Claims:

1. An image heating apparatus comprising:

first and second rotatable members configured to form a nip for heating a toner image on a recording material;

a rotatable rubbing member configured to rub said first rotatable member to substantially refresh a surface property of said first rotatable member; and

an air blowing mechanism configured to intermittently blow air onto said rotatable rubbing member to clean said rotatable rubbing member.

2. An image heating apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a controller configured to execute rubbing by said rotatable rubbing member and cleaning by said air blowing mechanism when there is no recording material at the nip.

3. An image heating apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein said controller executes the rubbing and the cleaning in parallel.

4. An image heating apparatus according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein said air blowing mechanism includes an air nozzle configured to blow the air onto said rotatable rubbing member.

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5. An image heating apparatus according to Claim 4, further comprising a cleaning mechanism configured to clean said first rotatable member in contact with said first rotatable member,

wherein a direction of the air from said air nozzle toward said rotatable rubbing member is tilted so that the air is blown toward said cleaning mechanism.

6. An image heating apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein said cleaning mechanism includes a cleaning web configured to be refreshed by feeding a cleaning surface by a predetermined amount,

wherein said cleaning web has a surface, onto which the air from said air nozzle is blown, in a downstream side of a feeding direction of said cleaning web.

7. An image heating apparatus according to any one of Claims 1 to 6, further including a cleaning member configured to clean said rotatable rubbing member in contact with said rotatable rubbing member,

wherein an affinity of said rotatable rubbing member for the toner is higher than an affinity of said first rotatable member for the toner, and an affinity of said cleaning member for the toner is

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higher than the affinity of said rotatable rubbing member for the toner.

8. An image heating apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein said cleaning member includes a rotatable collecting member configured to collect a toner in contact with said first rotatable member,

wherein said cleaning web contacts said rotatable collecting member to clean said rotatable collecting member.

9. An image heating apparatus according to Claim 7~~-9~~, wherein said cleaning member includes an elastic layer at a surface thereof.

10. An image heating apparatus according to any one of Claims 1 to 9, wherein said first rotatable member is provided in a side where said first rotatable member contacts the toner image on the recording material.

11. A method comprising:

forming a nip between first and second rotatable members for heating a toner image on a recording material;

rubbing the first rotatable member using a rotatable rubbing member to substantially refresh a

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surface property of the first rotatable member; and

intermittently blowing air onto the rotatable rubbing member at a pressure so as to clean said rotatable rubbing member.

12. An image heating apparatus substantially as described herein with reference to any one of Figures 1 to 4, 6 to 8, 13, 14, 16 and 17.

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