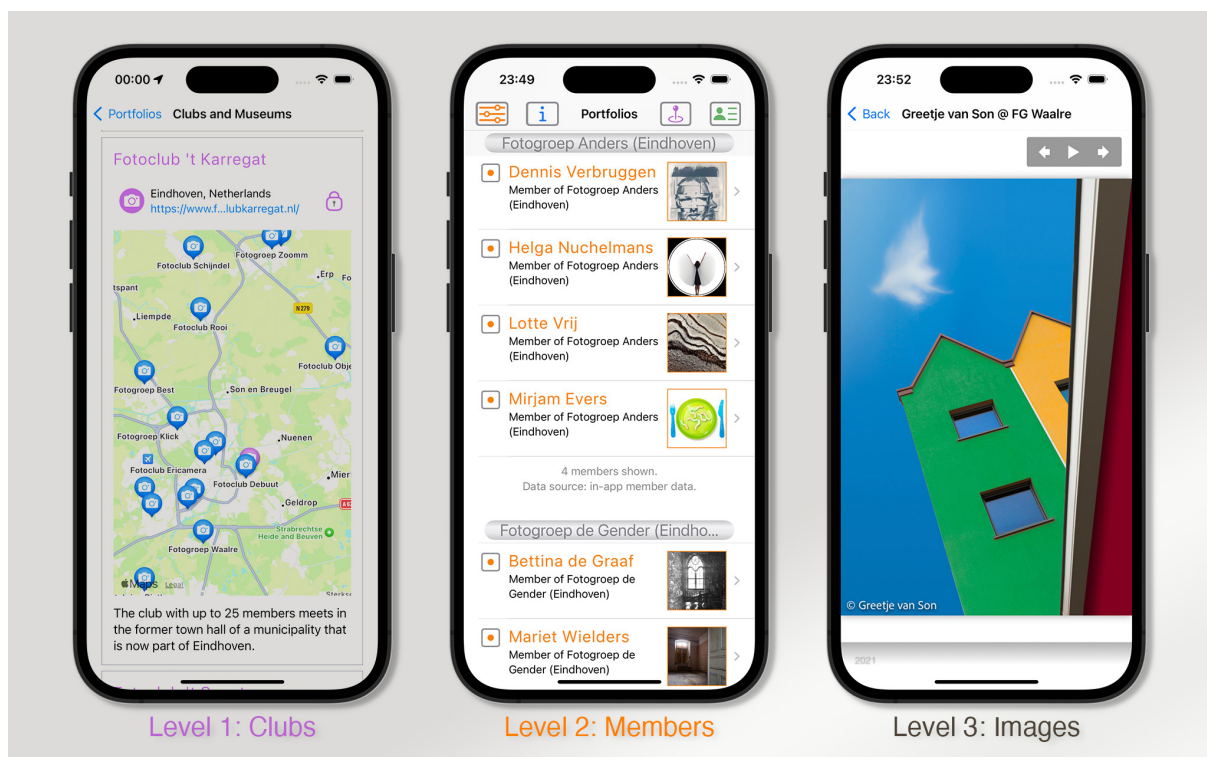# Photo Club Hub

Readme file EN v2.6.3

The App

Our ambitions in creating *Photo Club Hub* were to strengthen ties between photography clubs, and making the work of club members easier to access.

Photo Club Hub showcases selected photos by members of participating clubs. The photos are displayed in a consistent, easy to access way, with minimal distractions.

This consistency avoids having to find each club's website yourself, and then figuring out how to locate and browse the photos on that site. The app does **not** try to replace club web sites, photographer web sites, or social media channels. Instead, it supports clubs and their members who try to reach out to other clubs, to other photographers, and to a general audience.

Clubs, their Members, and their Portfolio Images

The app was originally named *Photo Club Waalre* after a 15-person photo club in the southern Netherlands. The word **hub** in the new name stresses the app's goals of strengthening the ties between **multiple** photo clubs.

Supporting dozens or even hundreds of clubs requires that each club manages its own data. This includes providing images, and maintaining lists of club members. No software expertise is required for adding a club to *Photo Club Hub*.

