



■ **SURPRISE SHOW** Paul McCartney.

Fab turn from star ski guest

SIR Paul McCartney capped a Nevada skiing holiday with an impromptu performance at the same restaurant where he entertained surprised diners last year.

"Unfortunately, you have an unscheduled guest here at Moody's," the former Beatle said when he took the stage with a jazz trio at Lake Tahoe.

About 70 people crowded around as Sir Paul sang the jazz standard Don't Get Around Much Anymore with the George Souza Trio.

Sir Paul, 61, made a similar appearance a year ago at Moody's Bistro and Lounge in the old Truckee Hotel built in the 1870s. Last year, he improvised a tune he called the Truckee Blues.

Sir Paul and his wife, Heather, had been skiing at Tahoe resorts for about a week.



■ **RADIO ROLE** John Suchet.

New job is classic

FORMER newsreader John Suchet is joining radio station Classic FM, it has been announced.

Suchet presented his final news bulletin last week after 32 years with ITN.

He joins Classic FM next month to present a new Saturday evening show.

The 26-part series, *Composer's Notes*, will explore whether famous composers died rich men or paupers.

Suchet, 60, has a well-known passion for classical music.

He said: "I am delighted to be joining Classic FM. I think it is a wonderful series, exploring a fascinating but largely unknown side of famous composers' lives."

The award-winning journalist decided to quit when he turned 60 in order to concentrate on his passion for music.

One year on, mine victim campaigns for safety

THE FIGHT GOES ON FOR STU

EXCLUSIVE

Alex Lemon

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A WEEK ago Cardiff-born journalist Stuart Hughes was packing his flak jacket and kevlar helmet and heading to Jerusalem.

Dusting off the body armour and squeezing it into his suitcase, he realised it was the first time he would need it since losing his leg to a landmine exactly a year ago during the Iraq war.

"I'm aware of the anniversary because there's so much publicity and news at the moment about one year on that I can't help but remember what I was doing," said the 32-year-old.

"A year ago I was in northern Iraq waiting for the war to start. I can remember quite clearly where I was almost on every day in the war.

"There's a slight sense of, 'If only I knew then what I know now it would have been very different.'"

Stuart, who grew up in Waun-y-Groes Avenue, Rhiwbina, was just two weeks into reporting on the conflict when he stepped on a buried landmine near the town of Kifri in the north of the country.

Six days later, his right leg was amputated below the knee.

The award-winning cameraman, Iranian Kaveh Golestan, was killed by another explosion. Correspondent Jim Muir was uninjured.

Stuart's physical scars have healed and he has adapted to having one-and-a-half legs and a prosthetic limb but the memories of that horrific event are indelible.

"Over the past couple of weeks I've been digging out photographs of me in Iraq, seeing myself with both legs. I wouldn't say it's difficult but I've been reflecting on what's happened," he said.

"The sad thing is it's a year since Kaveh died. I visited his family in Iran in February and they're very aware of the anniversary.

"I can look back at the year and see I have achieved a lot, but they have lost a loved one."

Getting back into the thick of it at work is characteristic of the positive and inspirational way Stuart has gone through his recovery.

Since losing his leg he has become a member of the BBC News World Affairs staff, covering major international stories from the elections in Iran to



the Madrid bombings. He has also become a patron for landmine-clearing charity the Mines Advisory Group (MAG), raising awareness of the worldwide problem in UK schools and travelling to Cambodia to see one of the organisation's biggest projects.

"The first thing I thought when I was lying in hospital was 'Can I carry on and do my job?' When the doctor told me I was going to lose my leg I thought there was no way I could do that again. That was harder than losing the limb.

"But the fact that I've been able to do these things has helped me through. I've done more this year than I ever have before."



■ **DETERMINED** Stuart Hughes after he was wounded, above left. Above, working for MAG, and left, Stuart today.

PICTURES ABOVE RIGHT AND BELOW: Sean Sutton, MAG.

Decision to be positive

CHANGE was an inevitable part of the process during Stuart's recovery. But his ability to achieve both in spite of and because of the accident has been inspirational.

"You can't go through something like that and it not change you but I hope I'm basically the same person.

"I don't want people to change the way they are towards me and I don't want it to change me.

"I want it to open me up to the good things," he said.

"It's made me more aware of things

outside my own little bubble. It's easy to be very cynical in my job and detached in a story you do.

"I've really found a cause I can believe in and do something about.

"When I talk to kids and whip off my artificial leg it means something to them. But I would give it all up tomorrow to get my leg back.

"I wish it had never happened but it has happened and I decided quite early on I had two options – I could get bitter about it or turn it into something positive."

The write stuff proves a hit

STUART'S attitude to his recovery is no better summed up than in his daily online diary, or weblog.

It has even been highly commended in the Best Written category of the Guardian newspaper weblog awards.

"It started as a bit of fun. When I was in hospital and recovering it was a

lifeline. It meant I could communicate with people and interact with people, especially when I was in the wheelchair," he said.

"Now it's just like a scrap book."

■ You can log on at: www.stuhughes.co.uk