


Tag Archives: Nigel Goldman

Playboy on the run over claims he stole £2.5m from Marbella investors fears hitmen are coming to kill him in Berkshire hideaway (<http://www.lawbird.com/wordpress/playboy-on-the-run-over-claims-he-stole-2-5m-from-marbella-investors-fears-hitmen-are-coming-to-kill-him-in-berkshire-hideaway/>)

Story by LEON WATSON | Mail Online  (<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2625484/Playboy-run-claims-stole-2-5m-Marbella-investors-fears-hitmen-coming-kill-Berkshire-hideaway.html>)

- **Nigel Goldman, 56, went on the run after police in Spain launched probe**
- **He is being investigated in Spain and the UK over £2.5 million fraud claims**
- **But a newspaper tracked him down to his modest bolthole in Berkshire**
- **Now he fears gang bosses are coming to get him at his new home**
- **Goldman said: 'There is a bullet out there with my name on it'**

A British poker ace who disappeared from Spain after allegedly stealing more than £2.5 million from investors is living in fear that hitmen are coming to kill him at his bolthole in Berkshire.

Playboy Nigel Goldman, who is being investigated by authorities in Spain and the UK, fled his Costa del Sol mansion in November.

His whereabouts were then exposed when a newspaper tracked him down to a modest house in the picturesque village of Kintbury, where he lives under the alias Howard del Monte.

But the 56-year-old, who counts James Hewitt and Sir Mark Thatcher among his social circle, is now convinced gang bosses want him dead.

Scroll down for video

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Fearing for his life: Nigel Goldman, from Birmingham, who is wanted by Spanish police after vanishing from his luxury Costa del Sol mansion amid a major cash probe



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Goldman, who drove a red Ferrari, has been found living in a modest home in the picturesque village of Kintbury, Berkshire under the alias of Howard del Monte.

He told **The Sunday People** (<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/nigel-goldman-playboy-run-marbella-3523289>): 'There is a bullet out there with my name on it. A guy came to the door a few days ago but I refused to open it.'

'He shouted that I was "a dead man" and from an upstairs window I saw him pull a gun out of his pocket.'

'It was terrifying. I know he was sent to murder me. I called the police but he drove off at high speed before they arrived.'

Goldman said he now fears someone will come back to 'finish me off'.

Goldman is being investigated by the Guardia Civil and Action Fraud, the UK's fraud and internet crime reporting centre.

Earlier this year the only trace of Goldman since he vanished in Marbella was a text message to a former employer three weeks ago which read: 'I did not set out to be a thief.'

Spanish police were probing claims that the broker from Edgbaston in Birmingham, left people empty handed and unable to access their bank funds.

Nigel Goldman, who is being hunted by police for allegedly stealing from investors, was found living in a semi-detached house in Berkshire



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From the Costa del Sol to Berkshire: Nigel Goldman is being hunted by police for allegedly stealing more than 3million euros from investors



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Goldman's lavish lifestyle seems to have been scaled down with his Ferrari being replaced with a Vauxhall Zafira

Nigel Goldman speaking after the Marbella Classic Poker 770



Police were unable to trace him after they received complaints about his Tangier-based company, International Financial Investment.

Ex-pat newspaper The Olive Press, based in Spain, tracked Goldman down using details on his eBay account Bensons Emporium.

He uses the site to buy and sell coins, stamps and antiques.

It was reported his lavish lifestyle seems to have been scaled down with his red Ferrari being replaced with a Vauxhall Zafira.

But a neighbour said: 'Everyone in the village knows he's Goldman, whatever name he goes under.'

Geoff Whitton, originally from Cornwall, is trying to locate €20,000 he says he handed to Goldman.

The 49-year-old writer said: 'If he's a legitimate businessman, why hasn't he contacted me?

'I gave €10,000 in May, 2012, and €10,000 two months later. Goldman made me a profit for two months, then a loss for the same amount.



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Goldman is said to have moved in the same social circles as cad James Hewitt (left) and Sir Mark Thatcher.

'For the next one-and-a-half years, I was in limbo. He'd say, "Just trust me and you will receive a profit in October 2013".'

Goldman, who enjoys swigging champagne and smoking expensive cigars, has a history of dishonesty, in his own book, 'High Stakes: How I Blew £14 million' published in 2006, he confesses being sent to prison twice for fraud.

