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As you will know by now, Ian Paul has been forced through illness to retire from footbal

This is the saddest thing that has ever happened during my Walsall career, for lan

was not only a young player — just 20-years-old — but also a very talented one,
I could write a whole programme about lan Paul, let alone this column, but words
could not say how highly I thought of him as a player.

He had quality, class, tremendous all-round ability - he should have, and I am

certain would have played in the First Division.

lan's forced retirement is wretched luck on the lad, and I sincerely hope that as many people as possible turn up to support him on May 6th when we play Aston Villa in a Benefit Match.

Fans who saw him play are the privileged ones, and it's a crying shame for football supporters in general who have been robbed of the chance to see his career develop.

There is no doubt in my mind that we would not be where we are in Division Three if a fit lan Paul had been available for selection throughout the season.

That has not been the case unfortunately, and missing lan plus having several other injury problems has meant that we have never been able to get a settled side.

We have come as near to a settled team in the past few matches as we have done all

season, in fact, and it has helped us produce some good results.

We were very unlucky not to take both points at Huddersfield on Tuesday after a very good performance which showed that we are a better footballing team than

When you are near the bottom of the table the luck often seems to go against you, however, and we lost out when a brilliant goal by Don Penn was disallowed through an off-side decision against a player who was in no way interfering with play.

Don's goal came from the best move of the match and it was diabolical that such a great piece of football should be cancelled out in that way.

It meant that we picked up a draw rather than a win, and that means we have to win

our last two matches to achieve the point-per-game target I set for the last ten matches.
With all the sides around us continuing to pick up points though, that target figure may fall short of what we eventually require to take us to safety.
But the team will be battling to take maximum points against Swindon today and Sheffield United next week, and we shall finish the season in fighting spirit.

PRESS.....Walsall v Aston Villa match PAUL arranged BENEFIT Wednesday, 6th May Kick-off 7.30 p.m.

					RANCES TABLE				
			10	p to and me	Adding 11th April, 1981)				
Player	EL	FL	C.F.A	.C. Goals	Kenny Mower	30(2)	2	2	2
Steve Baines	35(1)	2	1411	4	Richard O'Kelly	35(5)	1(7)	1	7
Alan Buckley	36(1)	2	2	13	Ian Paul	13(1)	2	2	4
Brian Caswell	32(1)	2	1	2年	Don Penn	32(6)	2	- 2	9
Martin Conneally	3				David Preece	6(2)			
Neil Freeman	8				Mark Rees	19(5)		-11)	5
Ron Green	22		2		Dave Serella	41	2	2	25
Colin Harrison.	18(3)		1		Steve Smith	16(3)			3
Peter Hart	43	2	2	5	lan Turner	11	2		
John Horne	4(4)		118EV		P Waddington	14121			1
Tony Macken	34	1	2		S. Waddington	26:51	(11)	2	540
R. McDonough	5:31	2	J. Company	2					20.

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Directors: K.E. WHELDON (Chairman) J.A. HARRIS R. HOMDEN S.E. BOLER **B.E.BRADNACK** T. EDMONDS (Executive) Secretary: JOHN WESTMANCOAT F.A.A.I.

> Team Manager: ALAN BUCKLEY General Manager: BERT JOHNSON Coach: COLIN HARRISON Chief Scout: **RON JUKES**

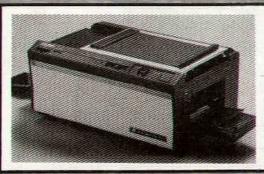
Physiotherapist: F. PEDLEY Doctor: Dr. A.C. COTTRILL Groundsman: ROGER JOHNSON

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EDITOR: TONY LEIGHTON

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Areyoua Skolar?



Third Dimension

At the time of writing it is still theoretically possible for Swindon, Fulham or Sheffield United to be relegated to Division Four alongside Blackpool and Hull and — if any two of these do go down — there could be the remarkable prospect of all four relegated teams being new to Division Four — something that hasn't happened since 1961/2, the fourth season of its existence.

