

# Poser for a Judge: Is April a woman?

A JUDGE will be asked to decide a case raising "tremendous legal and medical questions, perhaps the oldest question in the world—'What is a woman?'" a barrister said in the Divorce Court.

Mr James Comyn, QC, was telling Mr Justice Orr about a suit in which Arthur Cameron Corbett

—son and heir to Lord Rowallan, the former Chief Scout—is petitioning for a nullity decree against his wife, April Ashley, the model (pictured here).

Mr Comyn, who is representing Miss Ashley, said Mr Corbett went through a ceremony of marriage with her in 1963 when she was described as a spinster.

Mr Corbett claimed that she was not in fact a woman, but was then and at all times, a man.

Her answer was that she was then, and is, a woman. Mr Comyn was applying for a date fixed for the hearing in November to be put back until December.

A great deal of medical evidence from experts was going to be given, in particular about her medical state at various times.

The Judge said a date had already been fixed and the interests of eminent medical men had to be considered. The application should be renewed before Oct 1 to the Judge in the Vacation Court.

Mr Corbett, aged 49, an Old Etonian, served in the Royal Artillery and holds the Croix de Guerre. He has children by his former marriage.

Miss Ashley, who is 34, was formerly a Merchant Seaman deck-hand named George Jamieson. She changed her name after an operation in 1960.



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