# Stover Golf Club manager convicted of embezzling £35,000



The general manager of Stover Golf Club in Devon, Jonathan Wright, 54, has been convicted of defrauding the club of nearly £35,000 over a period of five years. A recent hearing at Exeter Crown Court revealed that Wright siphoned funds from the golf club's account into his own by using two primary methods. One involved transferring money directly from the club's general account, while the other entailed invoicing corporate clients for payments that were ultimately deposited into his personal account rather than the club's official account.

The fraudulent activities commenced in March 2018 and continued until September 2023. Among the victims were corporate clients such as Finlake Holiday Park and Devon Tourmasters, each of which received dubious invoices amounting to around £2,000. Despite the somewhat rudimentary nature of the deception, the fraud went unnoticed for a significant duration. It was only detected when Wright was interceded regarding an unrelated issue, prompting an account manager to scrutinise the financial records. Following this discovery, the club's financial director was alerted, and subsequently, the police became involved.

The total amount misappropriated by Wright was reported as £34,539. The club has since acknowledged the unsettling situation, stating that unfounded rumours regarding cash flow issues had proliferated, and they were unable to address the financial misappropriation publicly until after the situation was clarified.

Defence attorney Martin Salloway described Wright as a person of previously good character who expressed remorse for his actions, attributing his behaviour to the personal stress he was experiencing at the time. During sentencing, Recorder Christopher Quinlan KC denoted Wright's actions as a "considerable breach of trust". However, he noted that there were strong mitigating factors in Wright's personal circumstances and deemed him a suitable candidate for rehabilitation.

As a consequence of his conviction, Wright has received an 18-month suspended sentence, which includes a requirement to complete 100 hours of unpaid work and participate in eight rehabilitation sessions with probation.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.courts.michigan.gov/492eca/siteassets/publications/benchbooks/evidence/evidbb.pdf> - This URL provides information on evidence procedures, which could be relevant when considering financial fraud cases and the handling of evidence.
* <https://www.ca7.uscourts.gov/benchv21.pdf> - This URL discusses various legal cases involving fraud and could serve as a background on legal decisions regarding similar offenses.
* <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10311201/> - This article touches upon the use of digital evidence in criminal cases, which is pertinent in financial fraud investigations.
* <https://www.whky.com> - This URL provides news coverage of various legal cases, including fraud, though it does not directly cover the Stover Golf Club case.
* <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/fraud-act-2006> - This URL provides guidance on the Fraud Act 2006 in the UK, which could be relevant to understanding the legal framework surrounding fraud cases like Wright's.