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COURT IS ASKED TO DECIDE SEX

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Cameron Corbett Says
His Wife's a Man

By ANDREW TORCHIA

LONDON (AP) — The son of Britain's former chief Boy Scout has asked a court to decide whether the beautiful model he married six years ago is just one of the girls or is really a man.

An attorney said Arthur Cameron Corbett, 49, contends that tall, raven-haired April Ashley, 34, is a man and their marriage should be annulled. He said Miss Ashley insists she is a woman and will oppose the suit.

The case raises tremendous legal and medical questions, including "perhaps the oldest question in the world—what is a woman?" James Comyn, Miss Ashley's attorney, told Justice Alan Orr Thursday.

A hearing expected late this year will retrace the story of Miss Ashley, whose three-year, off-and-on romance with Corbett in some of Europe's prominent pleasure spots culminated in a wedding on Gibraltar in 1963.

Miss Ashley began life as George Jamieson and shipped out as a deckhand on a British merchant ship after leaving school. But she had herself legally declared a woman following a series of sex-change operations in Casablanca in 1960.

As April Ashley — 34-24-36 when she was a popular London fashion model—she met Corbett, heir to Lord Rowallan, former chief Boy Scout and governor of Tasmania.

Corbett, who had served in the Royal Artillery and won the Croix de Guerre, dissolved his marriage to his first wife and mother of four children in 1962. He and Miss Ashley spent their time in Spain's Costa del Sol resorts, where he owned a night club. Corbett later sold the club and worked as a barman in a cafe.

Comyn told the court Thursday the case would involve a great deal of expert evidence concerning Miss Ashley's medical condition at various times. He asked that the hearing be put back about a month from the scheduled Nov. 10. Justice Orr withheld decision.