

Newsletter

InFocus at DVCC

November 2025



Learn, Develop, Share, Support

The coming year!

We have quite a few, and quite a varied selection of practical events, all at Wath clubhouse, unless otherwise stated

Fancy meeting much respected and well known landscape photographer called Joe Cornish ... read on

Before and After (Editing)	05/11/2025	Show and Tell	A before and after edit with help and critique from fellow members
Setting up a studio	12/11/2025	Practical	Learn how to set up the clubs studio lights, backdrops and softboxes
External Speaker (ZOOM)	19/11/2025	External Speaker	Mathew Browne is giving a talk via zoom - The Art of Travel Photography - I had a lovely chat with Mathew - it should be good talk - check out his website: https://www.mathewbrowne.co.uk/workshops/talks/
Creativity	26/11/2025		
Sport Action and Movement	03/12/2025	Show and Tell	Submit three images on topic of sport action and movement, Get some feedback and consider the requirements of the YPU
Christmas Portraits	10/12/2025	Practical	
Social	17/12/2025	Social	£5.00 deposit required please.
	24/12/2025	Special Night!	Have you been good girls and boys or are you on Santa's naughty list? Is there a photography present waiting in your stocking?

Our Club Rocks!

Its officially announced that "our club rocks" and its true because its on Facebook and it was said by Jo "sparky" Peel. - "Dearne Valley Camera Club: the club that rocks"

Here are some of the things we've been doing in the last few weeks, and a couple of images of the members that make the club rock. Following up on getting a local band coming in for photography we went a touch 'highbrow' and engaged a poet to read to us and model for our photography sessions. We (aka Gill) roped in family members to do some modelling for low key photography and Tom 'dragged in' a bloke off the streets to help us out.

People Portraits

When we engage people to model for us part of the agreement is that we will provide them with photographs for their own use. To enable this it is very important that we upload our photos via the web site so we can share them with the models. Please remember to upload yours when we do the portrait events - we wouldn't want to let them down

Or more accurately Tom engaged with a complete stranger in the pub and convinced him to do some modelling for us

I have it on very good authority that Beth (barmaid at the club house) thought having Jordan as one of our models was one of our better ideas !!!!

Not to be outdone, Patrick arranged for a couple of friends - Geoff and Francis to come along to model for us. Now what is important is that none of these people were professional models, and its good to know that we as a group made them feel welcome and comfortable.

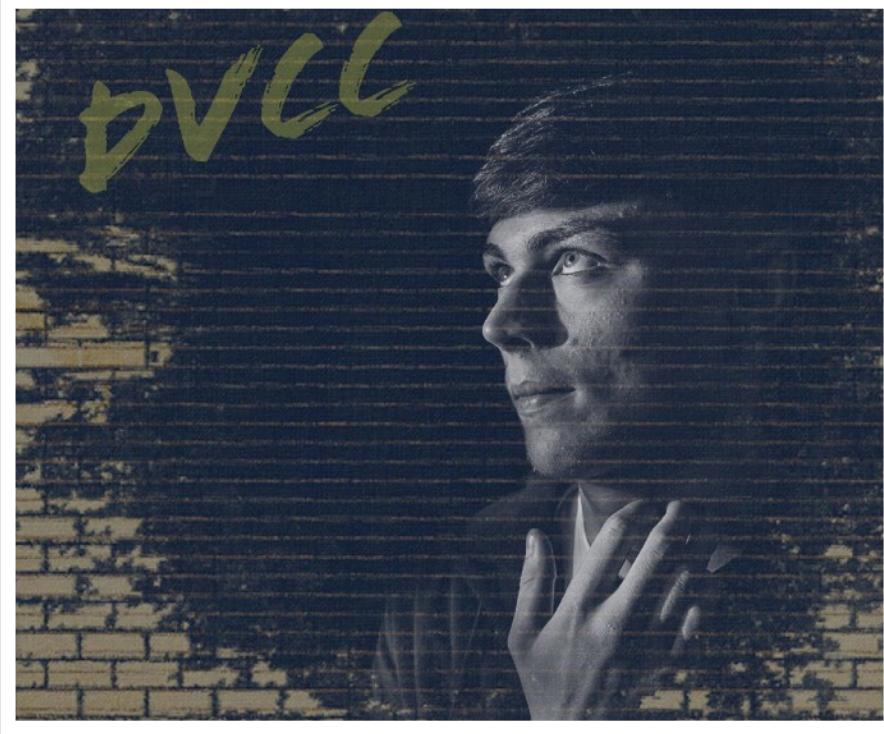
We engaged a photographer from Hull (Cottingham) way to do some critiques of our photographs that conveyed sport, action and or movement and then we went mad and set fire to the place.

