

# Eagles Ski Tour No 48 Saas 4000'ers report

Dates: 31 March - 4 April 2025

Participants: Nick Cunningham, James Illman, John Jones, Tim Davies, Ian Lloyd, Jonny Singh  
Mountain Guide: Terry Ralphs

We met on the Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March at the pension Zurbriggen in Saas Grund. Introductory meeting and dinner were taken at the Hotel Berghiemat just opposite the pension.

Monday 31 March. The plan was to climb the Allalinhorn from the Mittelallalin lift. Unfortunately, strong to storm force winds made it impossible to ski tour at altitude. This was very frustrating as the skies were clear. We took the first lift to Felskinn (at 10am!) and went directly to the Britannia hut. After settling in we descended to the Hohlaubgletscher and skinned up to point 3500m on the Hohlaubgrat. The snow was windblown hardpack, but we managed to find some smooth cold snow to ski back to the Britannia hut

Tuesday 1 April. An early start (5.30am breakfast) for the Strahlhorn. The hard pack snow made skinning easy. After a few precarious kick turns above the Adler pass the summit was reached a midday. We descended just as the clouds rolled in from the south. Another night in the Britannia hut

Wednesday 2 April. This day was marred by last minute forecasted snowstorm putting down 40cms of fresh snow. We adapted our plan (initially the Fluchthorn) to concentrate on glacier travel and crevasse rescue skills below the hut. Visibility was very poor, but the snow had been transformed to light powder from windblown hard pack. The avalanche risk was also increased.

Thursday 3 April. Back to the beautiful weather as forecast. We ascended to the Allalin pass to traverse to the Tasch hut. Delightful first tracks were had on the descent to the Tasch hut. Unfortunately one member had an issue with the glue going off (turned to a honey consistency with the ski bases all glued up) on their skins and due to this failure, they could not continue as the skins were no longer usable. This skin problem was compounded by the extremely cold powder snow.

Friday 4 April. An early start (5.30am) and a big pull to the Alphubeljoch. From here we traversed to the Alphubel and then started a steep climb with some exposed kick turns to reach the summit of the Alphubel. The descent to Langflue gave us a magnificent, glaciated powder snow ski. One of the best of the season thanks to Wednesday's unforeseen snowfall.

## Note:

It would be good to remind members to check the quality of the glue on their skins as the glue does go off in about 5 years. The glue goes to a honey consistency and is then transferred to the ski bases.

Skins should also be well cut to the ski ideally just having the metal edges showing and the p-tex ski base covered with the skin.

A warm up day or skin control at the start of the trip would have avoided this issue.