Interested in adding support for your club? Contact us via [GitHub](), [Facebook]() or [LinkedIn](). Adding your club only involves providing and updating club data in a way that the app can understand. The app's [GitHub site]() explains the strategy and approach in more detail. We are here to help and answer your questions.
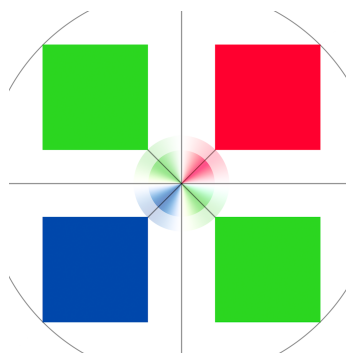
The Concept

Photo clubs play a central role in this app. The *Portfolios* screen shows a list of photo clubs.

Each photo club contains a series of member **portfolios** that hold the actual images. Each portfolio covers the photographer's photos that are associated with that photo club.

A photographer may have multiple portfolios in the app in case the photographer is (or was) associated with more than one photo club.

Just like a painter, a photographer's style often changes over the years. Each portfolio is therefore shown in chronological order, with the latest work first.

We try to show the portfolios with minimal distraction, just like an exposition at a museum or gallery. Web sites tend to be less optimal for this, because they are cluttered by browser controls (e.g., an address bar or tabs), and need to display multiple types of information (e.g., club news or schedules).

App version 2.6.3
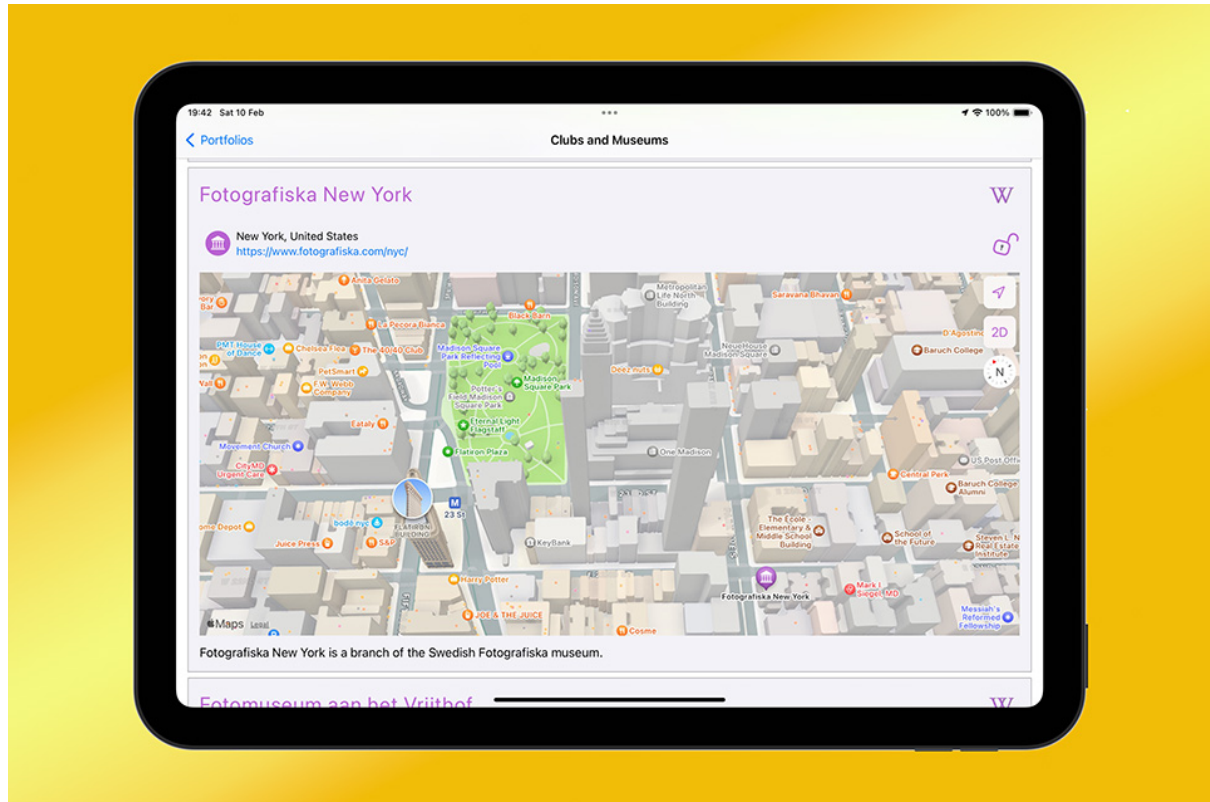*(build 4628)*

Features and Tips

Languages

Photo Club Hub automatically selects its language based on your device's language settings. It currently supports English and Dutch. You can change language using *Settings > General > Language & Region > Preferred Language Order*. Alternatively you can overrule this setting for this app only (*Settings > Photo Club Hub > Language*).

```
/* Label of toggle in Preferences */
"Show aspiring members" = "Toon aspirant-leden";

/* Label of toggle in Preferences */
"Show club officers" = "Toon bestuursleden";

/* Label of toggle in Preferences */
"Show current members" = "Toon huidige leden";

/* Label of toggle in Preferences */
"Show deceased members" = "Toon overleden leden";

/* Label of toggle in Preferences */
"Show external coaches" = "Toon externe mentoren";
```