We could also make history of a kind if we go down, in that no team has been relegated, promoted and then relegated again in successive seasons, though many have been relegated a season after promotion and vice versa. There was also the remarkable achievement of Millwall in the mid-sixties when they were relegated and twice promoted in successive seasons. Colchester also achieved a remarkable feat in 1973/74 when they were promoted to Division Three just a year after having to seek re-election.

Colchester are, of course, amongst several relegation possibles this season despite the fact that they were unbeaten at home in league games until early February. Swindon didn't help Colchester's survival chances when they beat them 3-0 recently, just four days after the U's had gone down by the same score at Barnsley. Oddly this win ended a run of success by Colchester at the County Ground. They had won three and drawn one of their last four games there.

Another team that looks rather out of place in the relegation struggle is Newport County, who made such an impact in Europe this season and who have lost only one

home league game since the turn of the year.

The team who beat them were Rotherham United, who have clicked into top gear in recent weeks to make them odds-on favourites at the time of writing for a place in Division Two where they have not played since 1968. They have recently won five games in a row without conceding a goal, veteran Rodney Fern netting in three of these and former Tranmere and Cardiff striker Ronnie Moore also finding the net regularly. They recently hammered Charlton 3-0 to leave the Londoners looking less certain of going up after just one win in a recent run of eight games.

Huddersfield Town have also shocked their fans recently by losing at home to today's visitors Swindon and to Millwall, while their Yorkshire rivals Barnsley have steadied themselves after an uncertain spell by drawing four

successive away games.

So closely contested has been the promotion race, in fact, that Plymouth Argyle — who looked like taking a midtable place a few weeks ago — gave themselves an outside chance of promotion by their 3-1 win here which extended their unbeaten run to five games, during which the only goal conceded was the one which Don Penn got here. We shall certainly remember David Kemp after his netting two goals in each of Argyle's games against us this season. It is

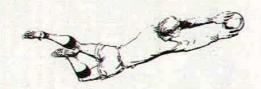
perhaps rather ironical that neither he nor Tony Kellow, the Division's leading scorer, have been with promotion pace-setters this season, whilst our former player Alan Birch—despite his 22 goals for Chesterfield from midfield, seems destined to spend another season in Division Three after the Spirites recent decline.

All in all, however, despite our own disappointments, it has been a splendidly competitive Third Division this season with every team at some stage involved in the promotion or relegation battles and — even at the time of writing — only ten points separating promotion candidates from relegation candidates.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION THREE

Up to and including Saturday, 18th April, 1981

					00	413	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rotherham	42	23	12	7	58	27	58
Barnsley	42	19	16	7	66	42	54
Charlton	43	23	8	12	59	42	54
Huddersfield	43	19	13	11	64	36	51
Portsmouth	43	21	9	13	52	43	51
Chesterfield	42	20	9	13	65	45	49
Burnley	43	18	13	12	58	42	49
Plymouth	43	18	13	12	52	40	49
Brentford	43	12	18	13	48	48	42
Exeter	42	16	10	16	59	62	42
Fulham	43	14	13	16	52	57	41
Millwall	43	14	13	16	43	57	41
Reading	42	15	10	17	54	57	40
Chester	43	15	10	18	35	43	40
Sheffield Utd	43	14	11	18	63	59	39
Swindon	43	13	13	17	49	53	39
Oxford	43	12	15	16	37	46	39
Gillingham	43	11	17	15	45	55	39
Carlisle	42	13	13	16	52	63	39
Newport	41	13	12	16	56	53	38
Colchester	43	13	11	19	44	62	37
WALSALL	43	11	14	18	55	72	36
Blackpool	44	8	13	23	44	75	29
Hull	42	7	14	21	35	66	28



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Not for the first time we find ourselves ending our league programme at Fellows Park against Swindon Town, though never before have we met them at a time when points are quite as vital to us as they are today.

