

Stop-go: how the College of Speech Therapists was formed

While the '1914 war produced and exacerbated speech disturbances in great numbers, and fanned the flames of interest in the subject' (Kingdon Ward, 1948, p. 199), the inter-war years of the 1920s and 1930s provided the back-drop for the development of:

- speech therapists (initially many different job titles, Wilkins 1955) and speech therapy services
- speech therapy training courses and schools
- two professional bodies for speech therapists, which joined together to become the College of Speech Therapists

The Remedial Section of the Association of Teachers of Speech and Drama (later the Association of Speech Therapists) was 'formed principally of those therapists whose interest and experience had originated in speech training and elocution' (Quirk, 1972, p. 6). On the other hand, those in the British Society of Speech Therapists were 'more medically orientated' (Quirk, 1972, p. 6). Sykes (1962) suggests that the main reason for the development of the professional bodies was 'the protection of patients from quacks and poorly qualified therapists' (p. 21).

There is agreement that both the professional bodies 'were proceeding along much the same lines' (Eldridge, 1968, p. 125) - the 'two organisations continued on a more or less parallel course for some time' (MacLeod, 1945, p. 11). The progress and process of these two organisations moving from being distinct to amalgamated (1935-1945) is outlined in the table below, based on written evidence from contemporary primary sources in the RCSLT historical paper collection as much as possible:

- *Speech* (British Society of Speech Therapists (BSST) journal), including reports from BSST AGMs (1935-1944)
- 1942-1943 minutes of Remedial Section of the Association of Teachers of Speech and Drama (ATSD/RS), which became the Association of Speech Therapists (AST), AST annual report (1945)
- Speech Therapists Interim Committee minutes (STIC) (1943)
- College of Speech Therapists (CST) Provisional Council (1943-1944) and Council minutes (1944)
- First CST AGM 6 January 1945.

Other potential sources from the time, not found in the RCSLT's historical paper collection to date, which would also be informative include:

- BSST's Council/Executive minutes (1935-1944); BSST's monthly Bulletin (mentioned in the report for BSST's third AGM in *Speech* 5/1, p. 9)
- ATSD/RS minutes pre-1942, that organisation's membership lists, ATSD's journal *Viva Voce* and the publication 'Intelligence'
- Joint Council meeting minutes
- First CST Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The amalgamation story therefore necessarily starts mainly from the BSST point of view, continues during amalgamation mainly from the ATSD/RS perspective and finishes with information from CST sources. Events/actions in smaller font have been reported in later secondary sources so may not be accurate.

Linda Armstrong/31 October 2020

Date	Event/action	Source	Comment
1930s	<p>Formation of the Association of Teachers of Speech and Drama and its Remedial Section (ATSD/RS)</p> <p>‘In 1934 the Association of Speech Therapists was formed from what had previously been the Remedial Section of the Association of Teachers and Drama’.</p> <p>‘In 1930, those members of the Association of Teachers of Speech and Drama who had specialised in the treatment of speech disorders formed themselves into the Remedial Section of the Association, as they became more conscious that theirs was a separate profession, in 1935 they divided off from the parent body and became known as the Association of Speech Therapists.’</p> <p>‘About 1935 those members of the <i>Association of Teachers of Speech and Drama</i> practising speech therapy formed themselves into a Remedial Section within that organisation.’</p>	<p>Quirk (1972), p. 6</p> <p>Robertson et al (1995), p. 9</p> <p>MacLeod (1945), p. 11</p>	<p>NB Ferrie (1974) notes that the ATSD/RS was established shortly before BSST. No contemporary written evidence for this or any other date has been found in the RCSLT collection.</p> <p>AST was actually formed in 1943 (see later) not 1934.</p> <p>See Appendix 1 for a transcription of a secondary later source within the RCSLT collection, which suggests ATSD and ATSD/RS were formed in 1934 and Wilkins (1955) for a similar date. Sykes (1962, p. 21) also gives this.</p>
1935	<p>British Society of Speech Therapists (BSST) formed. Founder members of BSST:</p> <p>Muriel Ferrie Lionel Logue Anne McAllister Eileen MacLeod Marguerite Nielka Mabel Oswald Winifred Kingdon Ward</p> <p>BSST was Eileen MacLeod’s idea: ‘an organisation entirely for the profession of Speech Therapy’ (MacLeod 1945, p. 11). The first meeting of Executive Council, ie the seven founding members, was held on 4 March 1935. Thereafter</p>	<p><i>Speech</i> 2/4, insert p. 5 (founder members)</p> <p>Report from the first BSST AGM, <i>Speech</i> 3/1, pp. 7-12</p>	<p>Four grades: Fellows (presumably founder members), Members (by thesis), Associates and Student Associates (<i>Speech</i> 3/1, p. 8). Three training centres – Kingdon Ward, Beryl Oldrey and Anne McAllister (<i>Speech</i> 3/1, p. 8). Initially entry into BSST was by interview and experience, then by written and oral examination (<i>Speech</i> 4/3, p. 7).</p> <p>See Appendix 2 for Ferrie (1974) - a reminiscence on the formation of BSST and her take on the 1935 tour.</p>