A review on his book reads: 'Goldman seems to show little remorse – and more than a little contempt – for the victims whose money he lived off so handsomely.'

Despite his past, Goldman is claiming that he, and others, have been duped this time and believes his brokers were running a Ponzi scheme with everyone's money.



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From the Costa del Sol to this sleepy Berkshire village Kintbury

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Goldman has admitted in writing to owing as much as £658,000 (€800,000). However a lawyer acting for investors who claim to have lost cash is stating that he is chasing €3 million, a figure rising daily.

Flashy Goldman made his name at some of the world's biggest poker tournaments around the world, winning thousands.

Lawyer **Antonio Flores**, said: 'So far we have spoken to victims in Almeria, Malaga and Jaen. In our most recent estimate it looks like reaching €3 million.'

'The first thing he did right was openly admit to all his wrongdoings and say he paid for it and was a new man.

'That was a success. People could not talk about his past, people actually felt sorry for him. It is large scale, police have not yet issued an arrest warrant, but they are not far from doing that.'

Goldman offered investments in a host of commodities including bullion, stocks and shares although he is not a regulated financial advisor due to his criminal convictions.

Roger Parks, a neighbour and friend of Goldman said that he even tried to get him to invest, although he chose not to, he said: 'I have known him for 35 years.

'When he showed me the prospectus for International Financial Investments at his palatial rented home in Elviria a few months ago, I couldn't stopped laughing.

'By the way, has anyone else noted the initials of his company spell IFI, as if "iffy"?'

A spokesman for Action Fraud confirmed complains had been lodged with the organisation about Goldman.

If those complaints are upheld, information gathered will be passed to either the Metropolitan Police or Fraud Investigation Bureau.

This entry was posted in In the Media (<http://www.lawbird.com/wordpress/category/lawbird-in-the-media/>) and tagged Antonio Flores (<http://www.lawbird.com/wordpress/tag/antonio-flores/>), Nigel Goldman (<http://www.lawbird.com/wordpress/tag/nigel-goldman/>) on May 11, 2014 (<http://www.lawbird.com/wordpress/playboy-on-the-run-over-claims-he-stole-2-5m-from-marbella-investors-fears-hitmen-are-coming-to-kill-him-in-berkshire-hideaway/>) by admin (<http://www.lawbird.com/wordpress/author/admin/>).

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW: £13m debt 'all lies' says former broker (<http://www.lawbird.com/wordpress/exclusive-interview-13m-debt-all-lies-says-former-broker/>)

Story by Dan Cooper | Newbury Today 

(<http://www.newburytoday.co.uk/2014/exclusive-interview-13m-debt-all-lies-says-former-broker>)

A MAN previously convicted of fraud who owes investment clients a small fortune is living quietly in Kintbury after his champagne lifestyle in Marbella turned sour.

It is claimed he owes millions to creditors in Spain after his high-rolling investment scheme crashed and is now being investigated by Spanish and British police.

But Howard del Monte – formerly known as Nigel Goldman – has claimed in an exclusive interview with the Newbury Weekly News that he never intended for anyone to lose out, and branded some of the more lurid international press reports about him "lies".

Speaking from his rented cottage in Kintbury, he said he had been hounded by the international press, national reporters and private detectives in recent months and weeks and still fears extradition to Spain.

By his side was loyal partner Suzanne Couling, a former Inkpen resident who met Mr Del Monte during an 11-year sojourn in Spain.

He was a well-known and colourful figure in the Marbella area for many years – where he had rebuilt his life following two prison terms for fraud whilst living in the UK – and persuaded many expats to invest in his investment companies.

Mr del Monte, originally from Birmingham, said this week: “It’s totally untrue that I owe £13 million, or more. The writ in Spain is for 650,000 euros and I very much regret that anyone had to lose money.”

The self-styled poker wizard, who also dealt in gold and coins, said his latest adventures began in 2008 when he won a trading competition on Talk Radio Europe’s previous guise REM, in which he turned 100,000 euros into 2.7 million.

After that, he said, would-be investors beat a path to his door pleading: “Make me rich, too.” Mr del Monte said: “I was approached by many expats, but because of my convictions under the Companies Act of 1948 for offences in the 1980s, the only way client funds could be handled was by trading through an off-shore entity.

