

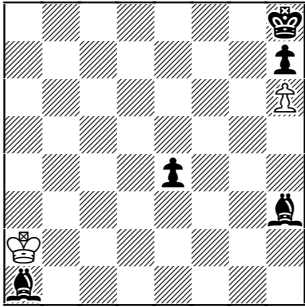
## Parry Series: Counter-Point

**SG51** (July 2010) featured Petko Petkov's excellent article: "The Wonderful (new genre) Parry Series". As I opined on the Hub page (see link below): "*This is a meticulously laid out treatise on the relatively new parry series-mover, and is unique in its no-stone-unturned approach!*" Petko kindly prepended "*dedicated to Dan Meinking*", which might leave the impression that I concur with all of his "theoretical" views. While I do support many of his opinions, I firmly disagree on one important point.

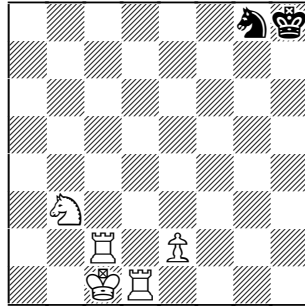
**CP1:** PAP scheme

**CP2:** DM, MatPlus Forum 2011

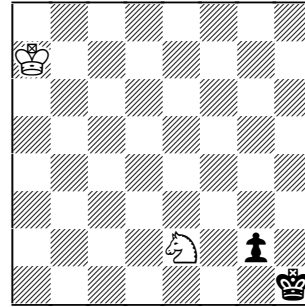
**CP3:** Geoff Foster, 2nd Comm.  
GCQCT 2010



pser-h#7 (2+5) C+



pser-s#12 (5+2) C-



pser-h#8 2.1... (2+2) C+

**CP1:** 1.Be6+ Ka3 2.Bb2+ Kb4 3.Bc3+ Kc5 4.Bd4+ Kd6 5.Be5+ Ke7 6.Bf6+ Kf8 7.Bg7+ hxg7#

**CP2:** 1.Rh1+ Sh6 2.Rc8+ Kg7 3.Rg1+ Kf7! 4.Rf1+ Sf5 5.Rc7+ Ke6 6.Sc5+ Kd5 7.Rd1+ Sd4  
8.e4+ Kc4 9.Sb7+ Kb3 10.Sa5+ Ka2 11.Rc2+ Ka1 12.Sb3+ Sxb3#

**CP3:** 1) 1.g1R 2.Rg7+ Kb6 3.Rg6+ Kc5 4.Rg5+ Kd4 5.Rg4+ Ke3 6.Rg3+ Kf2 7.Rg2+ Kf1 8.Rh2 Sg3#;

2) 1.g1B+ Kb8 2.Ba7+ Kc7 3.Bb6+ Kd6 4.Bc5+ Ke5 5.Bd4+ Kf4 6.Be3+ Kg3 7.Bf2+ Kh3 8.Bg1 Sg3#

Petko asserts: "**Pser requires a series of half-moves by black or white**". He clarifies with **CP1**: "*Is it a real Pser h#7? My answer is no, because here we don't have a series of black moves...*", and concludes "*Thus, the stipulation ... should be h#7 with the condition Black must check. The solution is the same.*"

With all due respect, the above statement is dubious for two reasons:

(1) By nature, a parry series-mover does not guarantee consecutive moves by one side (*ala* standard series), nor should it. Making this the requirement of a "real Pser" is arbitrary and dogmatic.

(2) The condition 'Black must check' or 'White must check' -- *aka* UltraSchachZwang (USZ) -- is intended to facilitate soundness, not to merely describe the play that ensues. Any problem with a superfluous proviso -- 'must-check' or otherwise -- is improperly (if not poorly) stated.

In **CP2**, white checks a dozen times to foster black's corner-to-corner migration -- not because he 'must', but because it's the only way to achieve the aim. Ironically, Petko cites **CP3** as a legitimate Parry Series, perhaps not realizing that the second solution lacks a "series of black moves". And note that 8.Bg1 is not a check, rendering any 'must-check' debate moot.

**Point:** For all three examples, Parry Series is the *correct* presentation. In each we find a **voluntary series of checks** met by **mandatory parries**. Clearly this is impossible in normal series, or USZ, or SchachZigZag, etc. forms. Thus, we need not burden our 'new genre' with old criteria.

-- Dan Meinking / Cincinnati (USA) / August 2011

Follow related developments on the Parry Series & CapZug Hub: <http://parryserieshub.chessproblems.ca>. The author's personal problem collection (PDF) is also available for download.