



TACTICS COMMERCIALS

WITH LEE COLLINGS

Tackle up

You can use your normal carp set-up on commercial venues, but if you own or can borrow some lighter rods you will enjoy the action far more.

Stepped-up barbel rods are superb for small venues that hold fish into double figures. You can really bend into the fish during the fight without any fear of pulling the hook out. Carp between 6lb and 15lb fight incredibly hard on a through action rod with a 1.5lb to 2lb test curve, and I can't believe there are any carp anglers out there who would not enjoy the sport.

So as not to unbalance these rods I match them up with some small freespool-type reels and 10lb line. You could go even lighter, but because I often target carp feeding in reed stems or under pads I like to know I can get them out into open water at the start of the fight.

The business end

You won't catch many carp from small or large commercial venues on 20mm boilies. Small, bitty baits are unbeatable, so your end gear needs to match.

Size 10 specialist pattern hooks are ideal, especially if you fish them in conjunction with fine hooklinks, such as a low-diameter braid or

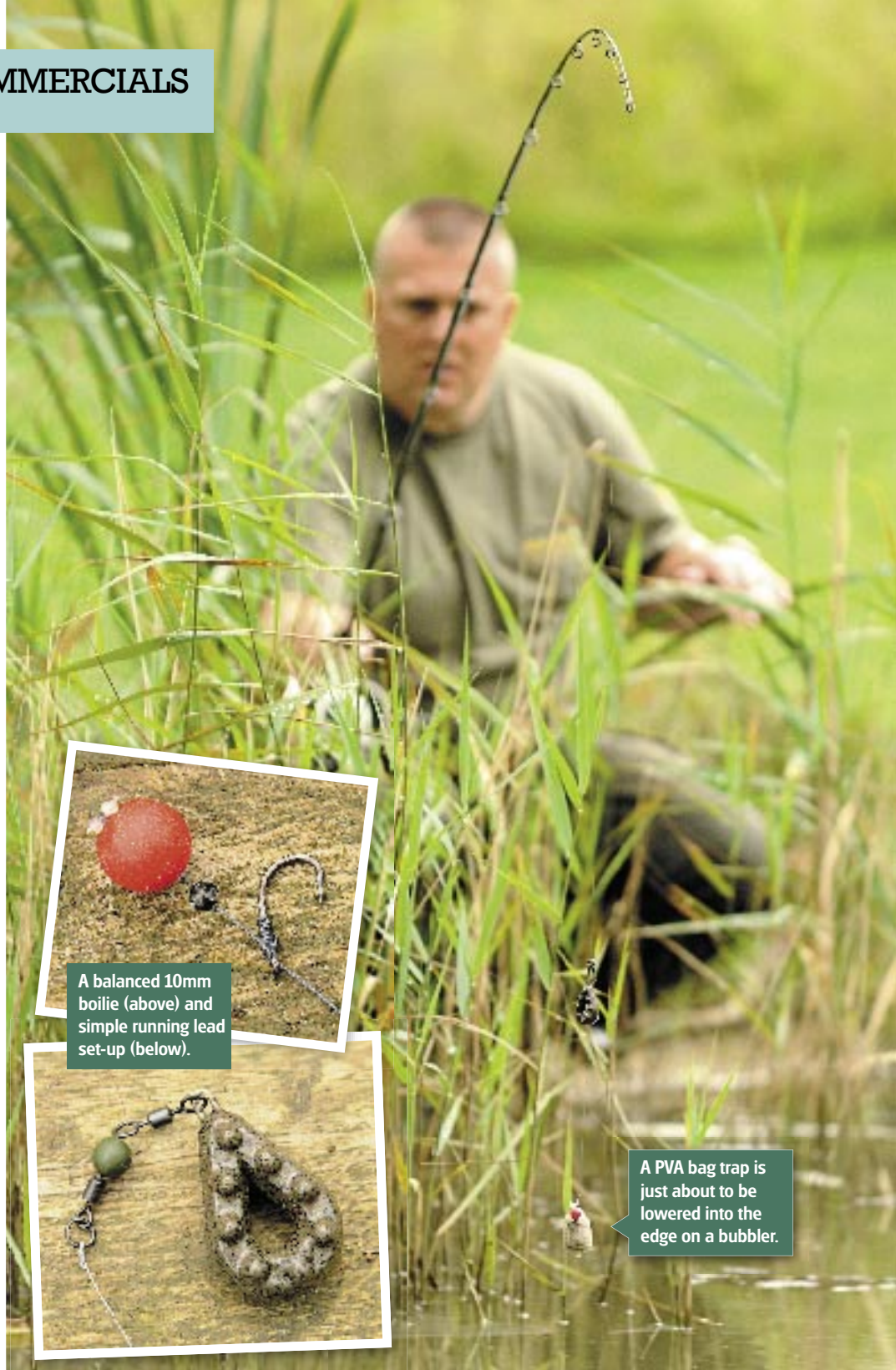


Low-diameter hooklinks and small hooks.

high-tech mono.

I have also found that small running leads work very well and tend to outfish more standard bolt rig systems. Keeping everything tidy, scaled-down and simple makes more sense than using the complex set-ups that are more common on big-fish circuit waters.

Small imitation baits or hardened pellet-shaped boilies make good hookbaits. Natural baits are also deadly for getting quick bites, but if a lot of nuisance species, especially skimmers, are present it can be difficult to keep a

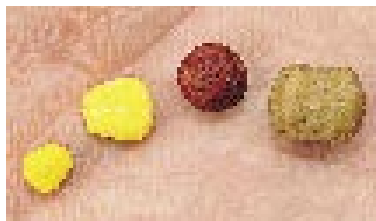


A balanced 10mm boilie (above) and simple running lead set-up (below).



A PVA bag trap is just about to be lowered into the edge on a bubbler.

Carp between 6lb and 15lb fight hard on a through action rod with a 1.5lb to 2lb test curve



Small tough hookbaits are very productive.

bait on the hook.

You don't need a lot of free offerings to make big hits on this type of venue. Small PVA bags loaded up with tiny pellets will get a quick response from any carp

grubbing about on the bottom. Sometimes the rod will rip round before I can even set the bobbin.

If you introduce a lot of bait you may have to wait longer for a bite, and when you do hook a fish that is feeding with others it will most likely spook them. Targeting one fish at a time can be more productive during the day, and is definitely the best tactic if you are prepared to move about.

Stay mobile

The good thing about commercial venues is that more often than not ➔