“Everyone got good dividends between 2008 and 2012. ”

Speaking from his Kintbury home, Mr del Monte insisted he warned clients that their investments represented a gamble and that there were no guarantees.

The big crash and back to the UK.

When the crash came, it came in spectacular fashion he claimed. He said: “It all went wrong over a 24-hour period – very badly wrong. My portfolio was completely wiped out. I had only taken my eye off the ball for an hour but sometimes that’s all it takes.”

In August last year, said Mr del Monte, the Spanish tax authorities hit him with a bill at the same time as they froze all his accounts, including those of his clients. Despite vowing “never to return” to the UK in his autobiography, High Stakes, in which he also talks of amassing a £14million fortune, Mr del Monte was left with little choice but to come back to his home country.

He said: “I was totally unable to operate. I decided to come back to the UK. I was out of money, selling personal assets to pay clients.”

He claimed he was sympathetic to those clients who had lost out but insisted: “I was always careful to ensure people weren’t investing life savings and that they could afford to trade. But the Spanish press have started a campaign against me.”

Asked if, with hindsight, he would have handled the fallout differently, Mr del Monte said: “The mistake I made was coming back without explaining fully what had happened and why I was leaving. I could have handled that much better.”

He left Spain at the end of last year and was located this month by expat newspaper The Olive Press through his and Ms Couling’s joint ebay account. According to the paper, multiple complaints have been lodged about Nigel Goldman to Action Fraud UK – the UK’s national fraud and internet crime reporting centre.



Nigel Goldman

Marbella-based lawyer **Antonio Flores**, currently representing a British expat couple who claim that Mr Goldman owes them around 640,000 euros, said he first became aware of Mr Goldman last October. **Mr Flores** added that although he is only representing one client, he said he is aware of "10 or 12" official complaints that have been made against Mr Goldman to the Marbella National Police since December 2013. He also said he believes Mr Goldman to owe "£2m – £2.5m" in total.

Mr Flores said he believed official paperwork was being compiled by the Spanish police. A spokesman for the Metropolitan Police told the Newbury Weekly News that they were not aware of any complaints against Mr Goldman and said it would be the responsibility of the Spanish authorities to issue a European Arrest Warrant should they feel it necessary.

Reaction in Kintbury


The story of Mr del Monte residing in Kintbury has been picked up by several national newspapers and has got tongues wagging in the village.

One resident, who did not want to be named, told the Newbury Weekly News he was aware of a new face in the village who was calling himself 'Howie'. "You can find Howie in the Blue Ball every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday nights playing poker," he said, but added that he knew nothing of Mr del Monte's past.

For the full exclusive interview with Mr del Monte, see today's Newbury Weekly News.

This entry was posted in In the Media (<http://www.lawbird.com/wordpress/category/lawbird-in-the-media/>) and tagged Antonio Flores (<http://www.lawbird.com/wordpress/tag/antonio-flores/>), Nigel Goldman (<http://www.lawbird.com/wordpress/tag/nigel-goldman/>) on May 8, 2014 (<http://www.lawbird.com/wordpress/exclusive-interview-13m-debt-all-lies-says-former-broker/>) by admin (<http://www.lawbird.com/wordpress/author/admin/>).

British broker hunted by Spanish police found living in Wiltshire (<http://www.lawbird.com/wordpress/british-broker-hunted-by-spanish-police-found-living-in-wiltshire/>)

The Telegraph  (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/10808068/British-broker-hunted-by-Spanish-police-found-living-in-Wiltshire.html>)

British businessman hunted by police Costa del Sol found to be living in rural Berkshire



Nigel Goldman is being investigated by the Guardia Civil and Action Fraud Photo: SWNS
By Agencies

8:06PM BST 04 May 2014

A British businessman who has been on the run from Spanish police for allegedly stealing EUROS 3 million from investors has been found living in a semi-detached house in Berkshire.

Nigel Goldman, 56, who claims to be a close friend of Sir Mark Thatcher and James Hewitt, is being investigated by the Guardia Civil and Action Fraud, the UK's fraud and internet crime reporting centre.

He vanished earlier this year from Marbella after police received complaints about his Tangier-based company, International Financial Investment.