	<p>Eileen MacLeod and Marguerite Nielka toured England, Scotland and Wales to enlist the support of doctors and speech therapists for the new organisation. Seven main principles of the organisation are explained at the first AGM.</p> <p>‘...In 1934, they formed the British Society of Speech Therapists.’</p>	Robertson et al (1995), p. 10	<p>BSST membership numbers were reported at the second AGM in <i>Speech</i> 4/1, p. 23 (BSST syllabus also), the third (<i>Speech</i> 5/1, p. 8) and fourth (<i>Speech</i> 6/1, p. 6).</p> <p>From contemporary evidence, BSST was actually formed in 1935.</p>
1935 (July)	<p>BSST is fully-formed by this time, with a Council and Executive Committee and based at 86 Harley Street. It ‘was founded in the beginning of the year’ (Announcements 1/1). ‘...to ensure adequate training and a recognized standard of proficiency a Society of Speech Therapists has been formed so that the medical profession as well as the patients may know that they are in competent hands’ (Editorial 1/1), ‘provides a measure of collective security’ and ‘guarantee of security to the general public who can thus be assured of protection against quacks and charlatans’ (Editorial 1/2), ‘distinct from any which is concerned with voice production, elocution, and dramatic art’ (Announcements 1/1). ‘No longer is it necessary for elocutionists, and teachers of speech training or of singing to do their best to handle conditions of speech that are outside the scope of their professional training’ (Editorial 1/4).</p>	<i>Speech</i> Vol. 1, No. 1	<p>First edition of BSST’s journal.</p> <p>Associateship or Membership defined (Announcements 1/1). Application form for Associateship – tear-off at the back of <i>Speech</i> 1/1 (see Appendix 3).</p>
1938	<p>‘..the international situation is very anxious and critical..’</p> <p>‘..the shadow of war, which has never entirely lifted since early in 1938, is once more lowering blackly over us...’</p>	<p>Editorial <i>Speech</i> 4/2, p. 6</p> <p>Editorial <i>Speech</i> 5/1, p. 7</p>	<p>Run-up to the second world war. The editorials also discuss speech therapy for war casualties, a topic also discussed at BSST’s third AGM (<i>Speech</i> 5/1, pp. 8-9).</p>
29 June 1939 –	<p>‘The first formal meetings to discuss amalgamation ... were interrupted by the outbreak of the Second World War.’</p>	Quirk (1972, p. 7)	<p>No contemporary written minutes of these meetings. See Appendix 1 for a detailed dated outline of these from an undated secondary</p>

Autumn 1940	<p>'In April 1940, a Joint Committee of the Association of Teachers of Speech and Drama, the West End Hospital, the L.C.C. and the Society [BSST] was formed to discuss amalgamation. Agreement was reached on several points but owing to the intensive bombing of London and the evacuation of several members of the Committee in June, 1940, the meetings had to be abandoned.' [from the report of the fourth BSST AGM, held 8 November 1941, which had been postponed from 1 June 1940]</p> <p>'..the meetings between the Society and the A.T.S.D. had been very amicable, but there were two main difficulties: (1) The examination syllabus, (2) the amount of the subscription.'</p>	<i>Speech</i> 6/1, pp. 6-7	<p>source. This also suggests that ATSD/RS requested re-opening of negotiations in summer 1941.</p> <p>Minutes from these meetings are not in the RCSLT collection but see Appendix 1.</p> <p>Were difficulties over the examination syllabus on a different scale to those over the subscription?</p>
1940 (spring)	'there was no adequate machinery available to undertake administrative duties or to make decisions. Executives of the British Society of Speech Therapists and of the Remedial Section of the Association of Teachers of Speech and Drama appreciated the necessity for providing a policy through which the profession could be used to the best possible advantage in the national emergency. But neither organisation had the status of an officially representative body, and this made communication with government departments very difficult.'	Eldridge (1968, p. 121)	A clear pragmatic need for amalgamation. Hint perhaps in April 1940: 'After a period of quiescence due to the generally unsettled state there are now indications that far-reaching developments in the world of Speech Therapy may be expected shortly, resulting in a greater consolidation in the profession' (Editorial <i>Speech</i> 5/2, p. 5).
September 1940-May 1941 – London Blitz	'Under these difficult conditions executives of the two speech therapy organisations took preliminary steps towards initiating negotiations for amalgamation. The importance of amalgamation had been stressed by senior members of the Board of Registration of Medical Auxiliaries which	Eldridge (1968, p. 121-122)	Eldridge seems to have misremembered the dates of these discussions (see above). Unclear if she is referring to September 1940 onwards (first 'massive air attack' of London) or to July 1940 onwards ('invasion fever') but

	recommended that there should be one, and only one, nationally representative body, and promised all possible help, co-operation and advice in implementing such a project.' ... 'But circumstances proved to be too difficult and immediate negotiations for amalgamation had to be postponed.'		both are later than the dates reported in the report from the fourth BSST AGM (see above) and in Appendix 1. Not known if there were discussions between the organisations and the Board of Registration of Medical Auxiliaries at that time.
1941 (January)	'We should like members to know that the office at 86 Harley Street [BSST HQ] is still intact and that the business of the Society continues to be carried on there, though, of necessity, this is chiefly by correspondence.'	Editorial <i>Speech</i> 5/4, p. 5	Presume this refers to bombing of London. An example to show how the amalgamation process was completed in war-time conditions in London.
1942	Board of Registration of Medical Auxiliaries (BRMA) recognised speech therapy as a Medical Auxiliary Service	Kingdon Ward (1948, p. 201)	No contemporary evidence for this in RCSLT collection. It had definitely happened by June 1942, the publication date of the first edition of BRMA's National Register of Medial Auxiliary Services – Speech Therapy, in which the recognised speech therapy qualifying body is BSST. Chairman's Remarks at the first General Meeting of CST on 6 January 1945 also gives this date as 1942.
11 April 1942	Letter sent by BSST to the joint committee [membership unknown for certain] stating that it was opposed to amalgamation.		See Appendix 1, information from a secondary later source.
10 October 1942	Meeting between the President of the Council of the Board of Registration of Medical Auxiliaries (BRMA) (Dr Zachary Cope) with two representatives each from BSST and AST and the secretaries to discuss amalgamation difficulties. BSST difficulties – loss of name/identity; medical and scientific basis cf artistic; syllabus; associate v membership	meeting report - within minutes of ATSD/RS	BSST: Oldrey, Badcock, Swallow ATSD/RS: Baines, Van Thal, Roe BRMA had recognised BSST as the qualifying body and understood that the two organisations had amalgamated.