Though they have fared rather better than us in recent weeks it seems likely, at the time of writing, that our visitors too will be in need of points today for they also have had a bitterly disappointing season after their success of 1979/80.

kinds. Whilst still in the Southern League they twice reached the semi-final of the F.A. Cup before the First World War. They were then elected to the Football League in 1920 and remained in Division Three (South) throughout its existence until 1958. Then, after being allocated to Division Three in the reorganisation of 1958, they twice won promotion allying this on the second occasion with the winning of the League Cup in 1969 when they Throughout their history, however, they have made a habit of creating surprises of both

A year later they came close to Division One when finishing fifth in the Second Division, and also won the Anglo-Italian Cup for good measure. They slipped back to Division Three pulled off a remarkable 3-1 win against Arsenal at Wembley.

in 1974 and, after narrowly missing promotion a year later, they just avoided relegation a year after that. Ups and downs continued when two seasons ago they made another promotion bid that ended three points short and then — at one stage last season — they were in the top three and also going well in both the League Cup and the F.A. Cup.

Things went wrong from the time of an unlucky League Cup semi-final defeat by Wolves though, and despite a 6-2 win over Rotherham in April their league form fell away and they ended up in tenth place.

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two league points. A managerial change saw John Trollope (after a magnificent record of 770 league games for the club) taking over from Bobby Smith, but for a time results continued to be rather inconsistent. They went out of the F.A. Cup 2-0 at Wimbledon but, since losing at home to Chesterfield in January, they have put together some good results at the County Ground with three wins and two draws in five games. They have also won at promotion-seeking Huddersfield and have picked up valuable points in three successive This season they reached the third round of the League Cup before crashing 5-0 at Liverpool, but until a fine 4-3 win at Exeter at the end of October they had picked up only away games at Charlton, Burnley and Chesterfield.

Though diminutive sharpshooter Alan Mayes has now moved to Chelsea, Andy Rowland (ex-Derby and Bury) is again leading scorer in his second full season. Paul Rideout and Brian Hughes, two recent graduates from the apprentice ranks, have also scored some useful goals recently while from midfield Brian Williams (ex-Bury and O.P.R.), Roy Carter ex-Hereford) and lan Miller (ex-Bury, Nottingham Forest and Doncaster) are well established in the team and have also found the net recently.

In defence, Kenny Stroud has now played well over 250 league and cup games for his formerly with Portsmouth) with two more young home-grown products — Charlie Henry and Russell Lewis — on the flanks. Behind them Jimmy Allen has played well over 250 games since moving down from Scotland, while substitute recently has been young striker one and only club and is likely to be linking up in the centre with Chris Kamara (a Geordie Steve Abbey, who hails from Liverpool

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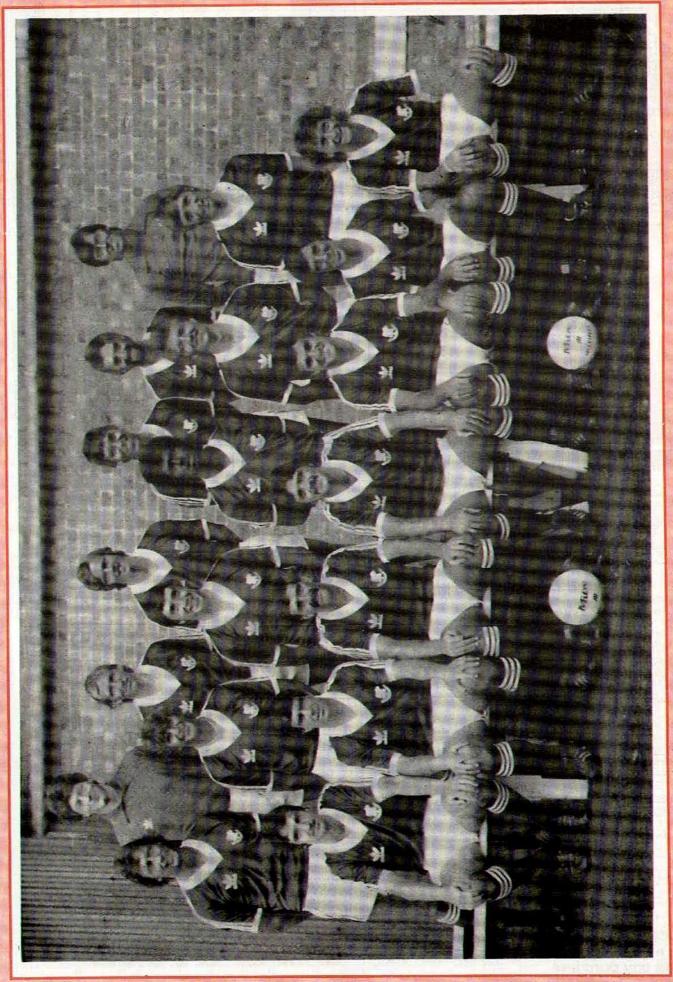
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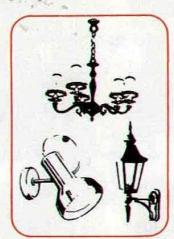