Translating English phrases into Dutch

3D maps

If you zoom in far enough on any map, a button appears that allows you do view the area in three dimensions. In 3D mode you can rotate the map.

Maps can be viewed in 3D

Live location

Maps can highlight your own location as a purple dot when it is in range of the map. This can help you navigate to a club or to estimate distances. If the map is unlocked/interactive, an arrow button lets you re-center the map around your current location.

Live location requires granting the app **permission** to access your location while in the app. The app doesn't store or share your location with anyone or anything.

Adding photo clubs

The app initially contains an initial list of 40+ photo clubs. Those clubs are currently all in one region in the Netherlands. The app, however, can support clubs anywhere in the world and the list can be extended by the users.
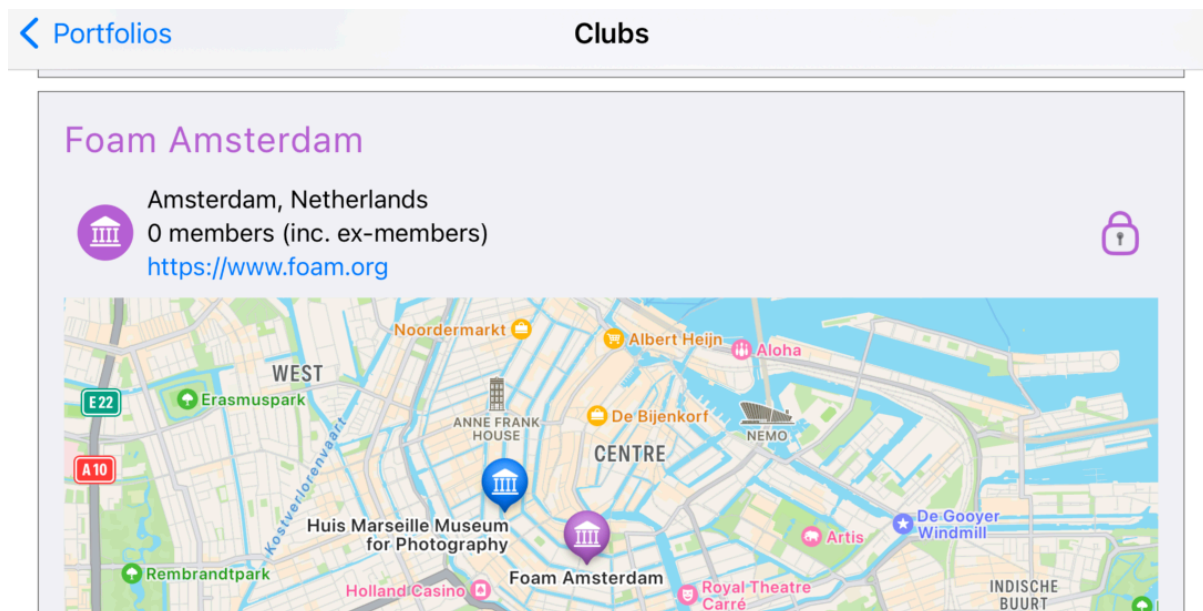
For a club to be included, the app needs basic information like the club's name and location (**Level 1**), a list of its members (**Level 2**) and links to image portfolios (**Level 3**). More details on extending the various lists are provided below and on GitHub.

Similarly, the initial list of 30+ photo museums can also be extended by users without updating the app itself.

Photo museums

The maps can show various photo museums throughout the world. Museums and clubs are represented differently on the map.

Adding a photo museum works the same way as adding a photo club - except that a museum doesn't have members or member portfolios.

Amsterdam has two photography museums.

Smart Scrolling

The *Clubs and Museums* screen and the *Who's Who* screen feature *smart scrolling*, as introduced in iOS 17. This tries to prevent an item in a list from being partially displayed. The *Portfolios* screen does not support smart scrolling because that is incompatible with having so-called sectioned lists.

