**Argyll’s Fancy**

**Question**
In the dance instructions when the dancing couple are dancing back up to the top of the set, they are told to lead up (but not told by which hand) then they are instructed to cross by the left hand and cast up to first place. Now in the YouTube video on your website, even though the caller instructs the dancing couple (when they are dancing back up to the top of the set) to cross by the right hand then cross back by the left hand, the dancers actually ignore this instruction and they cross giving LEFT hands then cross back giving RIGHT hands which actually makes more sense to me and looks better too!

**Response**

As far as we know there isn’t a video of this dance on the RSCDS web site. There are five videos linked to the dance on the SCDDB, and one has the four couples in colourful tabards with numbers; that's not an official video but we think it is the one being referred to. In the next most clear video the dancing couple doesn't do the dance correctly and has problems deciding which hand to use. Two of the videos, shot at the Toronto Tartan ball, show the dance done according to the directions and it looks fine.

The electronic edition of the Manual says on Bars 17-24, the 1st couple MAY cross up giving left hands, and cross over giving right hands.  So, it's personal choice.

Since "lead" is defined in the Manual 6.19 as meaning right hand, as is "cross over" in 6.9.2, the instructions need not specify right hand.

When leading up or down and crossing over, right hand is used; in crossing straight over, left hand is specified. In crossing up then casting, right hand is awkward for the dancer coming from the men's side; in crossing over, left hand is awkward for the dancer coming from the women's side.  So, for first man, it's consistently more difficult, but not unusual. We don't see a need for change, and the dance should be done as published.