2026 Ride Joburg – Press Release

Race Report

Headline: Double Ride Joburg Delight for Gibbons After Securing the Triple Crown

Ryan Gibbons was undaunted by the weight of public and personal expectations ahead of the 2026 Ride Joburg. He and his RoadCover DMS team set out with a clear strategy of making the racing on the uphill first half of the 97-kilometre route and set Gibbons up to use his fast finish to complete the task of winning the 29th edition on Sunday, 21 November. The day played out as scripted, with Gibbons coming to the line in a group of eight, before sprinting to redemption against the man who bested him in 2025, Jaedon Terlouw, and the highly talented 19-year-old Morgan Jones.

First, Gibbons and RoadCover DMS had to shred the stacked men's field to create the opportunity for a greatly reduced group to escape. They would have been happy to see Johan de Villiers, of Tshenolo Pro Cycling, seize the early initiative. De Villiers went solo within the first 5 kilometres and established a handy advantage while RoadCover DMS worked to wrestle control of the peloton behind.

Once the men in blue were massed at the front, they shut down De Villiers' move and policed an attack by Blain Kieck. Climbing Jan Smuts Avenue, Kent Main ramped up the speed for his teammate Gibbons, and reduced the lead group to 15 riders after just 40 minutes of racing. Near the summit, on the steepest part of the climb, Gibbons accelerated to claim the King of the Mountain hotspot prize, then pushed on as riders fought their way across to him in ones and twos.

After 35 kilometres of frenetic racing, a group of eight had formed around Gibbons. Terlouw, Jones, Aiden Claasen, Callum Ormiston, Rohan Nicholson, Liam Barnard, and Williem Visagie were the only men to battle their way up to Gibbons. The five of the day's protagonists are young and hungry. Notably, only Gibbons, Terlouw, and Ormiston are over the age of 23, while Nicholson, Claassen, and Barnard are eligible to race as Juniors in the under-19 age category until the end of the year.

"With the different start and finish, we knew it was going to split up in the first half," Gibbons stated after wrapping up his second Ride Joburg victory. "RoadCover DMS were brilliant today. I think fans would have only seen the team on the front in the first 40 kilometres. I put in a dig on Jan Smuts, but there was a bit of a headwind there, so I didn't want to get away solo. The eight of us who formed the group after Jan Smuts worked really well together. Hats off to the guys; most of them are juniors or first-year elites."

By collaborating, the octet managed to build a 77-second advantage on a chase group of 14, over the next 30 kilometres. Ryno Schutte and Willie Smit pushed to reduce Gibbons and Co's lead. Through, due to the power of the men up and road, and some disruptive riding by Main, the RoadCover DMS team captain, in the chase, the leaders were never reeled in.

Thundering downhill towards Kyalami, opportunities to attack off the front were few. On the rise up Wynberg Hill, Gibbons put in a dig to sting the legs of his companions, but when that move did not go clear, a sprint looked inevitable. Ormiston, a notable time trialist, wanted to avoid a bunch finish and made his move on the Kyalami Grand Prix circuit. He created the smallest of gaps, but could not snap the elastic, as Terlouw hunted him down.

Coming into the final 50 metres, seven men remained in contention for victory, strung out in a line. Terlouw swept past Ormiston, then Gibbons thundered past Terlouw. The Toyota Specialized Imbuko man had enough speed to hold off Jones, Visagie, Nicholson, and Claassen. Ormiston, his

matches spent to avoid a sprint, crossed the line seventh. Bernard was eighth. 1 minute and 13 seconds down, Emile van Niekerk won the sprint from the chase group to claim ninth ahead of Kieck in tenth.

“In the finale, there was a bit of looking at each other, with the guys knowing that I have a faster sprint than most,” Gibbons elaborated. “There were a few attacks on the Mineshaft climb on the Kyalami circuit, as expected, but it came back together, and the big finishing arch really helped me judge my sprint perfectly.

“It’s spur-of-the-moment decisions that make or break the race,” a philosophical Terlouw pointed out. “I made a few mistakes today, but you have to learn from the big dogs, so there are lots of positives to take away. In the future, Ryan [Gibbons] will have to watch out. But I’m stoked to be on the podium at Ride Joburg once again!”

Gibbons’ win is his second at Ride Joburg, adding the 2026 victory to the honour he first won in 2024. It also completes the South African Triple Crown of major one-day races. Following his victories at the 2026 editions of the Cape Town Cycle Tour and Amashova National Classic, Gibbons becomes only the second man, after Arran Brown in 2009, to hold all three titles in a calendar year.

“Picking up the Triple Crown was a big goal for the RoadCover DMS team this year,” Gibbons grinned. “Taking the Ride Joburg title feels great, and there will be a lot of beers had tonight.”

2026 Ride Joburg Men’s Results

1. Ryan Gibbons: RoadCover DMS (2:05:35)
2. Jaedon Terlouw: Toyota Specialized Imbuko (2:05:36 | +1)
3. Morgan Jones: Kinetic Pro Racing (2:05:36 | +1 | U19)
4. Willem Visagie: ASAP Pro Cycling (2:05:36 | +1 | U23)
5. Rohnan Nicholson: Watersley R+D Team (2:05:37 | +2 | U19)
6. Adian Claassen: Enduroplanet (2:05:39 | +4 | U19)
7. Callum Ormiston: The Joyrun & Hurricane (2:05:49 | +14)
8. Liam Barnard: BP Racing Academy (2:06:05 | +30 |U19)
9. Emile Van Niekerk: Tshenolo Pro Cycling (2:06:48 | +1:13 | U23)
10. Blaine Kieck: UV Aube (2:06:48 | +1:13 | U23)

To view the full results from the 2026 Ride Joburg, click here.

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Photo Captions and Credits:

1. Ryan Gibbons won his second Ride Joburg title from a reduced bunch sprint after splintering the peloton on the climb up Jan Smuts Avenue and ensuring his group of eight remained away for the final 60 kilometres. Photo by Dom Barnardt.
2. Jaedon Terlouw (left) and Callum Ormiston (second from left) were, along with Ryan Gibbons (right), the only men over the age of 23 in the front group. Photo by Dom Barnardt.
3. Kent Main (second from right) disrupted the chase group and helped Ryan Gibbons and his eight-man breakaway group remain clear. Photo by Dom Barnardt.
4. Ryan Gibbons was full of praise for his young companions, who included Adian Claassen (in purple) and Willem Visagie (in light blue). Photo by Dom Barnardt.
5. Ryan Gibbons was able to outkick Jaedon Terlouw in the final 50 metres of the 97-kilometre course to avenge the loss he suffered to the Toyota Specialized Imbuko rider in the 2025 Ride Joburg. Photo by Dom Barnardt.

6. 2026 Ride Joburg Men's Podium (from left to right): Jaedon Terlouw, Ryan Gibbons, and Morgan Jones. Photo by Diwan Krige.
7. Method Cap Classic celebrations for Jeadon Terlouw (left), Ryan Gibbons (centre), and Morgan Jones (right) after Ride Joburg 2026. Photo by Diwan Krige.
8. By winning Ride Joburg, Ryan Gibbons became just the second man to win the Triple Crown, which is the Cape Town Cycle Tour, Amashova National Classic, and Ride Joburg, in a single calendar year. Photo by Dom Barnardt.

To download the high-resolution versions of these images, please click here.

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