Only kidding about that last but, what we did of course was engage in some night-time photography of light trails using either 'fairy lights in a bottle', setting fire to some wire wool and standing on a bridge over a busy road capturing speeding motorists.

Here is a selection of images taken from Facebook which hopefully capture those evenings.



DVCC members, Monika and Martin showing that there is more to club life than cameras. Its folks like this that make us rock.



Josh in a composite from David Bower



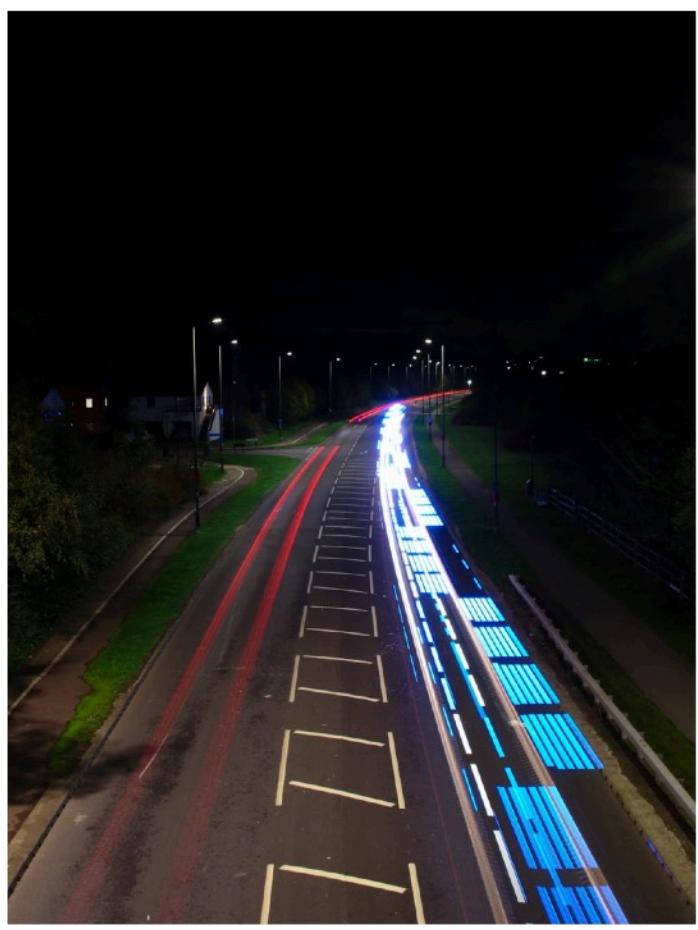
Josh in reflective mode by Denise



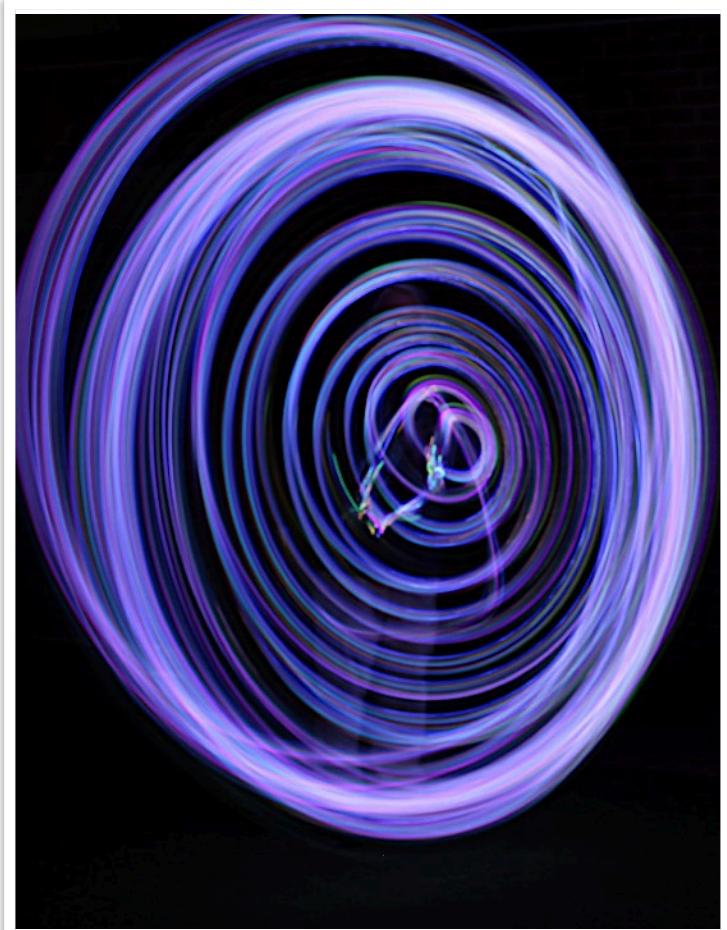
Jordan by Tom



Mike the Poet by Lillie, who carefully and thoughtfully placed him in a library



Neil capture the passing blue lights



Light painting by Jo

Sport, Action Movement Competition

1st



2nd



3rd



Highly Commended 1



Highly Commended 2



Sport, Action and Movement - Thank you to all who submitted and well done to David Turner, Gill and Cath. What might not be evident from these photographs is that 3 of them are taken at events promoted by DVCC to its members and we're hoping to offer photography opportunities)

Competition and critiques

Some clubs are known as 'competition clubs' and week after week have some sort of competition either amongst themselves or against other camera clubs.

For us competitions and critiques are something we do occasionally, the The Sheffield Inter City competition for example, and we encourage our members to participate in the Yorkshire Photographic Union annual exhibition into which some several thousand images are submitted and judges get to pick about 400!

Most people will agree that for competitions there is a distinct 'competition' style of photograph, and perhaps some will agree with my personal view that competition judges are very conservative in their outlook. We need to of course remember that in many competitions the judges only get seconds to assess the impact of a photograph and if anyone want to become a photography judge we can point you in the right direction.