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MASON STYLE

Complied by Geoff Allman

X reminds us of the Xmas Day games that us older fans used to enjoy, making our way to Fellows Park on pedal cycles and on foot since there was, of course, no public transport. Maybe one or two fans travelled on horseback to our firstever Christmas Day game, played at Birmingham's Montz Street ground. We drew 3-3 in a Second Division game

against Small Heath, as they were then known.

Over the years we played a total of 24 Christmas Day games and 16 of these were at home. In fact each of the last eight of these matches was played here. Highlights that float across the memory include an unhappy experience of the young Bert Williams in 1937. He had waited at a bus stop in Bilston for some time before he realised that there were no buses on Christmas Day. He then ran all the way to Fellows Park, where the coach to Bristol was waiting. To end an unhappy day, he was on the wrong end of a 5-2 scoreline.

Johnny Devlin will have happier memories of Christmas Day 1947, when he netted on his debut in our 3-0 win over Aldershot. A year later we beat Ipswich 2-1, with Albert Mullard and Phil Chapman on the mark against a side to whom the First Division was just a faraway dream. A goalless draw against Newport in 1950 was followed a year later by a 2-0 win over Southend, with Bill O'Neill and Hugh Evans

getting two late goals.

After a 3-1 win over Brighton in 1953, we played Shrewsbury Town in each of our last three Christmas Day games - beating them 4-0 in 1954, drawing 1-1 in 1956 and losing 1-0 in 1957. Our largest gate for three months (9,708) turned out for what proved to be our last-ever Christmas Day game here and those of them who are here today will probably remember the incident when Tony Richards was brought crashing to the ground and no penalty awarded by referee Horner of Coventry. Bill Moore watched the game and his appointment as manager was announced on Boxing Day.

Y brings to mind Bill Younger, the inside forward from Nottingham Forest who scored five goals in eight games for us in Division Two in September and October 1961 including the matchwinner against Newcastle before our

record gate of 25,453.

Then there was Eric Young, the former Manchester United midfielder who had a few games on loan to us in 1973/4

before spending several seasons with Darlington.

Finally, Z is for zeal, a quality shown in huge doses by Freddy Morris, who was inadvertently omitted from the 'M' section in this series. Fred came to us from Oswestry in 1950 whilst doing his national service and played for three complete seasons in the mid-fifties without missing a single game. His speed and courage as a tearaway winger is still talked of by our older supporters and he was undoubtedly the main reason why our 'gates' remained good at a time when we were having to apply for re-election in successive seasons. Fred also had a spell in midfield and, by the time he moved to Mansfield in 1957, he had scored 42 goals in 225 games. He later had a spell with Liverpool and is now manager of Oswestry Town.

Another M that was accidently omitted was Jackie Maud, the pre-war Aston Villa winger who played for us in the first two postwar seasons and was first team trainer from 1953 to 1957. Still looking remarkably young, he is now living in retirement at Hednesford. Nor must we forget Dave Mackay, our manager in the 1977/8 season when we climbed to sixth in Division Three and reached the last 16 in the F.A. Cup.

If fans have noted any more omissions from the series, please write in so that we can make amends next season.

