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TEAM MTN-QHUBEKA'S ARRAN BROWN WINS THE MOMENTUM 94.7 CYCLE CHALLENGE

The final race of the season and Johannesburg's biggest cycle race with 25, 000 riders ended in 10 man sprint finish to the line. Arran Brown proved his love for the Momentum 94.7 by winning the small group sprint in front of his team mate Reinardt Janse van Rensburg who has been the man on form this last month.

Arran finished 2nd last year and was the winner in 2009.

How the race unfolded; the racing was fast on the M1 highway which normally sees the major Johannesburg traffic going into the city centre during the week but today it was closed for cyclists who were racing at 60km/h. At 18km's, as the bunch got closer to the KOM on St. Andrews road, the bunch split into four groups with 11 riders going clear just after the KOM which was won by David Maree (Tasol GT) with Dennis van Niekerk (MTN Qhubeka) in 2nd. The 2 race favorites Arran Brown and Tyler Day (Team

Bonitas) were the last 2 riders to make the front split as the race charged through the Johannesburg City Centre. The major challengers Nolan Hofmann (Tasol GT) and Herman Fouche (Cape Town Fish Market) missed the break and sent their team mates to the front to begin the chase.

The breakaway was literally flying with Team Bonitas riders Darren Lill (SA Road Champion), Johann Rabie, Jason Bakke, Tyler Day and Hanco Kachelhofer as well as Martin Wesemann, Reinardt Janse van Rensburg and Arran Brown (Team MTN Qhubeka) setting the tempo. The riders sitting on and without numerical advantage were Louis Meintjes (Team Toyota Academy), James Perry (Team Tasol GT) and Ian McLeod (Team Northcliff Cycles).

The chasing bunches eventually merged and that took the sting out of the tail as the breakaway riders built their lead to 3 minutes with 25km's to go. James Perry (Team Tasol GT) attacked twice in the last 5km's to try his luck but to no avail as the remaining 10 riders were set to battle a bunch sprint, Ian McLeod had punctured out of the break.

The SA Champion Darren Lill set the tempo up the final drag before the left turn to the finish before Martin Wesemann (Team MTN Qhubeka) took over, Reinardt was on his wheel and then Hanco and 2011 Cape Argus Cycle Tour winner Tyler Day. Arran sat behind Tyler and was in 4th wheel as he took the final right turn around the roundabout. It was a picture perfect finish for Team MTN Qhubeka as Arran and Reinardt powered away from their nearest rivals up the incline to the finish.

This was the men's teams 32nd race win of the season.

In the women's event, 4 riders rode clear in a similar fashion to the men's race. Ashleigh Moolman-Pasio and Jo van der Winkel (both Team Nashua Toyota), Cherise Taylor (Team USN) and Lise Olivier (Team MTN Qhubeka) maintained a lead of 2 minutes for the whole race. In the end it was Ashleigh Moolman-Pasio who got the better of defending champion Cherise Taylor in the sprint to the line with Jo taking the final podium spot and Lise in 4th.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

VISIT WWW.QHUBEKA.ORG FOR MORE ON THE TEAM

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