They were investigating claims the broker, originally from Edgbaston, Birmingham, had left people empty handed and unable to access their bank funds.

Goldman himself claims he, and other investors, were duped by his brokers who were running a Ponzi scheme – a fraudulent investment operation that pays returns to its investors from existing capital or new capital paid by new investors, rather than from profit.

But now Goldman, who used to drive a red Ferrari, has been found living in a modest semi-detached house in the village of Kintbury, Berkshire, under the alias Howard del Monte.

Ex-pat newspaper The Olive Press, based in Spain, tracked him down using details on his eBay account "Bensons Emporium". He uses the site to flog and buy coins, stamps and antiques.

When approached at his Berkshire home Goldman refused to comment and his lavish lifestyle seems to have been scaled down with his Ferrari being replaced with a Vauxhall Zafira.

But a neighbour said: "Everyone in the village knows he's Goldman, whatever name he goes under."

Goldman, a broker originally from Edgbaston, Birmingham, has been accused of leaving investors empty handed and unable to access their bank accounts.

The last known contact anyone had with him was three weeks ago when he sent a text message to a former employer which read "I did not set out to be thief."

Goldman, who enjoys swigging on champagne and smoking expensive cigars, has a history of dishonesty, in his own book, 'High Stakes: How I Blew £14 million' published in 2012, he confesses being sent to prison twice for fraud.

Goldman offered investments in a host of commodities, including bullion, stocks and shares, although is not a regulated financial advisor due to his criminal convictions.

Lawyer **Antonio Flores**, said: "So far we have spoken to victims in Almeria, Malaga and Jaen.

"In our most recent estimate it looks like reaching 3 million euros.

"The first thing he did right was openly admit to all his wrongdoings and say he paid for it and was a new man.

"That was a success. People could not talk about his past, people actually felt sorry for him.

"It is large scale, police have not yet issued an arrest warrant, but they are not far from doing that."

A spokesman for Auction fraud confirmed complaints had been lodged with the organisation about Goldman.

If those complaints are upheld, information gathered will be passed to either the Metropolitan Police of Fraud Investigation Bureau.

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Playboy who was on the run for allegedly stealing €2.5m from investors in Marbella discovered living in sleepy Berkshire village after newspaper tracks him down on eBay (<http://www.lawbird.com/wordpress/playboy-who-was-on-the-run-for-allegedly-stealing-2-5m-from-investors-in-marbella-discovered-living-in-sleepy-berkshire-village-after-newspaper-tracks-him-down-on-ebay/>)

Story by PAUL DONNELLEY | Mail Online 📧 (<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2620098/Poker-cigar-smoking-playboy-run-allegedly-stealing-2-5-million-investors-Marbella-discovered-living-sleepy-Berkshire-village-newspaper-tracks-using-eBay.html>)

- **Nigel Goldman, 56, investigated by Guardia Civil in Spain and Action Fraud in Britain**
- **Texted a friend saying 'I did not set out to be a thief'**
- **Goldman offered investments in a host of commodities including bullion, stocks and shares although he is not a regulated financial advisor**
- **In his book, High Stakes: How I Blew £14million, he confesses that he has been jailed twice for fraud**
- **Moved in same social circles as James Hewitt and Sir Mark Thatcher**

A British poker ace who disappeared from his Costa del Sol mansion and was being hunted by police for allegedly stealing more than €3million from investors, has been found living in Berkshire.

Playboy Nigel Goldman, 56, who counts James Hewitt and Sir Mark Thatcher among his social circle, is being investigated by the Guardia Civil and Action Fraud, the UK's fraud and internet crime reporting centre.

Earlier this year the only trace of Goldman since he vanished in Marbella, was a text message to a former employer three weeks ago which read: 'I did not set out to be a thief.'



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Spanish police were probing claims that the broker from Edgbaston in Birmingham, left people empty handed and unable to access their bank funds.

However police were unable to trace him after they received complaints about his Tangier-based company, International Financial Investment.

More...