Why bother with competitions and critiques?

This can be a difficult decision for committee members to come to, but what we seek to do is offer members an opportunity to have what is in effect a stranger who is skilled in photography and in knowing what competition judges look for offer the photographer a critique of their work. They will look for technical skills, (focus, colour balance, exposure, printing if printed ...) and they will look for composition skills and they will look for impact that the photograph has on the viewer - can the viewer see the story in your photography - perhaps you can - but can the 'stranger'? Some of these criteria are of course very subjective (the eye of the beholder etc).

Alas, seldom do those offering the critique have any insider knowledge to consider that "this person is just starting out and has done very well but paying attention to [redacted] would add value to your work" - in that respect a beginners photograph is judged in the same pile of photos as the most seasoned pros images.

I know from personal experience that it can sometime be a little deflating when you submit a photograph for assessment and the 'judge' pans it or isn't able to see the beauty of the photography let alone the hard work that's been put in. But, and this is a big but, what matters is what we learn from these assessments and how we put the feedback, if we choose to do so, into use to improve our photographs.



This image didn't get the positive feedback I think it deserved - and didn't get anywhere in a competition. One critique said the white tape is distracting, (thats the white tape that marks the edge of the course) the image is flat, the composition isn't quite right - try cropping it to remove the trees ... All well and good, but here is what a mentor at the Society of International Sports Photographers said ... Stand out images are 10 (this one) and 16 and 19. Good Action and the composition works well and it's a really good shot. Try to increase the contrast for more impact So the thoughts of one are not the those of another.