Web sites

This app is complimentary to your club's web site. Because web sites have more uses than just presenting photos, *Photo Club Hub* includes clickable links that bring you to club- and photographer web sites.

Example of a link to a club web site

The opening image

When the app opens, it shows an image ("*Prelude*") corresponding to the app's icon. If you tap somewhere **inside** the image, it zooms out to show the full image representing how digital cameras see color.

This involves a [Bayer color filter array](#) that adds a color filter on top of each sensor cell. This filter array is shown superimposed on a colorful photo.

Tapping **inside** the image allows you to zoom in or out to your heart's content. Tapping **outside** the image area ends the animation. A single tap **outside** the image allows you to skip the animation.

The animation incidentally runs on your device's GPU cores using the [Metal software framework](#).
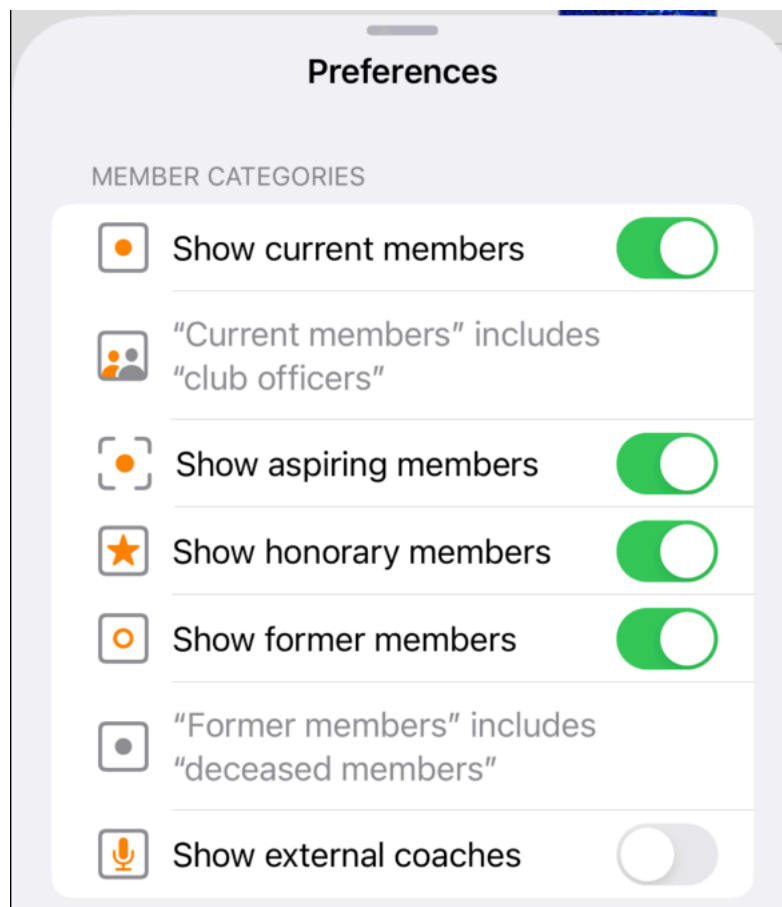

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Former Members

The app can include the work of former club members. By default, former members are not shown, but you can be enabled on the *Preferences* screen.

An easy way to get recent ex-member in the app is to simply not remove their portfolios when they leave. You should instead change their status to ex-member in the membership ("Level 2") list.

The Preferences screen

Automatic Slide Shows

Some portfolios have an automatic slide show option. This is controlled by one of the buttons that appear when you tap on an image (this tapping is only needed on an iPhone).
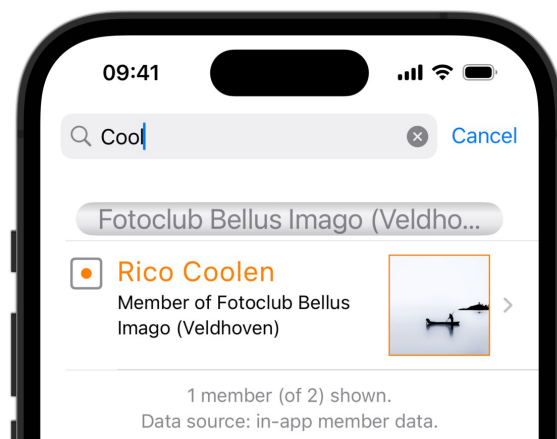
This option is available on portfolios that were generated using the *Juicebox* plug-in for *Lightroom Classic* (see the portfolios of Fotogroep Waalre).