IAN PAUL RETIRES

WALSALLv ASTON VILLA BENEFIT MATCH ARRANGED



It was with great regret that club chairman Ken Wheldon announced last week that lan Paul has been advised by doctors to retire from football.

At only 20 years of age, Ian had barely begun a career that might have seen him scaling the football heights.

Mr Wheldon said at the time of the announcement that "It's a great blow to the club but it is obviously even worse for lan, who was such a highly promising player with the ability to go right to the top".

lan made only 72 first team appearances, but established himself as an important member of the team last season and played a vital part in the club's promotion success.

We are very pleased to announce that a benefit match for lan is to be played between ourselves and Aston Villa, with the date Wednesday, 6th May and the kick-off time 7.30 p.m.

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TELESTIBACK

WALSALL v SWINDON TOWN

Swindon Town were regular opponents of ours in our Division Three (South) days and — largely because of their good record against us in those days — they have the edge in the following overall table:

HOME 29 13 7 9 52 28 33 AWAY 30 7 6 17 41 71 20

Our first meetings were in 1927/8 when the 'Robins' won 5-0 at their County Ground and completed the double by a 2-1 success here in the following February. In fact we lost each of our first five games at Swindon and conceded 20 goals in the process before we picked up a point there in 1937/8 — and then completed a spectacular double late in 1938/9, winning 5-0 here and 4-1 at Swindon as we made a belated but unsuccessful effort to avoid a re-election application.

Doubles became something of a habit just after the war. Swindon won both games in 1946/7 and 1948/49 while we won both in 1947/8, Dennis Wilshaw (now making the headlines as Wolves' psychologist) getting the winner here in a game in which our promising full-back Charlie Humphries suffered the knee injury that was to end his Football League career.

Then came a spell of low scoring games, highlights of which included Bobby Millard's winner early in the game here in November 1950; a tremendous goalkeeping display by Norman Uprichard, who was destined to be capped by Ireland, in the goalless draw a year later; and the debut of Jack Flavell (who later played cricket for England) in September 1953 when we were beaten 1-0.

In the mid-fifties we gained three successive wins at Swindon, the most spectacular of which was in March 1958. With the score 2-2, our goalkeeper John Savage was ordered off and a penalty awarded even though the Swindon player involved appealed to the referee on his behalf. Tony Richards went in goal and brought off a spectacular save and, to cap a remarkable escape, Brian Taylor netted our matchwinner in a late breakaway.

One of our most valuable wins was in March 1961 when we were on the last lap towards promotion to Division Two. Tony Richards got both our goals in a 2-1 success against a Robins team that included Bobby Woodruff, Ernie Hunt and Mike Summerbee.

We next met up again in February 1966 when we chalked up our biggest-ever win over Swindon — 5-0 — just a week after an F.A.Cup defeat at Norwich. Ken Satchwell, Colin Taylor (2) and Howard Riley (2) got our goals. Home advantage was usually proving decisive in those days, but Town did the double in their 1968/9 promotion year.

They were back in Division Three again by September 1974 when Nick Atthey and Alan Buckley got the goals in our 2-0 win, though in the following March we lost 3-0 at Swindon with Jim McLaughlin, David Moss and Colin Prophett the marksmen. A season later we crashed 5-1 there with Trevor Anderson getting a hat-trick, but at this time we were making a habit of winning 2-0 at Fellows Park, this being the scoreline three times in the space of four seasons. Brian Taylor and Alan Buckley got the goals in 1976/7 and Miah Dennehy and Dave Serella in 1977/78.

The most recent game here, however, was in September 1978 when we inflicted on the Robins their first defeat of the season. Alan Birch netted twice, once from a penalty, and Terry Austin and Jeff King were on the mark with Brian Williams replying. The teams were:

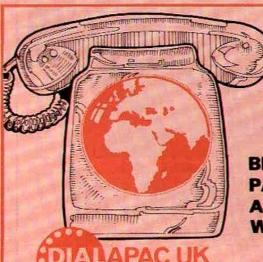
Williams replying. The teams were: Walsall: Kearns, Macken, Caswell, Harrison, Serella, King, Birch, Waddington S., Austin, McDonough, Kelly.