17 August 1942 – 5 August 1943	Amalgamation from the ATSD/RS point of view, discussed at most of their c.30 meetings during this period	<p>especially minutes of meetings held by the ATSD/RS on</p> <p>17 August, 7 September, 14 September, 28 September, 12 October, 26 October, 9 November, 23 November, 7 December, 21 December 1942 and 18 January, 25 January, 30 January (special meeting re: reconstitution of ATSD/RS as AST), 1 February, 15 February, 1 March, 15 March (informal meeting with Dr Zachary Cope), 29 March, 12 April (includes memorandum presented by ATSD/RS at meeting with BRMA on 7 April), 3 May, 20 May, special meeting on 31 May, 3 June, 24 June 1943</p>	<p>Previous meeting of 18 August 1941 noted in minutes of meeting of 17 August 1942. Meetings in abeyance because of the war? See also Appendix 1, which suggests that amalgamation meetings resumed on 27 March 1942.</p> <p>Little detailed information gleaned from the minutes on the substance of the discussions about amalgamation at several of the ATSD/RS meetings. ATSD/RS may have tried to reopen negotiations in September 1942 (see Appendix 1). BSST statement including that they did not want to amalgamate was discussed at 23 November 1942 meeting – ATSD/RS replied (no copy of the reply with ATSD/RS minutes)</p> <p>Memorandum presented at the meeting of 21 December 1942 notes that amalgamation negotiations had broken down. BSST scheme (within their November 1942 statement) and proposed meeting of the two organisations with Dr Wright discussed at the meeting of 25 January 1943. Date for meeting of 27 February agreed at the meeting of 1 February, attendees agreed at the meeting of 15 February and report given at the meeting of 1 March, with a further meeting arranged for 27 March (see Appendix 1). Dr Cope met informally with ASTD/RS committee on 15 March and further encouraged amalgamation. Meeting arranged with BRMA with both organisations on 7 April 1943 and/or 8 May 1943 (minutes of 29 March). The meeting of 7 April seems to have been a</p>
--------------------------------	--	--	---

			<p>turning-point – BRMA recognised ATSD/RS therapists as medical auxiliaries and the proposal for an interim committee was accepted (report with ATSD/RS minutes). The establishment of the Speech Therapists Interim Committee was discussed on 3 May 1943 (see Appendix 4). See Appendix 5 for the joint BSST and ATSD/RS declaration.</p> <p>Dr Stein proposed the title of the new organisation as ‘College of Speech Therapists’ (ATSD/RS meeting 7 December 1942). New organisation to be called ‘The College of Speech Therapists Incorporated’ (ATSD/RS special meeting 31 May 1943).</p>
1943 (July)	Speech Therapists’ Interim Committee was appointed, chaired by Dr CB Heald, Vice-Chairman of the Council of the BRMA		Eldridge (1968, p. 127) says that the appointment was made by the Provisional Council. However, STIC preceded the Provisional Council and first met in May 1943. Was there some version of it in existence at this time? The first meeting of the Provisional Council was in December 1943 (see below).
1943 (25 May – 2 November)	Speech Therapists Interim Committee (STIC), including sub-committees, existed over a period of six months for registration purposes only	minutes of meetings on 25 May, 1 June, 22 June, 29 September, 5 October, 19 October, 2 November	<p>See Appendix 4 re: STIC formation.</p> <p>It is not known if this represents all the meetings held by STIC.</p> <p>See Appendix 6 for a transcription of letter sent to members of BSST and ATSD/RS informing them of STIC and its specific registration function, which it was taking over from BSST. Letter suggested by Dr Heald, STIC’s Chairman (minutes 22 June 1943).</p>

1943 (July)	'All readers of <i>Speech</i> will welcome the news that agreement has been reached on the Scheme [BSST proposal] for the unification of the profession of Speech Therapy under one central Qualifying Body which shall be responsible for the issuing of a National Diploma in Speech Therapy, and for the conducting of the examination for this diploma.'	Editorial <i>Speech</i> 7/1, p. 2	See also Appendix 1.
1943 (6 August)	ATSD/RS becomes AST	ATDS/RS minutes between 7 December 1942 and 5 August 1943, AST annual report 6 January 1945	Eldridge (1968, p. 125) says erroneously that this happened in 1942. van Thal proposed formation of an Association of Speech Therapists (ATSD/RS meeting 7 December 1942), memorandum presented to the meeting of 21 December 1942 and proposal accepted by ATSD Council 8 January 1943. Aspects of the 'reconstitution' are discussed at the meeting of 20 May 1943. ATSD/RS wound up at the meeting of 5 August 1943 and reconstituted as AST. This coincided with a conference organised by ATSD/RS (Stein, 1943). On amalgamation, AST had 119 members (annual report).
2 December 1943 – 5 October 1944	College of Speech Therapists' Provisional Council: Honor Baines (Boome) AST Silvia Pick (Hudson-Smith)* AST Joan van Thal AST Winifred Kingdon Ward BSST Eileen MacLeod BSST Beryl Oldrey (Hammond) BSST and the secretaries Amy Swallow and Elizabeth Wood from BSST and AST respectively	minutes of its first meeting of 2 December 1943 and of a further 24 held in 1944	This committee agreed fundamental matters for the foundation of the College of Speech Therapists, eg Memorandum and Articles, funding and subscriptions, university diploma in speech therapy, premises, 1945 conference, secretaryship, designatory letters of CST, bye-laws, war damage insurance, enrolment and other forms, preliminary test and its examination papers, arrangements for CST's

