

Boys Club relents; will admit girls

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SANTA CRUZ — The Boys Club of Santa Cruz plans to stay in business and to open new programs for girls by Feb. 1, local club officials announced today.

Boys Club President Betty Elward said the club will stay open despite a recent state Supreme Court decision that cast doubt on whether the club could continue to finance its budget with a major endowment.

Elward said national Boys Club of America officials have approved the use of the Ruth M. Mallery endowment to operate the club. That endowment funds about 75 percent of the budget.

Elward said the club will now launch on a fundraising drive to finance added staff and facilities for girls programs.

National Boys Club of America officials will work with local members to draft the new girls' program, said Elward.

Elward said national officials flew to Santa Cruz Tuesday to discuss plans with local board members.

"At last we have a direction to go in. We were in limbo for a month," commented Elward today.

What put the club into limbo was a decision by Supreme Court justices ordering the club to open its doors to girls as well as boys. There are about 972 boys in the club today, said executive director, Terry Kaup.

Since the Oct. 21 court decision, Kaup said about ten girls have applied to be members.

Following the decision, Santa Cruz club officials announced the club may have to close because the endowment was in jeopardy.

They said they wanted to honor Mrs. Mallery's wishes that the endowment money should not be used for a club of both sexes. Mrs. Mallery and her late husband, John, financed the construction of the Center Street facility in 1969.

Interest on the endowment, administered by the national board, has been financing three-fourths of the club's \$250,000 annual budget. Without the endowment, there would not be enough money to operate the club, said local board members.

Kaup said national executive committee members have ruled the endowment is not revocable.

Elward said she hopes national officials will be in Santa Cruz during January to help modify the club in time for a Feb. 1 opening of the girls' program. A committee of national and local board members is to be

appointed to oversee operations, said local boardmembers.

But Elward stressed, "We will have to hit the community for some more money."

In a prepared statement, the Santa Cruz board said it "has decided to implement the decision of the California Supreme Court."

Board members commended Mrs. Mallery "for her patience and understanding of the club's difficult situation."

"The magnificent trust left by Mr. and Mrs. Mallery will enable the club to move into the new era of serving the youth of Santa Cruz."