BY QUARTERS:	1/4	1/2	3/4	MILE
1st Elimination		:28 ³	:58 ¹	1:29 1:56 ³
2nd Elimination		:27 ²	:57 ¹	1:28 ¹ 1:56 ⁴
3rd Elimination		:27	:56 ¹	1:27 ² 1:56 ²
Final		:27 ⁴	:57 ²	1:28 ¹ 1:56 ³



PAYOFFS											
FIRST ELIMINATION			SECOND ELIMINATION				THIRD ELIMINATION				
Valley Boss Bi	38.60	10.20	7.00	King Conch	5.00	3.00	2.40	Baltic Sonata	11.00	6.60	3.40
Armbro Keepsake		3.80	3.00	Herschel Walker		4.20	3.60	Alf Palema		14.00	5.80
Ships Watch			9.20	Rising Light			9.00	Sirocco Spur			2.80
EXACTA			142.80	EXACTA			22.40	EXACTA			106.00
FINAL											
Alf Palema			8.40	8.40	6.40						
King Conch					—						
Herschel Walker						4.60					
EXACTA						30.40					