Buttons for the automatic slide show

Searching

There is a search bar at the top of major screens. On an iPhone you may need to scroll back to the top of the list in order to see it.

Search bar at the top of Portfolios screen

Entering part of person's name (for the *Portfolios* and *Who's Who* screens) will find people with that name. The *Clubs and Museums* screen searches both on the organization's name and on its location (town).

iOS, iPadOS

Photo Club Hub requires the latest major version of iOS. This allows us to keep the app technically up to date. The latest app version can run on devices released in the last 6 or 7 years.

For practical reasons, the app is optimized for **iOS** and **iPadOS**. The app can also run on MacOS or VisionOS as an iPad app.

Although there is presently no native support for **Android** or other non-Apple phone platforms, we plan to provide support by automatically generating website pages from the same online lists that the app uses. This helps keep club web sites up to date, and allows viewing of clubs, members, and images in a web browsers on a wide range of platforms including Android, but also platforms like Windows or Linux.

These and other ideas will depend on uptake and help from volunteers from the software community. If you are interested in helping, see the next section.

How you can help

The app needs information in order to **cover your local photo club(s)**. This involves three so-called **Levels**. You can pause on any level before proceeding to a next level. See the app's README file on GitHub for more details.

Level 1 requires providing the club's name, location and a few links. As a result, the club is listed on the *Clubs and Museums* screen and shown on its maps. If you send us the Level 1 information, we will add it to the app's online list of clubs. Alternatively, you can submit that information (and any future updates) in the form a GitHub "pull request".

```
{
    "idPlus": {
        "town": "Veldhoven",
        "fullName": "Fotoclub Bellus Imago",
        "nickName": "fcBellusImago"
    },
    "coordinates": {
        "latitude": 51.425410,
        "longitude": 5.387560
    },
    "website": "https://www.fotoClubBellusImago.nl",
    "memberList": "https://www.example.com/fcBellusImago.memberList.json",
    "remark": [
        {
            "language": "EN",
            "value": "The club's name (almost) means Beautiful Image in Latin."
        },
        {
            "language": "NL",
            "value": "De naam is (meer of minder) Latijn voor Mooi Beeld."
        }
    ],
    "nlSpecific": {
        "fotobondNumber": 1671
    }
},
```

Configuring Level 1 data for a Dutch photo club.

Level 2 requires providing a list of the names of current (and maybe former) club members as a text file with a specific format. This file can be stored anywhere you like as long as it can be fetched using a web address (URL). For example, you can store it in the *Media* section *of* your club's *Wordpress* web site. With Level 2, the membership lists shows up on the *Portfolios* screen.

Fotogroep Anders (NL) shows what a Level 2 club looks like in the user interface. We are currently simplifying data entry for Level 2.

Level 3 requires providing links to the online images in member portfolios. *Fotogroep Waalre* (NL) is an example of a Level 3 club: you can view their portfolios via the *Portfolios* screen. Because a club with dozens of members may want to show hundreds of images, we have a way to automatically generate portfolios using *Lightroom* (step-by-step instructions for this will be provided later).

Apart from onboarding clubs, there are more ways in which you can help out. Examples of **non-technical help** include testing, writing a review for Apple's App Store, creating user guides, and improvement ideas. Last, and certainly not least, actual **software development** support will help speed up development, come up with fresh ideas and ensure app continuity. Example contributions include code improvement of all sorts (via GitHub), hunting down bugs, and contributing to discussions on functionality, implementation and interfaces.

```swift
enum MemberRole {
    // a Member can have 0, 1 or more of these MemberRoles at the same time
    case admin // rawValue not used because string needs localization
    case chairman
    case secretary
    case treasurer
    case viceChairman

    func localizedString() -> String {
        let translateComment: StaticString =
            "Administrative role of member within a club. Used as part of concatenations."

        switch self {
        case .admin:
            return String(localized: "admin", comment: translateComment)
        case .chairman:
            return String(localized: "chairman", comment: translateComment)
        case .secretary:
            return String(localized: "secretary", comment: translateComment)
        case .treasurer:
            return String(localized: "treasurer", comment: translateComment)
        case .viceChairman:
            return String(localized: "vice-chairman", comment: translateComment)
        }
    }
}
```

Source code fragment in Swift

[1677-2 words]