Which quite neatly takes us to preparation for this weeks meeting

Looking forwards

Before and after

This week, via Zoom we are asking you to share 1 photograph before you've done your editing and then the same photograph after the editing has been done, and then ask you why you made the changes and how you went about making the changes, and then we'll open up the floor to other members for them to chip in with their observations.

Lets be frank, it can be quite difficult to say to friends "I think your photograph can be improved by doing X, Y and Z to it" -but by doing this in a friendly and supportive way we hope that we get a little bit of an insight into being a judge and at the same time help each other to spot things that perhaps the photographer didn't spot and are distracting to the viewer and in turn "improve" a photograph in the eye of the viewer. Next time you "Like" a photo perhaps say why.

What you share via Zoom (upload via website) doesn't have to be too detailed but I've popped an example below which might help

Looking at the camera settings shown on the original photo what might I have done differently ?



Original size in pixels 5392 x 3592

1/1250 // f/3.2 // ISO 10000

Nikon, NIKON Z 8 with a NIKKOR Z 70-200mm f/2.8 VR S

Now, its over to you.

Have I do the people in the photograph justice, would it be 'well received' in a competition?



Does my editing work, can you see the joins where I've removed things, have I overdone the adjustments to the noise levels, the exposure, the light and shadow, are there other things I should have - photographically speaking - removed like the fire exit signs?

Does the crop work, is it too severe, is it in the wrong place? Are the key players in focus and shape ? Have I missed out any question marks ? ...

Now close your eyes, and then open them but squint when you look at the picture, do you focus on the player making the tackle or something else.

One final question - does it have impact? PS the players at Hull FC (tackling) love it !

What did I do?

Original was taken into Lightroom Classic - then Photoshop - and a number of changes made to create my finished image. Why Photoshop? - I find the remove tools easier to use than those in Lightroom and give better results, but that's just me.

I applied a preset to get the colour balance and white balance set - it was shot indoors in a sports hall and I amended the crop to be 16:9. When I cropped the image I tried to ensure I didn't cut anyone in half as I've been told that this can be distracting and folks focus on that and not the athletes. I also cropped it to 16:9 because of two reasons - 1 is got rid of some the walls, and 2 because I like it that way!

I amended the noise (denoise) as it's shot at iso 10,000 and then I set about adjusting exposure, and the highlight and the shadows.

Once I'd got it how I more or less wanted, I went in to Photoshop to remove various things that might be distracting - the score boards and the big blue curtain thing and some of the words on the banner on the wall. It says Basketball ... and as this isn't a game of basketball I didn't want people to think it was, so I removed the word basketball. I left the words "without borders" on the banner as I thought that also summed up the efforts of the rugby league players. And somewhat rather cheekily it's a message to any judges because this photograph does not have a border added (or as we now know also called stroke). Of course this will go over any judges head so try not to be too clever in your thinking but use a title that explains to the judges what they are about to see.

Setting up a studio

And now for something completely different: the next meeting at Wath is going to be very practical, and very interesting but you will need your camera. Working in small groups (either 3 or 4) you will have a photography challenge:

Using the club's kit, set up a studio: the lights, the backdrops, soft boxes ... then using the studio lights take a photo of group member or two and then pack up the studio equipment. No prizes, no certificates but you could consider yourself fully trained when task is completed. Specialists (?) will be on hand to offer guidance for the price of a piece of chocolate.

Christmas Social
Don't forget to book your slot on the Christmas Social (The Glasshouse at Wath) and pay your deposit



Watch out watch out there's Julian about taking photographs of people taking photographs

Horses for courses We will have some very exciting news soon about a trip to Doncaster Racecourse



Photography by Brian

Got any ideas about what we can do in the coming year?



The Keighley Day will take place on Saturday 15th November at Carleton Community Centre, Pontefract. There are two very experienced photographers who will be giving talks about their work.

Oliver Wright - Wildlife and Joe Cornish - Landscapes

The closing date for reserving your place is Friday 7th November 2025, it will cost you £25 which includes refreshments and a buffet lunch. Details from Gill

It would be good to see DVCC members there and I am sure you will really enjoy the day.