- 'They will not destroy my life': British teenager who had acid thrown in her face reveals long road to recovery with 15 operations already and recurring dreams that her wounds have healed (<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2619927/They-not-destroy-life-British-teenager-acid-thrown-face-reveals-long-road-recovery-15-operations-recurring-dreams-wounds-healed.html>)
- BREAKING NEWS: Gerry Adams released from custody after 96 hours of questioning in Jean McConville murder inquiry (<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2620025/Gerry-Adams-released-without-charge-evening-Jean-McConville-murder-inquiry.html>)
- Wife who drugged her husband then doused him in petrol and set him alight is jailed for 22 years (<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2620011/Wife-drugged-husband-doused-petrol-set-alight-jailed-22-years.html>)

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'When he showed me the prospectus for International Financial Investments at his palatial rented home in Elviria a few months ago, I couldn't stopped laughing.

'By the way, has anyone else noted the initials of his company spell IFI, as if 'iffy'?

A spokesman for Auction fraud confirmed complains had been lodged with the organisation about Goldman.

If those complaints are upheld, information gathered will be passed to either the Metropolitan Police or Fraud Investigation Bureau.

This entry was posted in In the Media (<http://www.lawbird.com/wordpress/category/lawbird-in-the-media/>) and

tagged Antonio Flores (<http://www.lawbird.com/wordpress/tag/antonio-flores/>), Nigel Goldman (<http://www.lawbird.com/wordpress/tag/nigel-goldman/>) on May 4, 2014 (<http://www.lawbird.com/wordpress/playboy-who-was-on-the-run-for-allegedly-stealing-2-5m-from-investors-in-marbella-discovered-living-in-sleepy-berkshire-village-after-newspaper-tracks-him-down-on-ebay/>) by admin (<http://www.lawbird.com/wordpress/author/admin/>).

Mystery as Birmingham poker ace at centre of police probe vanishes (<http://www.lawbird.com/wordpress/mystery-as-birmingham-poker-ace-at-centre-of-police-probe-vanishes/>)

Story by Mike Lockley | Birmingham Mail

(<http://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/mystery-birmingham-poker-ace-centre-6593595>)



A Birmingham poker ace, who ranks royal love rat James Hewitt and Sir Mark Thatcher among friends, has vanished from his luxury Costa del Sol home amid a major cash probe.

Broker "Sir" Nigel Goldman – he boasts of paying for the peerage – is being sought by Spanish police probing claims that people who entrusted him to invest their cash were left empty-handed and unable to access their funds.

It is not the first time that the playboy, who lived in exclusive Petersham Place, Edgbaston, (<http://www.birminghammail.co.uk/all-about/edgbaston>) before moving to Marbella, has been accused of dealing clients a duff hand.

In his own book, titled 'High Stakes: How I blew £14 million' he confesses to being banged up twice for fraud. (<http://www.birminghammail.co.uk/all-about/crime>)

One review of the autobiography notes: "Goldman seems to show little remorse – and more than a little contempt – for the victims whose money he lived off so handsomely."

This time, however, Goldman claims he has been duped himself, along with those who are demanding answers.

In a text message, he insisted: "Things started to go wrong just over a year ago. It seems some of my brokers turned out to be running a Ponzi scheme with everyone's money. Since then I have been playing catch-up.

"I did not set out to be a thief."

A Ponzi scheme is a fraudulent investment operation that pays returns to its investors from existing capital or new capital paid by new investors, rather than from profit earned by the individual or organisation running the operation.

Goldman has admitted in writing to owing as much as €800,000 (£658,000)

One former Birmingham business contact of the gambler, who dealt in gold and coins, said he was not surprised by the fresh controversy.

"He can't help himself," shrugged the coins specialist. "He's a very clever bloke. If he did the right things, he'd make a fortune."

Goldman, a feature at the world's biggest poker tournaments, has not been seen for three weeks following complaints about his Tangier-based company, International Financial Investment.

A lawyer acting for investors who say they have lost cash, has publicly stated that he is chasing £2.5 million, and that the sum is rising daily.

Antonio Flores, of **Lawbird** solicitors, has placed advertisements in Spanish newspapers in an attempt to track down public school-educated Goldman, nicknamed "Naughty Nigel" by the Costa press.