	*may have been a member of both organisations, presume was representing AST so that numbers were balanced.		First Ordinary General Meeting. In this they were supported by Dr Newcome Wright from BRMA (eg minutes of the meeting of 16 March 1944).
1944 (March)	'after eight months of negotiation, amalgamation was achieved'	Eldridge (1968, p. 127)	According to Eldridge, negotiations began in August 1943. No written contemporary primary sources for this time-period in the RCSLT collection.
1944 (August)	'first full Council was elected ... but owing to the violence of the V1 and V2 air attacks the formal ceremony of foundation was postponed until January, 1945'	Eldridge (1968, p. 127)	The results of the ballot are given in the Provisional Council meeting of 14 September 1944.
1944?	Joint Council	Provisional Council minutes, AST annual report 6 January 1945	<p>Joint Council is mentioned in Provisional Council meetings of 2 December 1943, 19 March 1944 – no contemporary written evidence in the RCSLT collection. Provisional Council made reports for the Joint Council meeting (eg meeting of 19 March – list of items to be included in one.) See Appendix 9 – the Founder Fellows?</p> <p>Successor to earlier Joint Committee? Joint Advisory Board? Co-ordinating Council? (see Appendix 9 for reminiscence from 1997)</p>
1944 (21 October)	College of Speech Therapists' Council first met on Saturday 21 October 1944 (the Founder Fellows?), when office bearers were elected and sub-committees established. Gave a vote of thanks to the Provisional Council for 'all the work they had done towards the founding and establishment of the College.	minutes	At the Provisional Council meeting of 22 June 1944, arrangements for election to CST Council were agreed. The results of the ballot for Members' representation (minutes of 14 September) – nine elected: Dakin, Harries, Knight, Lloyd, Logue, McAllister, Rosser, Stein and Wilkins. (Area Representatives were also elected then.) Also on the first Council were (see Appendix 7) Baines, Kingdon Ward, Oldrey, MacLeod, Pick and van Thal (Provisional

			Council) and Dr Boome, Ferrie and Tolfree. Still unclear how this make-up of people for the first Council was decided upon. Had they been the Joint Council?
1945 (6 January)	Delayed inauguration of the College of Speech Therapists on Saturday 6 January 1945 at the YWCA Central Club in London	Provisional Council meeting minutes, AST annual report, 6 August 1943 – 6 January 1945, first CST AGM minutes	Foundation of College was in October 1943 expected to be 'well before April 30th April 1944 (notes for STIC sub-committee meeting 5 October 1943). At the Provisional Council's meeting of 11 May 1944, 16 September 1944 was provisionally agreed as the date for AGMs for BSST, AST and CST. Because of continuing air raids in London, this date was postponed at the meeting of 28 August 1944. The secretaries then booked rooms for 9 December 1944, but this was not to be convenient and they were asked to find accommodation for 6 January 1945 (meeting of 14 September 1944). See Appendix 8 for the beginning of the Chairman's opening remarks at the first AGM on 6 January 1945. The cover of the first edition of <i>Speech</i> published by CST is shown in Appendix 10.

Summary

After some earlier false starts and aborted attempts, the two organisations became determined to amalgamate in mid-1943. This decision was ultimately down to the Board of Registration of Medical Auxiliaries' rule that it would only accept registration by one qualifying body for any profession. Once agreed, the amalgamation process was relatively short – and would have been even shorter had not wartime conditions postponed the formal inauguration of the College of Speech Therapists to January 1945 from a suggested date as early as April 1944. While negotiations were successful in 1943 in producing an agreement to amalgamate, much of the work to form the new organisation was completed in 1944.

‘Much good has been done in the past by independent workers and by the British Society of Speech Therapists and by the Association of Speech Therapists, but the narrow streams of influence have now converged and formed a wider river. As we stand at the confluence each looks back towards the different sources with affection, but realizes with confidence that the broader river of the College of Speech Therapists will play a more important part in the life of the country.’

(Editorial, *Speech* 9/1, p. 3)

References

- Department of Education and Science (1972) *Speech Therapy Services (Quirk Report)* (London: HMSO).
- Eldridge, M. (1968) *A History of the Treatment of Speech Disorders*. Edinburgh and London: E and S Livingstone Ltd.
- Ferrie, M. (1974) Founder Fellows. *Bulletin* 261, pp. 4-5.
- Kingdon Ward, W. (1948) Development and training in Britain. In C. Sanson (ed.) *Speech of our Time* pp 198-201. London: Hinrichsen Edition Ltd.
- MacLeod, E. (1945) A short history of speech therapy – part III. *Speech* 9/1, pp. 10-12.
- Robertson, S., Kersner, M. & Davis, S. (1995) *A history of the College 1945-1995*. London: RCSLT.
- Stein, L. (1943) Report on the conference of the Association of Speech Therapists, held at BMA House, London, on August 5 & 6, 1943. *The Medical Press and Circular*, December 29, pp. 407-411.
- Sykes, G.L. (1962) *Growth and development of speech therapy in Great Britain 1894-1962*. B.Ed. thesis, University of St Andrews Queens College, Dundee.
- Wilkins, J.L. (1955) The College and you. *Bulletin* 49, pp. 4-5.

