

OUR VISITORS TODAY

THIS afternoon's game brings fellow-Londoners, Charlton Athletic to Stamford Bridge to renew old rivalries of happier days when both clubs were in the First Division.

Last winter Charlton staged a most remarkable revival after looking certain candidates for relegation at one period. Their recovery dated from the time of the appointment of Mr. Frank Hill, the former Notts County manager, in succession to Mr. Jimmy Trotter in November last year. Mr. Hill quickly improved the outlook and Charlton climbed steadily up the table until the threat of a drop into the Third Division was dispelled. They eventually finished in the 15th position, their record from December 9 until the end of the season showing 12 wins, six draws and only five defeats in 23 League engagements, one of the best records over that period in the Division.

A notable absentee from Charlton's playing staff at present is centre-forward Stuart Leary, who after years of football and county cricket for Kent, recently went for a holiday in his native South Africa. He has said, however, that on his return to this country around November he will be willing to play for Charlton again.

The only experienced addition to the Valley staff during the summer was that of goalkeeper Peter Wakeham, signed from Sunderland. A native of Kingsbridge, Devon, Wakeham started his professional career with Torquay in 1957, and while there gained F.A. representative recognition. He moved to Sunderland in September, 1958, and had plenty of senior experience with the Wearsiders. He made his debut for his new club in a friendly with Crystal Palace a fortnight ago, taking over from Willie Duff, who was regular senior choice last winter.

Right-back John Sewell, who comes from Brockley, has been a professional at the Valley since 1955, though it is only comparatively recently that he has become a first-team regular. His first League game was at right-half in January, 1957, and he moved to his present position two seasons ago.

Now in his second spell of service with Charlton, John Hewie first signed for them in 1949, and in addition to playing in the attack he occupied every defensive berth except goal. A native of Pretoria, Hewie went back to South Africa at the end of the 1959-60 season, and then returned to this country to re-join Charlton in December 1960. Capped by Scotland, for whom he is qualified by parentage, Hewie rectified the fact that he had never previously played in goal in a League match by turning out there on four occasions last season. Of those games, Charlton won two and drew the others.

Another Springbok from Pretoria, Brian Tocknell, signed for Charlton in 1959, and has done duty in all three positions in the half-back line since making his senior debut in the third match of the 1960-61 season.

CHARLTON ATHLETIC

Ground: The Valley.

Colours: Shirts: Red. Shorts: White.
Stockings: Red and White Hoops.

Attendance Record: 75,031 v. Aston Villa
(F.A. Cup), 12th February, 1938.

F.A. Cup Winners: 1947.

F.A. Cup Runners-up: 1946.

Division I Runners-up: 1937.

Relegated to Division II: 1957.

Division II Runners-up: 1936.

Relegated to Division III (South): 1933.

Division III (South) Champions: 1929, 1935.

Marvin Hinton gained England Under-23 honours last season, a mark of his progress to the point where he is among the best young centre-halves in the game. He joined Charlton from school, and signed as a professional for them in 1957.

Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, was the birthplace of Mike Bailey, whose displays at left-half were another bright feature of last season. A strong attacking player, he scored seven goals from left-half last winter. Developed by the club's junior organisation, he signed as a professional just over two years ago.

For a winger Sam Lawrie has a most useful scoring record, and his return last