Yet Goldman, son of a Birmingham dentist, seemed to have turned over a new leaf after immersing himself in Marbella's bustling social circuit just over ten years ago. His gleaming Mercedes and glamorous girlfriend, Suzanne Couling, were part and parcel of the VIP scene and were regularly spotted at Hewitt's Polo House restaurant – THE place to be in Marbella,

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High-roller on the Costa del Sol Nigel Goldman disappears 'with investors' millions' (<http://www.lawbird.com/wordpress/high-roller-on-the-costa-del-sol-nigel-goldman-disappears-with-investors-millions/>)

Story by IAN JOHNSTON | The Independent 

(<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/highroller-on-the-costa-del-sol-nigel-goldman-disappears-with-investors-millions-9086466.html>)

A high-rolling poker player and Costa del Sol society figure, said to be friends with Princess Diana's former lover James Hewitt, has gone missing – leaving investors millions of pounds out of pocket.

Nigel Goldman was previously convicted for fraud and jailed in England, writing openly about his crimes in his autobiography, *High Stakes: How I Blew £14 million*, and then set himself up as an investment adviser near Marbella.

But now the flamboyant businessman, who styled himself as a "Sir", cannot be found by his clients, more than a dozen of whom claim they are owed money after investing in one of his schemes.

Antonio Flores, the lawyer representing Mr Goldman's clients, said complaints had been made to police in Spain and authorities in the UK. "I think he's not done anything of what he said he would be doing – invest the money for people," Mr Flores told *The Independent*, outlining the allegations. "I think he's just had a classic vulgar Ponzi scheme, where he just dips in [to the money] whenever he feels like it and pays out clients who shout the loudest." Mr Flores said Mr Goldman "acted totally outside of any regulation".

The total amount of money involved could actually be far higher than first thought as typically in cases like this only 25 to 30 per cent of clients come forward, the lawyer said. He said one of Mr Goldman's clients was missing a "large amount of money".

According to emails seen by *The Independent*, a client sent a message to Mr Goldman in November saying: "PLEASE DEPOSIT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. The amount you are holding is £500k."

A reply from an email address used by Mr Goldman said: "Just managed to pay in 425.00 for you – sorry that's all I can manage [sic] for now, it's a small start, but more importantly, a gesture of my good intentions for the future."

Jon Clarke, of *The Olive Press* (<http://www.theolivepress.es/>), the expat newspaper which broke the story, said he believed the total sum could run into "tens of millions".

"I would say on the Costa del Sol, Costa del Crime, he was one of the most colourful characters, one of the best-known, and best-loved by some people, a regular at charity events," he said. "He was charming and definitely funny ... but I trusted him about as far as I could throw him."

Mr Clarke said Mr Goldman was "very good friends" with Mr Hewitt and also claimed to know Sir Mark Thatcher, another leading light of the social scene.

Mr Goldman did not respond to requests for comment on Facebook and to two email addresses he has used. But in a text message published by the Birmingham Mail, Mr Goldman appeared to claim that he himself was a victim of a scam. "It seems some of my brokers turned out to be running a Ponzi scheme with everyone's money... I did not set out to be a thief," he said.

Michel Euesden, managing director of *Euro Weekly News*, where Mr Goldman once worked as a restaurant reviewer, said the businessman had persuaded people he had "gone straight" by saying he had "a pathological fear of returning to jail". "People have lost their life's savings," she wrote. "Here is my personal message to Sir [sic] Nigel... One day soon it will be the last drop of champagne you savour in a very long time."

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British playboy poker ace vanishes from Costa del Sol mansion after allegedly stealing €3m from 'Ponzi scheme' investors (<http://www.lawbird.com/wordpress/british-playboy-poker-ace-vanishes-from-costa-del-sol-mansion-after-allegedly-stealing-3m-from-ponzi-scheme-investors/>)

Story by MIA DE GRAAF | Daily Mail 📧 (<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2546283/Playboy-poker-ace-run-Costa-del-Sol-mansion-allegedly-stealing-3MILLION-investors-massive-Ponzi-scheme.html#ixzz2txmkQIZm>)

- Nigel Goldman, 56, made fortune playing poker and twice jailed for fraud
- Left three cats in Marbella mansion when he left three weeks ago
- Lawyers across peninsula claim he has fled with more than €3million
- Former classmate of Topshop giant Philip Green said to be in Morocco

A British poker champion is being hunted by Spanish police after disappearing from his Costa del Sol mansion with more than £2.5million of investors' money.