Appendix 1 Transcription of Record of Negotiations for the Amalgamation of the ATSD/RS and the BSST (undated, unauthored, some of the content is with ATSD/RS minutes of 21 December 1942)

In March, 1934 the decision was taken to found the ATSD and provision was then made for a speech therapy section.

In September, 1934 the Council appointed by the Founders held its first meeting. It was decided that those members of the Council with special knowledge of the requirements of speech therapists should proceed with the organisation of their separate section. These members were anxious to obtain the co-operation of all speech therapists and to that end Miss Fogerty, Miss Baines, Miss van Thal and Dr Boome invited Miss Kingdon Ward and Miss Richardson to meet them.

Various points were discussed, including the name of the section and the method of admitting members. Miss MacLeod objected to the name Speech Therapy Section, and it was therefore agreed to call it the Remedial Section. The Council looked forward to further co-operation from all those present and Miss Richardson later became a member of the committee of the Remedial Section. Miss MacLeod and Miss Kingdon Ward however let it be known through a third party that they were not willing to take any further part.

In 1935 the BSST was founded by them and some of their colleagues.

During the next few years the feeling grew that the question of training, status and qualifications of speech therapists should be clarified. Discussions took place between various people connected with the work, suggestions were put forward and the whole position reviewed. As a result of this, on 29th June, 1939 an informal meeting was convened at which the following were present:

Dr Boome	representing the	LCC
Miss Baines		ATSD
Miss MacLeod		BSST
Mr Lionel Logue		BSST
Dr Underwood		Board of Education
Miss Thurburn		Central School of Dramatic Art
Miss van Thal		Central School of Dramatic Art
Mr JP Wettenhall (Convenor)		West End Hospital

The object of this meeting was to provide the representatives of the existing speech therapy schools and societies with an opportunity to explore the possibility of founding a single society. Points raised were:

- (a) uniform syllabus (this was considered premature)
- (b) steps to be taken for the foundation of the single society

To this end three suggestions were put forward:

1. broadening the basis of an existing society
2. creation of a new society
3. broadening the basis of an existing society with the subsequent assumption of a new name.

On 2nd July, 1939 a meeting was held at 86 Harley Street [HQ of BSST]. Those present were:

Dr Boome	representing the	LCC
Miss Baines		ATSD
Miss Thurburn		Central School of Dramatic Art
Mr Lionel Logue		BSST
Miss MacLeod		BSST
Miss Swallow		BSST (hon. secretary)
Mr Wettenhall		West End Hospital
Miss Pick		West End Hospital

Matters discussed:

1. name of the proposed society

A new name was strongly urged by the representatives of ATSD. This suggestion was supported by Mr Wettenhall and Miss Pick, and opposed by Miss MacLeod.

2. Clarification of the two types of membership of ATSD/RS

Of these, it was intended by the representatives of the Remedial Section to put forward only practising therapists, either as members or associates, for inclusion in the new society.

It was agreed to refer these matters to the respective Councils.

On 13th July, 1939 the ATSD representatives reported to their Council and were instructed to proceed.

On 18th March, 1940 the first meeting of the Joint Committee was held under the chairmanship of Major Hodgson, who belonging to neither society was unbiased. Matters discussed:

1. the name of the society. It was finally agreed that this should be British Association of Speech Therapists

2. personnel of the Council

3. Diploma in Speech Therapy

3. aims and objects and constitution of the society

A sub-committee composed of Mr Logue, Miss MacLeod and Miss Baines was appointed to draw up a provisional constitution.

On 29th March, 1940 the sub-committee met.

On 5th April, 1940 the Joint Committee considered the provisional constitution.

On 3rd May, 1940 a further discussion of the above took place. In addition the following points were raised:

1. subscriptions

2. election of an Executive

3. procedure regarding membership

These were considered unsuited to the informal nature of the meeting and it was decided that the representatives should refer back to their respective Councils for full powers to enter into formal negotiations.

On 24th May, 1940 under the stress of immediate war conditions very few members were present, but the decision to refer back to the respective Councils was confirmed.

In August 1940 the ATSD representatives reported to the Council. The provisional constitution was approved as delegates with full powers to act:

Dr Boome	Miss Lloyd	Miss Baines
Miss Thurburn	Miss Gulick	Miss van Thal

From Autumn 1940 - Summer 1941 war conditions made further meetings impossible.

In Summer 1941 it was suggested to Mr Lionel Logue that negotiations should be resumed, but this brought about no result.

In August 1941 at the [ATSD/RS] members meeting, questions were asked about amalgamation. The committee replied that they were ready to resume negotiations and only awaited a communication from the BSST.

(It was later reported by a member of ATSD that similar questions were asked by Associates of the BSST at their AGM in November 1941 and they were assured that action would be taken shortly.)

In December 1941 a formal invitation to re-open negotiations was addressed to the BSST who asked for postponement until their official delegates should have been appointed in January 1942.

