

ROYAL COURT  
(Samedi Division)

212.

14th October, 1994

Before: The Deputy Bailiff, and  
Jurats Coutanche and Herbert

---

The Attorney General

- v -

Stephen William Benedict Ryall

---

4 counts of           fraudulent conversion of property (counts 1, 2, 3 & 5 of the indictment).  
1 count of           larceny (count 4).

PLEA: Guilty.

AGE: 33.

**DETAILS OF OFFENCE:**

Manager of a hotel for the disabled run by a charitable trust. Responsible for paying out staff wages. Used the cash to gamble unsuccessfully. Covered up the losses by borrowing from colleagues on a number of false pretexts pitched at the emotions. Colleagues remained out of pocket, the accused having used up most of their life savings. The trust lost some £1,700 and colleagues lost some £16,000. The offences spanned some 18 months.

**DETAILS OF MITIGATION:**

Devoted carer, so highly thought of by his employing trustees that they gave him a character reference for use in the instant proceedings. Expert evidence of clinically identifiable gambling addiction. Remorse. Co-operation.

**PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS:**

One previous for petty theft 15 years earlier. Disregarded for present purposes.

**CONCLUSIONS:** 2 years' imprisonment.

**SENTENCE AND OBSERVATIONS OF THE COURT:**

Mean offences; conclusions appropriate and therefore granted.

---

C.E. Whelan, Esq., Crown Advocate.  
Advocate R.G. Morris for the accused.

---

JUDGMENT

5 THE DEPUTY BAILIFF: Ryall, what you did was mean and despicable. You abused your position as manager to obtain money from your employer. That breach of trust was aggravated by the facts that your employer had once forgiven you and retained you in its employment and, further, that your employer was a trust for disabled people. In addition you played upon the heartstrings of your friends and colleagues to cheat them of substantial sums of money.

10 We have listened carefully to your counsel and we have read the many references from people who have been impressed by your work in the hotel over many years. All these are to your credit, as are your previous good character and the fact that you have pleaded guilty and co-operated with the authorities. We think, however, that the Crown Advocate has taken account of all those matters fully in his conclusions.

15 We hope that you will obtain help for your gambling addiction, but in the meantime it is our duty to pass a sentence which reflects the mean crimes which you have committed.

20 You are therefore sentenced: on count 1, to a term of twelve months' imprisonment; on count 2, to a term of two years' imprisonment, concurrent; on count 3, to a term of twelve months' imprisonment, concurrent; on count 4, to a term of nine months' imprisonment, concurrent; on count 5, to a term of nine months' imprisonment, concurrent; making a total of two years' imprisonment.

### Authorities

Barrick (1985) 7 Cr.App.R.(S.) 142.

Lawrence (1988) 10 Cr.App.R.(S.) 463.

A.G. -v- Hanley (14th October, 1993) Jersey Unreported.

A.G. -v- Garnham (15th September, 1994) Jersey Unreported.

Whelan: Aspects of Sentencing in the Superior Courts of Jersey:  
pp: 79, 55-63, 72-3, 80.