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A PEER'S SON AND THE SEX CHANGE GIRL

A PEER'S son yesterday talked of his friendship with shapely April Ashley, a 27-year-old, dark-haired model who was once a man.

He is ex-Etonian Arthur Corbett, 42-year-old heir of Lord Rowallan, former Chief Scout and now Governor of Tasmania.

Mr. Corbett is the owner of the plush Jacaranda Club which nestles among palm and olive trees on the Costa Del Sol in Southern Spain.

At the club yesterday he confirmed that April Ashley—who changed her name from Tony April six years ago—had been staying in a villa he lent her in the Spanish village of Marbella.

'Not yet free to marry'

has been dissolved. But the final decree is not expected until about June 16.

"I cannot call April my fiancée at this stage," he said. The two were well known among the fashionable set who spend their winters on the sunny coast.

They were often seen together, dining and going to the beach together.

A close friend of Mr. Corbett's, who lives at Marbella, said: "We have known for some weeks that Arthur and April were in love. April has been living at

the villa which Arthur lent her while he has been staying at the Jacaranda Club.

April—now a trim 34-24-36—left Gibraltar for London at 4 a.m. on Friday.

But at the address where she lived when she was a top model in London—Flat No. 5, 46 Emperor's-gate, Kensington—a friend said:

"To the best of my knowledge April is still in Spain.

Left

"She packed up lock, stock and barrel, a few months ago to live out there permanently.

"I have heard nothing since."

April was born in Liverpool and named George Jamieson. When she was 21 she decided to become a woman.

She danced and sang in night spots all over Europe, then modelled for top fashion houses.

Her face became known all over the Continent.

In May, 1960, she had an operation in Casablanca which, she told friends later, transferred her into "an almost complete woman."

'Mr. Right'

Before she left for Spain, April told the Pictorial: "I want eventually to get married and lead a normal home life complete with kids.

"I would like three or four children.

"I am just waiting for Mr. Right to come along. I know he will one day.

Mr. Corbett's four children by his wife, Eleanor, are: John, aged 15—who is at Eton—Sarah, 13, Anne, eight, and Rosalind, four.

Children

Asked if he planned to marry April, Mr. Corbett explained he was not yet free to do so.

His present marriage—there are four children—



Mr. Corbett and his wife Eleanor. They have four children.



April Ashley: "I am waiting for Mr. Right to come along."