Swindon: Ogden, McLaughlin, Ford, McHale, Aizlewood (Kamara), Stroud, Miller, Carter, Guthrie, Bates, Williams.

Attendance: 5,024.

Swindon gained revenge the following January, reversing the scoreline with Chris Kamara, Dave Serella (o.g.), Chic Bates and Paul Gilchrist netting for them and Terry Austin for

They also beat us 3-1 at The County Ground last December.



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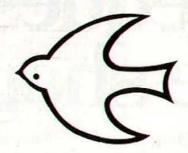
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HEAD OFFICE: Broad Street, P.O. Box 10, Birmingham B1 2DD.

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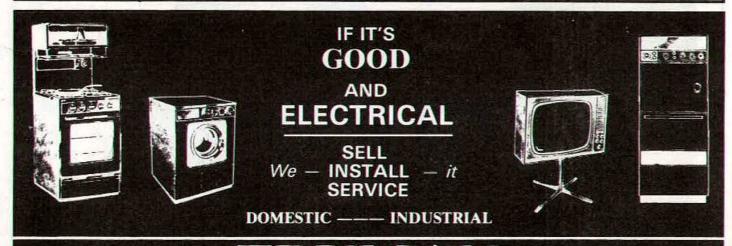
WALSALL SUPPORTERS' CLUB PLAYER OF THE SEASON



My selection is		
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Selected by ...

Supporters can use either this form or the Voting Slips provided by Ballot Boxes near the turnstiles. A Ballot Box for Voting Forms is also located in the foyer of the Supporters' Club. The Player of the Season will be announced at the lan Paul Benefit Match against Aston Villa.



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DIVISION III

- Blackpool v Barnsley . .
- Brentford v Rotherham United . . .
- Chesterfield v Exeter City
- Fulham v Reading.....

- Portsmouth v Huddersfield Town
- **DIVISION I**
- Aston Villa v Middlesbrough.....
- M Coventry City v Southampton
- Crystal Palace v Nottingham Forest,
- Everton v Stoke City
- R Leeds United v West Bromwich Albion.....
- Manchester United v Norwich City
- Tottenham Hotspur v Liverpool
- Wolverhampton Wanderers v Arsenal.....

IAN PAUL BENEFIT MATCH



WALSALL v **ASTON VILLA**

WEDNESDAY, 6th MAY Kick-off 7.30 p.m.

Admission prices to be announced. Please support lan at what should be a very attractive match.

Waisall Supporters Club BROWNHILLS & CHASETOWN BRANCH Player of the Season Dance Saturday, 23rd May, 8pm — 12 midnight at Yates Sports & Social Club,

Lime Lane, Pelshall Tickets available from: Dave Cox, Tel: Burntwood 71060



BROWNHILLS & CHASETOWN BRANCH AGM

Sunday, 7th June at 7.30 p.m. The Swan Inn, Pelsall Road, Brownhills Anyone welcome





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Walsall

Colours: Red, Green & White

- 1 Ron Green
- 2 Tony Macken
- 3 Kenny Mowel
- 4 Steve Baines
- 5 Colin Harrison
- 6 Peter Hart
- 7 Mark Rees

8 Brian Caswel

- 9 Richard O'Kelly
- 10 Don Penn ***********
- 11 Paul Waddington

REFEREE: R. CHADWICK (Darwen)

LINESMEN

Red Flag: J. BALL Amber Flag: P. RAPSON



Swindon Town

Colours: All White

1 Jimmy Allan

••••••••••

- 2 Charlie Henry
- 3 David Peach
- 4 Chris Kamara
- 6 Kenny Stroud

5 Russell Lewis

..........

- 7 Ian Miller
- 8 Roy Carter
- 9 Andy Rowland
- 10 Paul Rideout
- 11 Brian Williams

TO BE ANNOUNCED

H.M. Government Health Departments' WARNING: CIGARETTES CAN SERIOUSLY DAMAGE YOUR HEALTH

MIDDLE TAR As defined in H.M. Government Tables.