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40 months' jail for embezzling \$560k

A FORMER assistant general manager of a swimming club, who helped herself to almost \$560,000 of the club's funds, is now staring at 40 months behind bars.

Ang Chiew Yan, also known as Christine, 44, admitted to three charges of criminal breach of trust (CBT) involving \$471,512 in jackpot-machine takings at the Singapore Swimming Club between 2003 and 2006.

She joined the club in 1998 as an assistant accountant and rose to become its assistant general manager in eight years.

Deputy Public Prosecutor Ng Der Lim said Ang led a lavish lifestyle and started spending more than she earned during this time.

She ran up huge credit-card bills and started drawing on the credit facilities of various banks, which prompted her to dip into the club's funds to make good on these debts.

She siphoned \$99,437 in 2003, \$67,903 in 2005 and \$304,172 in the first five months of 2006.

But before this came to light, she was suspended from duties on May 31, 2006 on an unrelated matter, which cost her her job the following month.

Her lawyer N. Sreenivasan, pleading for leniency on her behalf, said she tried to return the money to the club's coffers before her wrongdoing came to light. But she ran into problems because, following her suspension in May 2006, she was barred from the club's premises.

Mr Sreenivasan said: "What she did was, instead of sitting pretty, she actually bought cashier's orders and deposited these into the club's account."

He added that Ang had relationship problems in 2000. She then began spending beyond her means to deal with her problems and got heavily into debt.



Ang Chiew Yan, 44, admitted to three charges of criminal breach of trust.

PHOTO: CRIMINAL RECORDS OFFICE

Three other charges, including one for forging a cheque for US\$40,000 in October 2007, were taken into consideration. The cheque belonged to her next employer Global Industries Asia Pacific, an offshore construction, engineering and support services company.

Ang, who is married with no children, could have been jailed up to seven years and fined on each CBT charge.

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