

## Riley bags bronze in Elite diving final

First published Thursday 4 April 2013 in [Sport](#) by [Paul Alton](#)

JESSICA Riley secured a bronze medal at the GB Junior Elite Diving Championships.

The 16-year-old Southend Diving member was one of three divers from the programme competing in the national event in Leeds.

And Riley's medal in the 1m springboard event was an extra bonus as Southend Diving coaches had planned to use the competition to increase the divers' competition experience.

"Jessica had several months off from diving after leaving her former club prior to joining Southend just one month ago," said her coach Bill Clark.

"But she demonstrated why she is such a talent by calling on her experience and competitive instincts to such good effect in Leeds."

Riley and club-mate Summer-Jasmine Sweeney, 16, were competing in the 16-18 years Group A 1m and 3m springboard competitions at the John Charles International Diving Centre.

Sweeney had a nervous start to the 3m preliminaries and finished in ninth place, falling outside the top six final places.

Her score of 299.75 was still close to the qualifying standard of 300 points.

Riley has competed at the Elites since 2010 and the Junior European Championships in 2011 and 2012, when she was with Crystal Palace.

And she used that experience to finish fourth in the preliminaries with a score of 352.15 and make the final, where she finished sixth with 359.95.

The 1m competition saw both divers comfortably exceed the qualifying standard of 270 points in the preliminaries.

A dropped reverse 1.5 somersaults cost Sweeney dearly and she finished ninth with 292.55.

Riley's 319.80 points got her into the final in fifth spot and added a harder dive to her list of optional dives for the final.

That forward 2.5 somersaults piked, instead of tucked, paid off as that and consistent other dives saw her secure the bronze medal with 349.15.

Clark praised the work done by Riley's previous coaches at Crystal Palace which had laid the foundations for her success.

The third Southend Diving athlete competing was 16-year-old Duran Omer in the 16-18 years Group A springboard events.

He finished in ninth place in the 1m with 352.00 against a qualifying standard of 350 points.

But a missed third round dive in the 3m event saw him unable to get his rhythm and his score of 358.45 left him in 15th place.

Clark said Omer was determined to learn from the experience and return stronger at next year's event.