Nigel Goldman, 56, who counts James Hewitt and Sir Mark Thatcher among his close friends, was been twice-imprisoned for fraud before relocating to southern Spain.

Now lawyers across the peninsula have launched appeals to reclaim at least €3million (£2.5million) – a figure rising every day.

The only trace of Goldman since he vanished in Marbella – reportedly leaving three cats – has been a text message to a former employer three weeks ago which read: 'I did not set out to be a thief.'

Friends claim he is now in Morocco.

Spanish police started receiving complaints about his Tangiers-based company, International Financial Investment, three weeks ago.

Goldman, a former classmate of retail giant Philip Green, has admitted in writing to owing £658,000 (€800,000), however claims made to the Guardia Civil and UK fraud crime watchdog Action Fraud calculate the debt as more than triple.

Goldman, who drives a red Ferrari and collects champagne, made his fortune at some of the world's biggest poker tournaments.

More...

- Fugitive wanted for £1.5m fraud in South Africa is found working as a teacher in CORNWALL (after police were tipped off by a pupil) (<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2515527/Fugitive-wanted-fraud-South-Africa-teacher-CORNWALL.html>)
- Migrants WILL be charged by A&E: Foreigners to be billed for emergency treatment in clampdown on health tourism (but they will still get free access to GPs) (<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2530918/Migrants-charged-NHS-Foreigners-emergency-treatment-billed-clampdown-health-tourism.html>)
- We'd rather die than rot in a US jail, say British couple facing extradition for '\$1m expenses fiddle' (<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2545643/Wed-die-rot-US-jail-say-British-couple-facing-extradition-1m-expenses-fiddle.html>)

He laid bare his history of dishonesty in a book of memoirs – High Stakes: How I Blew £14 million – published in 2012.

A review of his book reads: 'Goldman seems to show little remorse – and more than a little contempt – for the victims whose money he lived off so handsomely.'

Despite his past, Goldman believes he has been duped by other brokers were running a Ponzi scheme – where old investors embezzle money put in by new investors.



+9

Inquiries: Lawyers in three Spanish cities – Jaen, Almeira and Malaga – are chasing the ex-convict for £3million



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Disappeared: He is said to have fled his Marbella mansion on January 3, leaving his three cats behind



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The broker, who counts Mark Thatcher and James Hewitt as friends, lives in luxury and collects Champagne

According to the Birmingham Mail, he texted a friend to say: 'Things started to go wrong just over a year ago.'

'It seems some of my brokers turned out to be running a Ponzi scheme with everyone's money. Since then I have been playing catch-up.'

Giles Brown, a journalist for ex-pat newspaper The Olive Press in Spain said: 'Nigel is a rogue.'

'Shake your hand and you count your fingers afterwards – but he always kept good company, he knew his wine and cigars and was impeccably dressed.'

'Now he's vanished, leaving behind the furniture and three cats.'



+9



+9

Goldman was jailed twice for fraud and laid bare his dishonesty in a 2012 book, High Stakes: How I Blew £14m



+9

Denial: He has admitted to owing £800,000 but believes he has been duped by investors in a Ponzi scheme

Lawyer Antonio Flores, said: 'So far we have spoken to victims in Almeria, Malaga and Jaen.

'In our most recent estimate it looks like reaching €3million.

'It is large scale, Police have not yet issued an arrest warrant, but they are not far from doing that.'

Goldman offered investments in a host of commodities, including bullion, stocks and shares, despite not qualifying as a regulated financial advisor due to his criminal convictions.

Although police are currently scouring Spain for Goldman, a fellow poker player, who did not want to be named, claims he spoke to Goldman on January 3 who told him he was in Morocco.



Goldman is believed to be in MORocco although police are currently hunting the peninsula



Goldman offered investments in a host of commodities although he does not qualify as a regulated financial advisor due to his criminal convictions

He said: 'He's in Morocco. Well, he was on January 3.

'I spoke to him. Unbeknown to me, he was on his toes.

'I have known him for years. We have sat opposite each other at many a poker table.

'He didn't have much to say, which is unlike him.'

A spokesman for Auction Fraud confirmed complaints had been logged by the organisation about Goldman.

If those complaints are upheld, information gathered will be passed to either the Metropolitan Police of Fraud Investigation Bureau.

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About

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