On 27th March, 1942 negotiations were resumed. Early in the proceedings the BSST delegates announced that the whole situation was changed by the fact that their society had been recognised by the Board of Registration of Medical Auxiliaries.

After some discussion the meeting was brought back to the points at issue and these were summarised by Dr Worster Drought under four headings:

1. disparity of subscription

Agreed this should be £2.2. per annum with provision for hard[ship?] cases

2. admission of members and constitution of Council

Agreed that those members of the ATSD/RS who had the right of admission to meetings of the Remedial Section but were not practising speech therapists, should not be included with practising members en bloc to the amalgamated society.

The ATSD delegates insisted on equal representation of both societies on the first Council. The BSST delegates appeared unwilling to concede this.

3. name of the society

The ATSD delegates maintained that the society must have a new name (BAST). The BSST delegates stated that the Board of Registration of Medical Auxiliaries would not allow this.

4. syllabus

The ATSD delegates desired full discussion on this subject. Dr Worster Drought suggested that a sub-committee be appointed for this purpose, but the matter was left undecided.

The question of the assets of the BSST (£400) had been raised by their treasurer, but it was agreed that these must not stand in the way of amalgamation.

The BSST delegates asked for an adjournment in order to lay the points before their Executive.

On 11th April, 1942 a letter was sent by the BSST to all members of the joint committee informing them that the following resolution had been passed at their Council meeting:

‘That the Council are at present opposed to the principle of the creation of a new society by the amalgamation of the BSST and the ATSD/RS and are in favour of each group maintaining its separate identity. They would however welcome the formation of a Joint Advisory Council who would co-operate in dealing with general questions relative to speech therapy so that the highest possible standard may be maintained throughout the country.’

On 15th April, 1942 the above resolution was laid before the meeting. It was agreed that a report of the proceedings embodying a similar resolution be drawn up and laid before the AGMs of the representative Councils.

On 21st July, 1942 this report was discussed and approved.

On 17th August, 1942 this report was laid before the members of the Remedial Section and the resolution, although clearly regarded as a compromise, was adopted.

On 14th September, 1942 the committee of the Remedial Section discussed informally with Major Hodgson, the possibility of reconsidering the question of amalgamation with members of the BSST. Major Hodgson agreed to do what he could to this end.

On 10th October, 1942 the President of the Board of Registration of Medical Auxiliaries convened a meeting of representatives of both societies to whom he recommended that further efforts towards amalgamation should be made.

On 9th November, 1942 a ‘statement’ was received from the BSST again rejecting amalgamation. (see ‘statement and reply in ‘Intelligence’ 1942)

1934 a group of speech therapists banded themselves together and in 1935 The British Society of Speech Therapists (B.S.S.T.) published the first copy of their journal, SPEECH.

About the same time there was another group formed of the Remedial Section of the Teachers of Speech and Drama who later became the Association of Speech Therapists (A.S.T.).

From: Wilkins (1955)

Founder Fellows

The College has recently honoured the Founder Fellows by granting them Life Membership and, being one of the recipients of this recognition, my mind went back to the years directly preceding and following the birth of the College and to the personalities of those days.

These are some personal recollections of a walk down "Memory Lane". Whilst some scenes are high-lighted, some are telescoped, thus distorting their image to some extent, and others are obliterated by the passage of time.

My first intimation of any possibility of uniting the therapists in the field was an invitation to meet Miss McLeod and Mrs. Nielka at the Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool about the year 1935. They were travelling around the country meeting surgeons, physicians, speech therapists and others with a view to forming a professional association of those working in the field and of those who would be interested in, and would give support to such an association. At that time Miss McLeod was in charge of speech therapy at King's College

Hospital, working with Mr. Victor Negus and others. Mrs. Nielka had a wide knowledge and experience of both normal voice and its disorders which, in her lifetime, she passed on to her colleagues.

When Miss McLeod and Mrs. Nielka made their first approach, most of us were working in isolation, often ill-equipped for the job, but learning from our mistakes and, at the same time trying to convince medical and educational authorities of the value of speech therapy. So I, personally, welcomed the opportunity to get together, and in this way the British Society of Speech Therapists, B.S.S.T., was formed.

Shortly before this, a group of people concentrating only on the remedial aspects of speech, as opposed to elocution and dramatic art, formed a remedial section of the Association of Teachers of Speech and Drama under the direction of Miss Elsie Fogarty, Principal of the Central School of Dramatic Art. The names remembered in connection with this remedial section are Joan Van Thal, Joyce Wilkins, Grace Lloyd, Honor

Baines (now Mrs. Boome), Mrs. Harries, Dr. Boome, Miss Richardson and others.

After a few years, when each association pursued its own course, the two associations decided, in the early 1940s, to form a provisional Council to consider the formation of a united body, later to become the College of Speech Therapists. In war-time London, Miss Swallow kindly welcomed us to hold meetings at her flat. She and Miss E. Wood became Joint Secretaries to the Provisional Council, each having been Secretary to her own Society. There was, of course, no money for clerical assistance, and the bulk of the clerical work and organisation fell upon Swallow. On top of her own professional commitments this often meant burning the midnight oil. Many of us will recall with gratitude the generous hospitality of Swallow and her friend Miss Young in the very difficult conditions of war-time rationing. I have much cause to remember their many kindnesses on my frequent visits to London on College business. When they were bombed out of their London flat, I remember spending a night alert with them at Whetstone under the dining-room table! How much we as a profession owe to Swallow and to others like her can never be estimated; she gave of herself, her energies and her time, before, during and after the inauguration of the College, sometimes under great difficulties, as Joan

Pollitt recently found. When looking up early minutes of meetings in an attempt to verify the names of Founder Fellows, she found meetings sometimes ending abruptly with Minutes "unsigned owing to air-raid".

