

Newsletter

InFocus at DVCC

13th April 2025



Caption

This week's meeting - Sport and People

This coming week we shall be having an early start for those that can get as we are meeting at Wath rugby club at 6:00 pm on Wednesday (earlier if you wish) to capture the atmosphere, passion and force of Wath's 2nd team in a cup clash.

The match kicks off at 6:30, if not on the main pitch near the cricket field it will be on the pitches off "Recreation Road". See image below. The match itself last for 80 minutes with a five to 10 minute break at half



time, thus will probably be finished at 8:00pm. By which time the light will be fading and you will need to take this into account by perhaps increasing your ISO settings. As a general rule, for shooting the action if shooting in Manual mode, set your shutter speed to 1/800th seconds or 1/1000th, set your aperture to a wide as it will go (smaller number) and your ISO to auto. If you prefer to use Tv (time value mode) or S (shutter priority off Nikon) then set the shutter speed as above and leave the rest to the camera. As a general rule wait till the action gets to you and try and fill the frame. If shooting people in the crowd the slower shutter speeds will be fine.

Subject to events on the night we may set up a studio light outside in the area to the rear of Wath club house to do some portraits of folks at the match / in the club house.

Some upcoming events:

Not necessarily DVCC attended event but here are some event you might like to pop into your diary

YPU awards and Exhibition
Doncaster Grammar School,
10th May then Doncaster
Museum

Society of Photographers
Roadshow, Wetherby
Racecourse 13th May 2025

Rugby Union 7 a side
competition in Hemsworth
10:00 to circa 5:00pm on
14th June

Steam Punk Festival at
Bolsover Castle, (English
Heritage Site) on 29th June

Equestrian Eventing, Show
jumping and dressage at
Frickley Park, 14th to 17th
August 2025

Downhill bike racing time
trials, Peaty's DownHill
Series, City of Steel in
Grenoside woods, Sheffield
13th September 2025

Photographing a local rugby union match is a fantastic way for Dearne Valley Camera Club members to build skills in both sports and people photography. The mix of fast-paced action and emotional storytelling makes for a rewarding challenge. With the right techniques and a bit of planning, you can create a varied and powerful set of images that go beyond the game itself.

Standing near the halfway line gives a broad view of the game, while being behind the posts is great for capturing attacking runs, conversions, and diving tries. Bring a telephoto lens—something in the 200-400mm range is ideal—for isolating action from a distance. Watch out where the sun is, and try to have the sun to your back or your side, unless shooting “contra jour”

Use a fast shutter speed (1/1000s or faster) to freeze motion cleanly. Switch to continuous autofocus (AI-Servo or AF-C mode) to keep moving players sharp, and shoot in burst mode to increase your chances of catching the perfect split-second moment. Set your aperture to as wide as it will go - smaller number - to blur the background and make your subject stand out. Pop your iso on auto. If not using manual mode, try Tv (S) mode and set shutter speed to 1/800th or 1/1000th of the action shots, lower for the crowd shots

Focus on set pieces like scrums and line-outs, but also look for storytelling moments—*injuries, encouragement from teammates, reactions to missed chances or victorious tries*. These emotional snapshots often make the most memorable images.

While the players are the main event, the crowd brings the atmosphere—and photographing them helps tell a richer, more human story. Look out for expressions of joy, tension, and disappointment.

A mid-range zoom lens (24-70mm or 70-200mm) allows you to stay relatively unobtrusive while still getting close enough for intimate, candid shots.

For candid shots, it's best to remain discreet and blend into the environment. However, if you're photographing someone closely or want to take a posed portrait, always ask politely first. Most people are happy to be part of the event's visual story—especially when they know it's for a local club or project.

Composition matters here too: use natural framing, reflections in sunglasses, or leading lines like fencing or rails to add visual interest. Shoot from different angles—try low perspectives when capturing kids, or shoot through crowds to create layered depth.

Post-Match Storytelling

Don't pack away your camera as soon as the final whistle blows. Some of the best people photography comes after the game—handshakes, group celebrations, exhausted players sitting on the grass, and proud supporters congratulating their teams. These quieter, reflective moments add depth and emotion to your coverage.

Review your images after the event and experiment with different edits. Black and white processing can emphasise grit and contrast, while colour can highlight the vibrancy of team kits and fan gear.

By combining on-field action with off-field emotion, you'll come away with a complete visual story of the day—and sharpen your skills as both a sports and people photographer.

Photo Album: Its just a game

This week's photo album is a collection of images taken at local rugby union matches



Look ups and Links.

None of these are endorsed by DVCC, they are things I've found on t'internet that might (or might not) be helpful and or interesting

Sports photography for beginners - where to start?

[Talru Film and Photo](#)

Sports Photography as a Spectator - Motor Sport.

[Fuji Film](#)

Thinking About Horse Photography?

[The Other Photography guy](#)

Calendar of events - Look on the website for the new schedule.

16/04/2025	Wed	Wath	Rugby and people practical night 6:00 pm meet at club house
23/04/2025	Wed	Wath	Hight Speed Synch tutorial and Practical Night: model and using HSS
01/05/2025	Thu	ZOOM	External Speaker: Mike Martin "It's not what you see its what you make". Mike describes this as a mixed evening - in addition to an overview of his people photography, he also showcases some of his non-portrait photography, and step by step walk through making of some of my creative images using a live Photoshop demo and sharing some of my creative projects during lockdown.
7/05/2025	Wed	Wath	Presentation and Learning: Creating a composite image
14/05/2025	Wed	Wath	Show and Tell: 3 of your best composited images
21/05/2025	Wed	Wath	Members Photography Journey: Gill Batson
28/05/2025	Wed	Wath	Planning

Get your thinking caps on, last meeting of this season is about planning the next set of events. Probably do this in small groups to establish the sort of activities and events we want to explore, challenge ourselves, and enjoy. Its your chance to influence the calendar.