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# Cannonballers keen to do the run again

By GORDON FEENEY

DARWIN: Organisers of the fatality-marred Cannonball Run said yesterday there would be no decision on a repeat event next year until after a coronial inquest was held into the smash that left four men dead.

But spokesman Grahame Ward said there was unanimous support for another Cannonball Run from drivers who completed the 3800km event.

"The reaction of the drivers last night was just a unanimous agreement that the event should be held again. There was no dissenting voice," Mr Ward said yesterday.

But he said no decision could be made until legal processes over last Tuesday's smash were completed.

"We need to wait for the release of the coronial inquiry [findings] before we can make any sort of decision," he said.

At a gala dinner on Friday in Darwin, Sydney builder Ron Conrad was declared the winner of the Cannonball Run in his Porsche 911 Turbo.

Mr Ward said the Northern Territory Chief Minister Marshall Perron had also given his support to a repeat event.

The smash occurred when a \$750,000 Ferrari F40 owned by Japanese dentist Akihiro Kabe ran out of control at a check point killing Mr Kabe, his co-driver Takeshi Okano, and volunteer race officials Tim Linklater and Keith Pritchard.

— AAP

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