Among the figures who stand out in my memory of those days, and with whom I had personal contact, are Winifred Kingdon Ward, in charge of speech therapy at the West End Hospital and West London Hospital speech clinics, and with whom I trained; the late Joan Van Thal to whom I owed much of my knowledge to cleft palate speech, and Ann McAllister, pioneer of speech therapy in Scotland, all women of outstanding personality, each bringing her own special contribution to the establishment of the profession. I remember how generous they were in sharing their knowledge, and experience of their own specialities, with those of lesser opportunity.

Time levels out the knotty problems of the past, and mercifully draws a veil over some of them; the present is an active reality, and the future lies in the hands of the present. I am proud to be a Founder Fellow of the College and of having shared in comradeship with others in the trials and tribulations of its building. I look forward confidently to the future for its maintenance and expansion.

MURIEL W. FERRIE

Ferrie (1974)

Appendix 3 1935 BSST application form

**THE SOCIETY OF SPEECH
THERAPISTS**

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR ASSOCIATESHIP

NAME
(In Block Capitals)

ADDRESS

AGE

WHERE EMPLOYED

WHAT CAPACITY

TRAINING IN DETAIL.....

EXPERIENCE IN REMEDIAL SPEECH WORK.....

NAMES OF MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS WITH WHOM YOU HAVE WORKED
.....
.....
.....

SIGNATURE

DATE

This form, together with the names and addresses of three references, should be sent, before 15th January, 1936, to the
HON. SECRETARY, THE SOCIETY OF SPEECH THERAPISTS,
86 HARLEY STREET, LONDON, W.1.

Appendix 4 Formation of the Speech Therapists Interim Committee

The secretary informed the Committee that she had received from Miss Swallow the names of the B.S.S.T. representatives for the Speech Therapists Interim Committee as follows:-

Miss Badcock Miss Kingdon Ward Miss Oldrey.

With regard to the Chairman of the above Committee, Miss Baines reported that Major Hodgson was unable to take on any further commitments, and the secretary stated that as Dr Worster Drought was not acceptable to the B.S.S.T., and it had not been possible to obtain any definite reply from Mr Kilner, she had, in consultation with the Vice-Chairman, approached Dr Heald, a member of the Council of the B.R.M.A., who had agreed to accept the position and would be able to attend a meeting during the week of 24th May.

From: ATSD/RS minutes, meeting of 3 May 1943

SPEECH THERAPISTS

5. Receive: Report (arising out of the special meeting of the Council of 7th April, 1943) that the following letter, dated 5th May, 1943, has now been received regarding the formation of the Speech Therapists Interim Committee:-

"This is to inform you that the representatives on the Speech Therapists Interim Committee have been duly appointed, and the Committee is now composed as follows:-

Dr. Heald - Independent Chairman

Miss Baines)	
Miss Lloyd)	Representing the A.T.S.D. (R.S.)
Miss Van Thal)	
Miss Wood	-	Hon. Secretary A.T.S.D. (R.S.)

Miss Badcock)	
Miss Kingdon Ward)	Representing the B.S.S.T.
Miss Oldrey)	
Miss Swallow	-	Hon. Secretary B.S.S.T.

The first meeting will be held during the week of 24th May, the final date to be arranged to suit Dr. Heald's convenience."

From: Minutes of the Council of the Board of Registration of Medical Auxiliaries, 25 May 1943

Appendix 5 Joint declaration by BSST and ATSD/RS

The Secretary read a report of the meeting of the Executive Councils of the A.T.S.D./R.S. and the B.S.S.T. held on 29th June, including the following joint declaration then drawn up and agreed:-

"It is the declared intention of the A.T.S.D./R.S. and the B.S.S.T. that the two societies above named shall merge into the College of Speech Therapists within six months of its establishment. By establishment is meant the date on which the new body is ready to function".

From: ATSD/RS minutes, meeting of 19 July 1943

Appendix 6 Letter to members of BSST and ATSD(RS) July 1943¹

SPEECH THERAPISTS INTERIM COMMITTEE

Dear Member,

We think you would be glad to know further details about the above Committee and the purpose for which it was set up.

As you are aware a special meeting of the Council of the Board of Registration of Medical Auxiliaries was held on April 7th 1943 and representatives of the ATSD(RS) and the BSST were invited to attend. The purpose of this meeting was to consider whether it were possible to find a means whereby all speech therapists might be admitted to the National Register of Medical Auxiliaries.

The Council agreed that members of the ATSD(RS) were, equally with members of the BSST, of a status which made them eligible for registration with the Board.

According to the regulations of the Board only one qualifying body in any given profession may be recognised. It was therefore resolved, pending the establishment of the new qualifying body in speech therapy, of which you have already had notice, that:-

1. In order that members of the ATSD(RS) may be admitted to the National Register without delay, a Committee composed of three representatives from each Society with an independent, be set up to act as the sole recognised qualifying body for the purpose of registration.
2. That this Committee be called the Speech Therapists Interim Committee. Members serving on this Committee are:-

Chairman - Dr CB Heald, Vice-President, Council of the BRMA

Representatives of the ATSD(RS) - Miss Baines, Miss Lloyd and Miss van Thal

Representatives of the BSST - Miss Badcock, Miss Kingdon Ward and Miss Oldrey

In addition - Miss Wood, Secretary of the ATSD(RS), Miss Swallow, Secretary of BSST

3. That all applications for admission to the National register be passed through this Committee to the Board.
4. That so soon as this Committee is established the BSST shall cease to be the recognised qualifying body in speech therapy.

You will see from the above resolutions that the functions of this Committee are strictly limited. For the present, the two existing societies continue their activities as hitherto and we would like to make it clear that a speech therapist must, during this interim period, be a member of one of these societies before her application for admission to the national Register can be considered.

Any enquiries should be sent to the Secretary of either society, at their respective addresses.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Wood

Amy Swallow

Joint Secretaries,

Secretary ATSD(RS)

Secretary BSST

Speech Therapists Interim Committee

¹ Transcribed from an undated, unauthored document in the RCSLT paper collection

1944	<u>The College of Speech Therapists</u>	
	<u>Council Members</u>	
<u>Chairman:-</u>	Miss G. G. MacLeod, 29, Clarendon Road, London. W.11.	
<u>Deputy</u>	Mr. R. J. Boome,	
<u>Chairman:-</u>	"Greylocks", Hill View Road, Woking.	
<u>Hon. Treasurer:-</u>	Miss G. G. Lloyd, 6, Southwood Lawn Road, London. N.6.	

Miss H. Baines	2, Norland Square, Holland Park, W.11.	
Miss J. Dakin,	3, Woodstock Close, Oxford.	
Miss M. Ferris,	30, Rodney Street, Liverpool 1.	
Mr. D. Harries	602, Collingwood House, Dolphin Square, W.1.	
Miss W. Kingston Ward,	86, Harley Street, London, W.1.	
Miss J. Knight	12, High Road, Woodford Green, Essex.	
* Mr. L. Logue	146, Harley Street, London, W.1.	
Miss B. Oldrey,	18, Elm Tree Road, London, N. W.8.	
Miss S. Pick,	21, Blake Road, East Croydon.	
Miss H. Rouse,	24, Clarendon Road, Birmingham 16.	
Mr. L. Stein	53, Strand-on-the-Green, Chiswick, W.11.	
* Mr. A. Tolfree,	"Elphington" Rd. Faith's Road, Winchester	
Miss J. Wilkins	20, Hope Drive, The Park, Nottingham.	
Miss J. Van Thal,	24, Heathfield Gardens, London. N. W.11.	
* Dr. Jane M. Allister,	31, Rowallan Gardens, Glasgow. W.1.	
	<u>Area Representatives</u>	
Scotland -	Miss M. MacKenzie,	42, Kierland St. Hillhead Glasgow. W.11.
Northern England -	Miss J. Pollitt,	12, Palmerston Road, Sheffield 10.
Midlands -	Miss M. Fleming,	187, Ulverley Green Rd, Olton.
Southern England -	Mr. D. M. Pollack,	32, Balfour Avenue, Hammersmith, W.12.

Appendix 8 Chairman's Opening Remarks at the first CST AGM on 6 January 1945

My first duty is to welcome members to the first Ordinary General Meeting of the College. I think this organisation is the only institution of its kind in the world; a National College of Speech Therapists, a self governing body, membership of which constitutes the sole portal of entry to the National Register of Medical Auxiliaries, Speech Therapy Section. The nearest parallel to our College is the Dutch organisation of Speech Therapists which has a national standard of training and examination but I believe no National Register or Medical Auxiliary status.

From CST AGM minutes 6 January 1945

Appendix 9 The Joint Council

Three joint meetings of the Council of the Association of Speech Therapists and the British Society of Speech Therapists have also been held during the year.

NEW QUALIFYING BODY.

Since our last report the work of founding and establishing the New Qualifying Body for the profession, now known as The College of Speech Therapists, has been successfully accomplished. This work was originally in the hands of the Negotiating Committee who drew up a Constitution which was approved by the Councils of the A.S.T. and the B.S.S.T. at a joint meeting held on 11th December, 1943.

Prior to this meeting, elections of persons to serve on the Provisional Council of the College were held by both Societies, and since the date of the first meeting of this Council on 2nd December, 1943, the further work of establishing the College has been in their hands, and the Negotiating Committee was wound up.

INTERIM COMMITTEE AND JOINT REGISTRATION COMMITTEE.

A full account of the work of these Committees will be given in the report from the Provisional Council at the General Meeting of the College of Speech Therapists to be held on the afternoon of this day.

Excerpt from AST annual report, 6 January 1945

Then followed the amalgamation of the two societies after months of negotiation. The Co-ordinating Council which drew up the constitution of the College of Speech Therapists met in small and crowded rooms. I remember sitting on a window-sill at one meeting, and at other times sitting on the floor as there were not enough chairs for all present, and Miss Joan Van Thal recalled meetings during the war when members had to dive for cover under the table during noisy air-raids.

When the College had been established

Excerpt from Wilkins (1997) (What was the Co-ordinating Council?)

BSST Executive Council July 1944 (in *Speech* 8/1, p. 2)

Speech therapists	Doctors
Beryl Oldrey (Chairman)	Terence Cawthorne
Eileen MacLeod (Vice-Chairman)	T Pomfret Kilner
Amy Swallow (Secretary and Acting Treasurer)	Mary Sheridan
Margaret Badcock	
Muriel Ferrie	
Lionel Logue	
Anne McAllister	
Arthur Tolfree	
W Kingdon Ward	
Doris Wilson	

Appendix 10 Cover of the first edition of *Speech* published by the College of Speech Therapists

